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# Open Space in New Residential Developments Supplementary Planning Document

## Introduction

**1** The provision of adequate levels of open space is essential for the development of sustainable communities. The design and layout of open spaces are important in providing opportunities for play, and in contributing to the quality of the environment. The Council's standard for open space in new residential developments contained in Policy HS11 of its Local Plan reflects the advice given by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) that 2.43 hectares (6 acres) of outdoor play space should be made available for each 1000 population. This figure includes all pitches, courts and greens which are available for public and private use, but excludes school fields which are not available under dual use arrangements, golf courses, verges, woodlands and amenity space not for use as play areas. The NPFA standard can be broken down into its component parts as follows:

Youth and adult use: 1.6-1.8 hectares per 1000 population.

Equipped children's play areas: 0.2-0.3 hectares per 1000 population.

Casual/informal play areas: 0.4-0.6 hectares per 1000 population.

**2** The "Study of Open Space in the Five Towns", which is a background paper to the Local Plan, demonstrated that there is an overall deficit of open space in three of the District's five towns, namely Spalding, Holbeach and Sutton Bridge. The study also identified that there is a shortage of both equipped and casual/ informal play areas in all of the five towns, including Long Sutton and Crowland who do not have a general deficiency of open space.

## Purpose and Objectives

**3** This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) contains policy and guidance to supplement the adopted Local Plan policies HS11 and LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure. It will also be relevant to some developments under policy LT1: Leisure, recreation and Tourist Facilities. Within this document the Council's policy in respect of provision, design and maintenance of open spaces and play areas in housing developments is set out.

**4** The objectives of this SPD are:

- to supplement the Local Plan/Local Development Framework policies on open space – primarily Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments, but also Policy LT1 Leisure, Recreation and Tourist Facilities and Policy LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Leisure, Recreation and Sport;
- to ensure that adequate open space is provided in new residential developments so that the overall level of provision for our population does not decline further;
- to provide guidance regarding the size and type of open space that will be required;
- to provide guidance on what and how much equipment will be required on an area of open space;
- to provide guidance on maintenance standards and costs for open space;

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- to facilitate an overall increase in provision of equipped play areas where there is a need;
- to protect/ provide areas of nature conservation/ biodiversity where possible;
- to better match the type of provision with needs across the District;
- to provide guidance on the requirement for the payment of commuted sums in respect of the maintenance of open space.

## **Provision of open space in new residential developments**

**5** The provision of well designed and accessible open spaces is essential in creating sustainable communities. This is especially important in an area with few areas of woodland and a general lack of open space within the built up areas.

**6** Although private residential gardens provide some play space, public open space is important for play, as a place for social contact, and as a visual amenity.

**7** Policy HS11 of the Local Plan states that:

**“Proposals for residential development shall make provision for open space in accordance with the Council's adopted standards of not less than 14% of gross site area.”**

**Where developments are unable to provide open space requirements on site, or where the development is adjacent to or in close proximity to a sufficient sized area of existing open space the District Council will accept, in appropriate circumstances, financial contributions from developers for the provision of open space off site or enhancement of existing open space if required to meet the needs arising from the development.**

**Developers will be required to ensure that long term future maintenance of the open space provided by the development is secured by a maintenance agreement or adoption by the District Council.”**

**8** The requirement of 14% of gross site area equates to requiring open space at the NPFA recommended standard (Appendix A). Whilst the Council expect that most developments that result in a net increase in dwellings will make an open space contribution, the provision of open space on-site may not necessarily be the most suitable option. In particular this may be the case for small sites (fewer than 15 dwellings) or for sites in close proximity to existing areas of open space. In such cases the Council will request a financial contribution to be used to enhance the quantity and/or quality of open space in the locality.

**9** A contribution to open space will normally be expected to be provided on site. However, if there is a significant amount of open space in the area, or it would not be appropriate to provide an area of open space on site, as discussed above, the payment of a commuted sum will be acceptable. For planning applications where commuted sums are to be paid in place of on site provision it is expected that the permission will be accompanied by a unilateral agreement to provide such a commuted sum. Details of how the amount payable will be calculated can be found at Appendix D.

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**10** Open space contributions provided on-site should be handed to the relevant Parish Council for adoption, unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise. Commuted sums, either in lieu of on-site provision, or for maintenance should be paid to the Parish Council. In the case of Spalding, on-site provision will be adopted by the District Council, with commuted sums payable to the District Council for inclusion within the Spalding Special Account.

## **Phasing of Large Sites**

**11** Where a site has been divided up for the purposes of phasing and construction, the open space contribution will be calculated as a percentage of the overall site area. Larger sites create a demand for play space that cannot be met at the one location without resident children travelling beyond the recommended distances to reach it. Therefore on larger developments it is expected that the open space provision be spread across the development to reduce travel times and increase accessibility. Provision at more than one location in a site may be split a number of ways, for example, a large central area, and smaller areas throughout the development.

**12** On large sites, including those allocated in the Local Plan, we will expect the provision of public open space strategies demonstrating how the open space will be provided as an integral part of the development. Where development briefs are being produced, public open space strategies can be included as a part of that document.

**13** For development where open space provision is to be made on site, open space provision should be made before the occupation of 50% of the total dwellings on site, or after 2 years from commencement of the development, or the relevant phase for phased sites, whichever is sooner. However, for the allocations at Holland Park and the urban extension to the west of Holbeach made in Local Plan policy HS3: New Housing Allocations, development briefs will set out the approach to development and subsequently the locations of open spaces, the time frame for open space development will extend beyond the end of the Local Plan. In these circumstances, the provisions of the Briefs in respect of Public Open Space will take precedence particularly as they will need to take account of local needs which will influence the amount, location and timing of recreational provision in terms of both open space and built facilities.

**14** When providing areas of open space for play in new developments, there are minimum size thresholds for different types of space, these are set out below:

## **Types of Open Space**

- The smallest of the spaces identified by the NPFA is the Local Area for Play (LAP), the minimum size for such a play space is 100 square metres. The Council will only seek the provision of such spaces on large sites where multiple areas of open space are to be provided.
- The provision that will normally be sought by the Council as an on-site open space contribution will be an equipped play area for young children of 300 square metres identified by the NPFA as a Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP). The open space should be located so that they are no more than a short walk from any dwelling, no more than 200-300 metres, and a child would not have to cross a main estate road. The play area should also, wherever possible be located central to the area to be served. Three core pieces of play equipment should be

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provided on a play area of 300 square metres. For each additional 100 square metres an additional piece of equipment will be required (Further detail on the provision of equipment can be found at Appendices B and C). On larger sites of this type, hard landscaping such as hummocks and planting that allows for imaginative play may be more beneficial than the provision of traditional equipment.

- On very large developments (over 75 dwellings) it is expected that open space provision will include an area of casual/informal play for older children extending to at least 1800 square metres identified by the NPFA as a Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP). It is expected that this form of contribution is located so as to be no further than a reasonable walk for an older child, no more than 400-500 metres from any dwelling to be served, and that the crossing of a classified road would not be necessary in order for it to be accessed.

**15** The type of open space provided on site will be expected to be appropriate to the development to be served. In most cases the provision of children's play space will be appropriate, many new residential areas will attract families who may also have teenage children, it would therefore be appropriate for there to be some form of youth type provision to be made, such as a youth shelter or similar. this will ensure that the provision is appropriate to the expected age range of residents.

**16** In some cases, where there are a high proportion of bungalows or other dwellings that attract a substantially higher proportion of elderly residents, open space provision will still be expected, but rather than a play space a landscaped and planted amenity area with benching may be more appropriate. In such cases, the Council will still require an overall provision equivalent to 14% gross site area; however this may be split so as to provide half of the 14% as on site provision appropriate to the needs of the expected future residents and half as a commuted sum to improve a nearby area of open space.

**17** Well landscaped areas of open space explicitly designed for amenity purposes where appropriate should incorporate existing natural features such as hedgerows and tree groups. Such features can greatly enhance the visual appearance of a development and the built environment in general, whilst helping to preserve wildlife and biodiversity in the area. Amenity areas will need to satisfy the adoption criteria and the location and design guidance set out below as closely as possible.

**18** The provision of open space on site may also provide opportunity for a sustainable urban drainage system (SUD) to be incorporated within the development. Such systems are required by Policy SG11 (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) where an unacceptable increase in surface water drainage will occur as a result of development.

## Adoption Criteria for Open Space

**19** Before adoption by the relevant Parish Council the developer will be responsible for the necessary site preparation works, provision of equipment and the initial two years maintenance in accordance with a landscaping scheme to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of development. In order for Parish Councils to adopt the land, facilities and fittings and be responsible for its maintenance in the longer term, the following criteria must be met:

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- A one-off commuted sum will be paid to the relevant parish Council based on the cost of 10 year's maintenance, as detailed in Appendix C.
- The open space to be adopted must be drained and leveled; provided with fences or hedges as appropriate and not have any natural hazards such as streams or overly steep gradients; and must be easily overlooked by nearby properties to provide observation for supervision and security purposes;
- The surface of the open space must have adequate cover of top soil; be provided with a grassed playing surface and be weed and stone free and smooth; planting should be of indigenous species appropriate to their location on the site.
- Size of play areas should accord with the standards set out in paragraph 1.14 above for the different types of open space.

**20** Where an equipped area of open space is to be provided, an appropriate safety surface is also to be provided.

**21** It should be noted that site leveling for the whole of the site may not be appropriate where natural features have been incorporated. Specific areas that are provided as wild areas or areas to promote habitats and bio-diversity will not be expected to meet the criteria in relation to being weed free and smooth.

## Location and Design

**22** Open space provided on site should be an integral part of the overall development scheme. When designing open space into developments, the design needs to be such that it does not encourage crime and disorder or anti-social behaviour, therefore dark corners should be avoided, and open spaces should be well lit. Open space should not be made up of occasional and oddly shaped pieces of land not otherwise capable of being developed. Open space provision should therefore be the product of express design with due regard having been paid to all other considerations in this guide.

**23** Where there are areas of waste land, these should be incorporated into adjacent gardens. Areas of open space relating to the highway hierarchy, or part of the footpath/ cycleway system will not be considered as acceptable open space for the purposes of adoption, nor indeed as a part of the provision to meet the 14% requirement. Within larger sites, there is scope for footpath and cycleway systems to provide green corridors that have both amenity and wildlife value. Although green corridors would not count towards the 14% requirement.

**24** Where existing natural features of a site such as hummocks or mature trees can be retained and used to the advantage of the open space, they should be incorporated as an integral element of the scheme.

**25** The design, location and appearance of open spaces and play areas should have due regard to the privacy and security of housing in the vicinity of the site, and should be designed so as to minimise impact and disturbance, whilst maintaining the opportunity for natural surveillance.

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- Suitable fencing will be required (conveyed to the adjoining property) and planting to ensure that properties are adequately screened.
- Wherever possible play areas should not be located immediately adjacent to the gable end of properties in order that adequate surveillance is maintained and to ensure that residents' enjoyment of their property is not affected.

**26** Play areas should be readily accessible to all houses served, and where ever possible not tucked away in odd corners. Wherever possible these areas should be well related to the footpath/cycleway system, whilst not having direct access, and be divorced from roads by the provision of appropriate fencing and gating in the interests of road safety, and the safety of those using the site. Accesses to play areas should be of a standard that will allow for maintenance and access by the emergency services.

**27** Where possible smaller open spaces should be located so as to be sheltered from the very worst of inclement weather, and where possible be located so as to maximise the benefit of daylight hours. The careful orientation of open space within a site will help to maximise the usability of the site, and prevent damage to grass surface resulting from the site not drying out during the wetter winter months. Careful attention to the location of open space can maximise its ability to dissipate surface water and contribute to surface water drainage.

**28** All trees provided in planting schemes shall be healthy specimens that are appropriate for their location and securely staked and tied. It would be inappropriate to have trees such as Willow, Oak and Horse Chestnut within 20 metres of a dwelling; spacing of trees should also have regard to the need for grass maintenance. Shrub planting by way of dense ground cover, or as protective screening, may also be required. Where trees and shrubs are provided, they should be native species that are in keeping with the wider landscape where appropriate, and a suitable species for the location in terms of the size that they are likely to grow to, their water demand and the soil type of the area. The use of native species will be beneficial in biodiversity terms.

**29** Planting schemes for trees and shrubs will need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority, and will also need to have regard to the need to prevent crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour. Planting schemes, and in particular screening that restricts views across open spaces, should not be so dense as to create corners that allow for such anti-social behaviour to occur.

**30** Appendix E sets out a guide to the minimum distances that a number of common trees should be planted from dwellings. The distances provided are only a guide, as factors such as soil type and the water demand of the tree itself can impact on planting distances. The Local Planning Authority will be able to provide additional advice in respect of planting distances.

## **Checklist for on site-provision of open space**

- The open space to be provided is not less than 14% gross site area of the development.
- The open space contribution is calculated as a percentage of the site area of the overall development.
- Open space provided must be integral to the development.

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- The open space is centrally located in respect of the area it is intended to serve, unless retention of existing features dictates otherwise.
- On large sites, a public open space strategy should be submitted with the planning application for development unless a development brief for the site as a whole has been prepared.
- Provision of open space should be made before the occupation of 50% of the development, or after 2 years from commencement of the development, which ever is sooner.
- The type of open space provided is appropriate to meet the needs of expected residents.
- Where equipment is to be provided, it should be at a minimum standard of 3 core pieces on an area of 300 square metres, with an additional piece of equipment for each additional 100 square metres.
- Open space provided should meet the Council's adoption criteria.
- A commuted sum for 10 years maintenance of open space to be adopted should be paid.
- Where possible, appropriate existing site features should be incorporated in to the open space.
- Open space should be orientated so it makes the best use of natural surveillance and daylight.

## Safeguarding open space for sport, recreation and leisure

**31** The existing open spaces in the District are a valuable resource both in terms of their opportunity to provide for sport, recreation and leisure, and their contribution to the quality of the built environment. Policy LT2, which seeks to protect existing areas of open space, states that:

**“Development which would result in the loss of public open space, parks or playing fields will only be permitted provided that:**

- 1) alternative provision of equivalent community benefit is made in the locality;**
- 2) or, there is an excess of provision taking into account the long term recreation and amenity value of such provision;**
- 3) or, sport, recreation and leisure facilities can be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site.”**

**32** When redeveloping a part of an open space regard needs to be had to the size of the remainder and its future use. The NPFA in its six acre standard sets out the space requirements for the most popular outdoor sports. The space requirements for those sports most popular in the District are provided in the table below.

**33** The redevelopment or enhancement of areas of open space, be they play spaces or sports pitches can, respectively, result in increased usage of the site or a site being brought back into active use. Although such actions do not actually result in an increase of open space (some may result in a decrease) the benefits of having a site that is more actively used outweigh the losses, and increase the amenity value of an open space. When considering proposals for the re-development on part of an open space the scope for such re-development to increase the value of the area for local communities will be considered.

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**Space requirements for the most popular outdoor sports in the District (taken from South Holland District Council's Playing Pitch Assessment).**

Type of Facility	Area in hectares	Area in Acres
Association Football	0.82 – 0.90	2.0 – 2.22
Mini Soccer: for 2 pitches	0.70	1.65
Rugby Union	1.26	3.1
Bowling Greens: flat and crown	0.14	0.35
Cricket		
1 square with boundary of 46m	1.50	3.70
1 square plus 2 senior soccer pitches	2.05	5.07
1 square plus hockey/ senior soccer	2.01	4.98

## Appendix A

### **Calculation of requirement**

The requirement for 14% of gross site area to be provided as open space provision has been calculated using the District average number of people per dwelling, taken from the 2001 Census, and the average density of completions on large schemes approved during 2004/2005, which is 26.8 dwellings per hectare. The calculation set out below shows how the 14% minimum requirement has been calculated.

10 hectares at 26.8 dwellings per hectare = 268 dwellings

Apply district average of 2.3 persons per dwelling

2.3 x 268 = 616.4 persons

Open space provision of 2.43 hectares per 1000 people

2.43ha x 616.4 = 1.4 hectares

1000

= 14% gross site area

## Appendix B

### **Guidelines on the Provision of Play Equipment**

Play equipment provided should be suitable for the location, size and expected age range of users as set out at Section 3. The style and design of new equipment should be such that it is in keeping with the surrounding landscape in order that it adds rather than detracts from the visual appearance of the area.

All play equipment provided should be of a professional manufacture from recognised suppliers and conform to current safety standards prevailing at the time of specification. Further information can be sought from the Council's Parks and Grounds manager.

Suitable safety surfacing as applicable to the needs of the play items will be considered an integral part of the equipment provision.

The recommended types of equipment suitable for children's play areas are listed in Appendix C along with the maintenance contribution that would be required in respect of each piece of equipment provided.

## Appendix C

### Play Equipment – Recommend types and commuted sum for maintenance contribution

Provision Type	Total maintenance cost for 10 years (£)
<b>Safety Surfacing</b>	
Rubber surfacing (tiles or wet pour) per square metre (as per manufacturers recommendation)	157.72
Tarmac	75.60
<b>Core Equipment for all Equipped Play Areas</b>	
Small Slide - max height of chute 1.5m (requires safety surface)	1102.50
Spring mounted ride (requires safety surface)	1766.00
Small climbing frame - max height 1.8m (requires safety surface)	1324.50
<b>Optional Additional Equipment for Larger Equipped Play Areas</b>	
Swings - per 2 seat unit. Max crossbar height 2.4m with rubber safety seats (cradle type seats for toddlers) (requires rubber type safety surface)	2312.00
Roundabout - 1.8 to 2.4m diameter (requires rubber type safety surface)	1540.80
See-saw - non bump action essential (requires safety surface)	1348.20
Multi-play structures including climbing frames, ladders, slides etc (requires safety surface)	4095.00
<b>Landscaping per 100 sq. m.</b>	
Grass - plots <u>over</u> 500 sq. m.	243.00
Grass - plots <u>under</u> 500 sq.m.	370.00
Shrubberies - general (e.g. higher growing/hedging)	208.00

## Appendix C

<b>Provision Type</b>	<b>Total maintenance cost for 10 years (£)</b>
Shrubberies - ground cover	177.00
Hard landscaping - paving etc	123.20
<b>Miscellaneous others</b>	
Garden bench (each)	884.80
Metal bin	336.00
Classic signboard/post	472.50
Trees - standard	54.60
Galvenised fencing per m.	84.00
Pedestrian self close gate	1000.00
Vehicle/pedestrian gate	1000.00

The figures provided in the table above are as at the 2006/07 year, and will be increased annually for the total cost for a 10 year period in line with the retail price index (RPI). The updated table will be made available along side the SPD on the District Council's website.

## Appendix D

### **Calculation for working out contributions for off site provision**

The sum payable for off site provision will be calculated using the equation set out in Appendix A to establish what the needs of the development would be. This area, in square metres is then multiplied by the cost per metre of providing the open space. An example has been worked through.

The development is to be 12 dwellings, and at a density of 30 dwellings per hectare, this would give a development site area of 0.4 hectares.

The estimated population of the development would be, using the District average of 2.3 people per dwelling,  $2.3 \times 12 = 27.6$  people. This figure can be rounded up to 28 people.

The 14% minimum requirement for open space in new residential developments equates to a provision of 2.43 hectares per 1000 people. The open space requirement for a development of 12 dwellings would therefore be:

$$\frac{2.43 \text{ha} \times 28}{1000} = 0.06 \text{ hectares or } 600 \text{m}^2$$

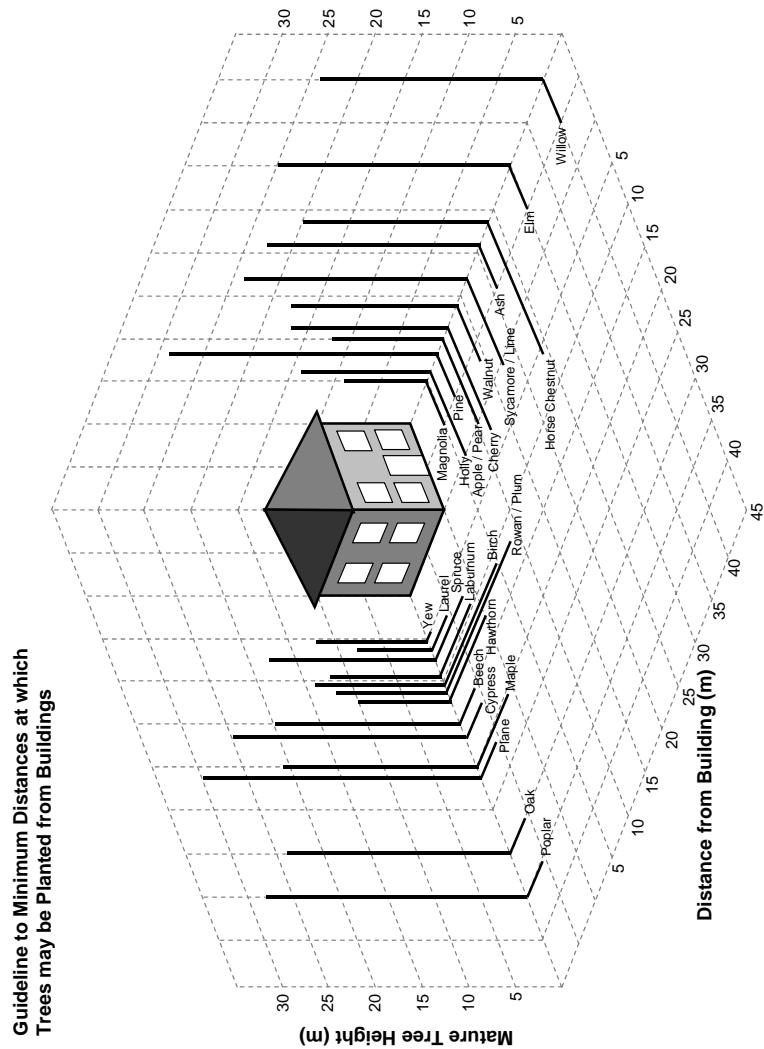
1000

Using the cost per m<sup>2</sup> of providing different types of open space within the District is

Type of provision	Cost per m <sup>2</sup> for type of provision
Large equipped area for play, including for older children (NEAP)	£6.40
Equipped Play area for young children	£89
Local area for play	£15.20

As the development is under 75 dwellings, the requirement on site would have been for an equipped play area for children. The commuted sum required for off site provision will be  $600 \times £6.40 = £3840$ .

## Appendix E



## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This scoping report has been prepared to set out an overview of the social, economic and environmental issues that will be considered in the Sustainability Appraisal during the preparation of the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The primary reason for undertaking a sustainability appraisal of development plan documents is to promote sustainable development through the greater consideration of sustainability issues during the preparation of plans and strategies.
- 1.2 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will consider the likely social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposals contained in the Open Space SPD. The SA will also incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. The undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal should enable any adverse impacts to be identified and avoided at an early stage. Should any adverse impacts be identified, it will inform the formulation of alternative options and eventually a preferred strategy.

## **2.0 The Open Space Supplementary Planning Document**

- 2.1 Despite South Holland's rural nature and the fact that its towns are much less densely built up than major towns and cities, open space provision is generally poor. Three of the five main towns in the District have significantly less open space than is recommended by the National Playing Fields Association 'Six Acre Standard'. The District Council acknowledges that open space is an important asset to the District's residents be it informal spaces or pitches for organised sports. Green open spaces do not only benefit residents as places of leisure and recreation they can also become habitats for wildlife and can, as design features, be a part of other systems within a development such as a sustainable urban drainage scheme.
- 2.2 All residents within the District should have good access to good quality open space that is suitable for their needs. When seeking to provide such open space, different approaches may be appropriate for settlements at different levels of the settlement hierarchy. The "Study of Open Space in the Five Towns", which is a background paper to the Local Plan, identifies where there are deficiencies in the level and type of open space provision in the towns. The approach taken in respect of the towns is therefore likely to be different to that taken in respect of the group centres, which are not covered by the background paper, and are unlikely to attract levels of development that would result in on site provision.
- 2.3 The Open Space SPD will supplement policies from the Local Plan that deal with open spaces. This will primarily be in respect of Policy HS11 – Open Space in New Residential Developments. Policy LT2 – Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure also has implications for the level and quality of open space provision in the District. Finally Policy LT1 – Leisure, Recreation and Tourism is also relevant to the provision of open space; however it is likely to impact on such provision to a lesser extent as its focus is not solely on open space.
- 2.4 Other objectives of the SPD are:

- To ensure that adequate open space is provided in new residential developments so that the overall level of provision for our population does not decline further.
- To provide guidance regarding the size and types of open space that will be required.
- To provide guidance on what type and how much equipment will be required on an area of open space.
- To provide guidance on maintenance standards and costs for open space.
- To facilitate an increase in provision of equipped play areas where there is a need.
- To protect/provide areas of nature conservation/biodiversity where possible.
- To better match the type of provision with needs across the District.
- To provide guidance on the requirement for the payment of commuted sums in respect of maintenance of open space.

### **3.0 Review of plans programmes and sustainability objectives**

- 3.1 A review of all plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that are relevant to the Open Space SPD, and may have an influence on its preparation has been carried out. The documents reviewed range from international guidance and legislation to corporate plans and strategies at the local level.
- 3.2 The documents that are considered relevant to the Open Space SPD are set out at Appendix A, along with the targets, policies and objectives within them which are particularly relevant. The table also contains a summary of the implications of each document on the preparation of the SPD.
- 3.3 The analysis provided in Appendix A is by no means exhaustive, but is provided as a way of identifying issues for consideration during this scoping stage of the Sustainability Appraisal.

### **4.0 Collection of Baseline Information**

- 4.1 In preparation for this scoping report a variety of information relating to a number of sustainability issues has been collected. The information had to be relevant and relate to the provision of open space, as this is the subject of the SPD to which this Sustainability Appraisal will apply. The majority of the baseline information collected is at the District level, however information about the level of provision of open space in each of the District's towns has been collected through one of the Background Papers to the Re-Deposit Local Plan, as has been discussed above.
- 4.2 The majority of the background information for the sustainability framework has already been collected in the correct format, however there are still a small number of gaps in this information. These gaps can be filled for the appraisal process that will be undertaken after this scoping consultation. Where information is still to be collected, a question mark has been inserted in the place of a numerical figure.
- 4.3 The majority of the baseline information that has been collected was existing information held by different departments of the District Council. Some

information though has been collected for the purpose of the Open Space SPD and its sustainability appraisal.

- 4.4 The sustainability framework, and baseline information that has been collected so far is shown at Appendix B.

## **5.0 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework**

- 5.1 The sustainability objectives are intended to cover the full range of social, environmental and economic issues relating to the provision of open space that will need to be addressed during the preparation of the Open Space SPD, and future development plan policies on open space that will be in the LDF.

- 5.2 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) issues that are covered within the sustainability framework are:

- Population
- Material Assets
- Human Health
- Landscape
- Cultural Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Flora & Fauna
- Water
- Climatic Factors

- 5.3 The Strategic Environmental Assessment issues of soil and air are not directly covered within the sustainability framework, however there will be some indirect impacts resulting from new open spaces. Such indirect impacts have not been included.

## **6.0 Next Steps**

- 6.1 Following consultation with the statutory consultation bodies, Sport England, East Midlands Regional Assembly, Government Office for the East Midlands and all the District Councillors, the scope of the sustainability appraisal for the Open Space SPD has been agreed following amendments in line with the comments received. The framework will be used to appraise the likely impacts of the SPD. The outcomes of the appraisal will be recorded in a matrix which will identify:

- whether there are any positive or negative effects that will occur from each of the options;
- whether any effects will be short, medium or long term.

- 6.2 The sustainability appraisal will look at all the options, and will make clear the option selected and why. It may be necessary to undertake a formal appraisal in respect of the policies that the SPD is to supplement. Whilst these policies have been subject to a sustainability appraisal undertaken as a part of the local plan process and published as a background paper, requirements for the undertaking of a sustainability appraisal now incorporate the requirements of the SEA directive and are now more rigorous.

- 6.3 The results of the sustainability appraisal, incorporating the SEA requirements, will be published in a formal sustainability report that will be available alongside the Open Space SPD during the formal consultation period.

## Appendix A – Relevant Plans, Strategies and Documents

<b>EU Legislation</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</b>  <b>Author</b> European Union (then EC) <b>Publication Date</b> June 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int">http://europa.eu.int</a>	To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development		This SPD must be subject to a sustainability appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment.
<b>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</b>  <b>Author</b> European Union (then EC) <b>Publication Date</b> June 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int">http://europa.eu.int</a>	Authorities with relevant environmental responsibilities and the public are to be consulted during the assessment of plans and programmes and appropriate time frames for consultation should be set.		Consultation on the sustainability appraisal will need to be undertaken at the relevant stages in the SPD preparation process as defined in the ODPM's SA guidelines and PPS 12.
<b>Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (The Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the EC)</b>  <b>Author</b> European Communities <b>Publication Date</b> 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm</a>	Achieving sustainable development. Document sets out 5 key methods and 4 priorities for action.		There is a key relationship between creating sustainable communities and the provision of open space.

<b>UK Legislation, Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Circular 5/2005 Planning Obligations</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> July 2005 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	Planning obligations provide a means to ensure that proposed development contributes to the creation of sustainable communities, particularly by securing contributions towards the provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities.		Guidance on open space contributions must take account of all the principles set out in the Circular - can include formulae and standard charges
<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)</b>  <b>Author</b> <b>Publication Date</b> 1981 <a href="http://www.naturenet.net/law/wca.html">www.naturenet.net/law/wca.html</a>	Principle legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Deals in particular with the protection of wildlife and the protection of designated areas.		Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.
<b>A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK.</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> May 1999	The effective protection of the environment - limit global environmental threats; protect human safety from hazards such as poor air quality; protect things which people need or value such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.	Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of life Counts'	The SPD will seek to maintain and improve existing open spaces throughout the District that people need and value, and where necessary ensure the provision of new open spaces to meet new demand.

<b>Quality of Life Counts - update 2004</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> April 2004 <a href="http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk">www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</a>	Update of indicators from 1999 'Quality of Life Counts' document, which set out indicators to provide a baseline assessment from which progress can be judged. Indicators based on objectives in 'A Better Quality of Life' (1999)	15 headline indicators; about 150 sub indicators	Some indicators may be relevant, as open space contributes to quality of life.
<b>Biodiversity - The UK Action Plan</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> January 1994 <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk">www.ukbap.org.uk</a>	To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.	Specific targets set out in individual action plans	Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.
<b>Sustainable Communities Plan</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> February 2003 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	The main objective is to create sustainable communities; involves ensuring there are enough decent homes, access to jobs, local environment in protected and enhanced etc.	60% of homes to be built on brownfield land	This will need to ensure an adequate level of provision of open space for local communities.
<b>Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> January 2005 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	To ensure that everyone has a share of the nations prosperity and a pleasant, safe and green place to live with excellent local services.		The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of pleasant, safe and green open spaces.

<b>Sustainable Communities: Homes for All</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> January 2005 <a href="http://www.apse.org.uk/05-04.pdf">www.apse.org.uk/05-04.pdf</a>	To offer greater choice and opportunity in housing across the country; ensure enough decent homes at prices people can afford with good access to services and jobs.	All social homes to reach the decent homes standard by 2010.	The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of clean, green and safe environments.
<b>Our Towns and Cities: The Future (The Urban White Paper)</b>  <b>Author</b> DETR <b>Publication Date</b> November 2002 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	To create places which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all, not just the few.		Quality and quantity of public open space is considered an important factor in quality of life.
<b>A Better Quality of Life: A strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> May 1999	Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone - improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, reduce harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing etc.	Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of Life Counts'.	SPD should seek to secure new or improved open spaces which are accessible to local people, especially in areas of deficiency.
<b>Walking and Cycling: an action plan.</b>  <b>Author</b> DfT <b>Publication Date</b> June 2004 <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a>	To increase levels of walking and cycling in order to promote a healthy lifestyle, encourage sustainable travel, improve public space and increase levels of social inclusion.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bike where they are close to housing developments.
<b>Accessibility Planning Guidance (summary)</b>  <b>Author</b> DfT <b>Publication Date</b> September 2004 <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a>	To promote social inclusion by helping people from disadvantaged groups or areas to access jobs and essential services.	LTP will need to set local targets for accessibility improvements.	The SPD should consider including provisions for improving accessibility to existing and proposed open spaces.

<b>By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System - Towards Better Practice.</b>  <b>Author</b> DETR/CABE <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a> <b>Publication Date</b> May 2000 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	Provides a companion guide to the PPG series and provides guidance on how to deliver better quality urban design through the planning system.		Provision of open space should adhere to the principles set out in 'By Design'.
<b>National Playing Fields Association: Six Acre Standard</b>  <b>Author</b> NPFA <b>Publication Date</b> 2001	For Local Authorities/developers to accept the recommendations within the document and implement them.		The SPD will take into account the recommendations, as Local Plan policy has, when establishing open space standards to be provided.
<b>Game Plan: A strategy for delivering the Government's sport and physical activity objectives.</b>  <b>Author:</b> Department for Culture, Media and Sport <b>Publication Date:</b> December 2002	To get more people playing sport and taking physical activity.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.
<b>Planning Bulletin 12: Planning for Open Space</b>  <b>Author:</b> Sport England <b>Publication Date:</b> September 2002 <a href="http://www.sportengland.org">www.sportengland.org</a>	To provide guidance for local planning authorities through good practice examples on planning for sport.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.
<b>Making Space for Water</b>  <b>Author:</b> DEFRA <b>Publication Date:</b> 2004	To reduce the threat to people and their property and to deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefits consistent with government advice.		The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding.

<p><b>Landscape Character No 46 The Fens</b></p> <p><b>Author:</b> Countryside Agency <b>Publication Date:</b> <a href="http://www.countryside.gov.uk">www.countryside.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To ensure that new developments do not harm the character of the fens.</p>	<p>New development, and open space provided in accordance with the local Plan and this SPD may have some impact on the fenland landscape.</p>
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<b>Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> February 2005 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	LPA's should adopt a spatial approach to planning through the integration of land use policies with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function, including transport and regeneration.		Considering open space contributions as a part of development proposals will contribute towards the aim of adopting a spatial approach to planning.
	Development plans should promote social inclusion and cohesion. They should contain clear and comprehensive access policies, in respect of both location and physical access.		The location of, and physical access to open spaces should be considered carefully in order not to exclude any members of the community.
	LPA's should ensure that communities are able to contribute to ideas about how sustainable development can be achieved, to participate in forward planning and be involved in development proposals.		Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.
<b>PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> August 2004 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To raise the quality of life and environment in rural areas; promote more sustainable patterns of development; promote sustainable diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors; promote development of regions by improving economic performance.		The creation of open space can contribute to raising the quality of life and environment. Open space also contributes to sustainable development by providing leisure and social opportunities.

<b>PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> August 2005 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	Planning decisions should take account of biodiversity and geological conservation interests, and where possible build them into design. Harm to such interests should only be allowed where there are no less harmful alternatives	Seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity, where possible and appropriate.
<b>PPS12: Local Development Frameworks</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> September 2004 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To ensure effective public participation, to have a robust evidence base for all planning documents and to undertake sustainability appraisal for all documents to ensure the best option is that taken.		Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.
<b>PPG13: Transport</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> March 2001 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; to promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling and to reduce the need to travel, especially by car.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by bike or foot where they are close to residential developments.
<b>PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation (and companion guide: Assessing Needs and Opportunities)</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> Revised version July 2002 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To develop well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation in order to meet the wider objectives of urban renaissance, social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well-being and sustainable development.		Obligations can be used as a means to remedy deficiencies in the quantity and quality of open space. PPG17 guide is the key to setting local standards.

<p><b>PPG 25: Development and Flood Risk</b> <b>Publication Date:</b> 2001 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To ensure that where possible development is provided in low risk areas, and to provide guidance on developing in areas of higher risk where no lower risk land is available.</p>		<p>The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding</p>
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<b>Regional Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands</b>  <b>Author:</b> EMRA <b>Publication Date:</b> March 2005 <a href="http://www.emra.gov.uk">www.emra.gov.uk</a>	Translates national objectives to the regional level.		SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District
<b>Sustainable Communities in the East Midlands</b>  <b>Author:</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date:</b> 2003	To improve the sustainability of the East Midlands through a series of government funded developments.		Open space is an important element of sustainable communities as it contributes to the creation of a green environment.
<b>Cleaner, Greener, Safer Communities</b>  <b>Author:</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date:</b> <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk">www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk</a>	To create attractive welcoming open spaces whilst engaging local communities and catering for children and young people.		Parks and green spaces are essential in building sustainable communities and contributing to cleaner, safer, greener communities.
<b>East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy 'Putting Wildlife back on the Map'</b>  <b>Author:</b> EMRA <b>Publication Date:</b> 2006	To create and maintain a region where wild spaces and habitats are part of a healthy functioning ecosystem.		Areas of open space can improve the biodiversity of an area. In addition to recreational areas of open space, there is scope through the SPD for natural areas to be provided.

<b>Change 4 Sport</b>	The regional plan for sport, this document seeks to encourage greater participation levels in sports and physical activity.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision
<b>Author:</b>			
<b>Publication Date:</b>			

<b>County Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Lincolnshire Structure Plan Deposit Draft (Incorporating Proposed Changes)</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire County Council <b>Publication Date:</b> February 2005 <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Translates national and regional objectives to the County level		SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District
<b>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust <b>Publication Date:</b> 2000 <a href="http://www.lincsbap.org">www.lincsbap.org</a>	To maintain or enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of action plans targeted at specific elements of the County's natural environment.		Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity where appropriate.
<b>Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire County Council <b>Publication Date:</b> 2005 <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Sets out the aspirations of Lincolnshire County Council with regards to walking and cycling over a 5 year period.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bicycle where they are close to housing developments.

<b>South Holland Corporate Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Our Community, Our Future. The Community Plan for South Holland.</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> 2003 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	A safe and crime free place to live: safer play facilities for all age groups placed away from roads that are regularly checked for wear and tear.		The creation of play spaces with well located and maintained equipment will provide something to do, and reduce anti social behaviour.
	Sustaining the green environment: more parks, trees and green spaces for recreation.		The creation of open spaces will help enable the provision of parks and trees whilst providing for informal recreation.
	A healthy lifestyle: exercise for health, more could be done to encourage the use of facilities.		The creation of open space and play spaces encourages people, especially children to be active
	Entertainment and Leisure: consideration of young people, providing leisure activities that relieve boredom.		The creation of play spaces with well located and maintained equipment will provide something to do, and reduce anti social behaviour.
<b>Crime and Disorder Strategy. 2005-2008.</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> 2005?	Sets out the priorities for reducing crime and the perception of crime within the District.		Well designed open spaces can reduce the perception and occurrence of crime.

<b>Play Policy</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> June 2005	Outlines what constitutes play and considers the current issues. Raises awareness of play issues and seeks to ensure they are given appropriate level of priority.		An understanding of play issues can contribute to ensuring that open spaces are appropriate.
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<b>South Holland Planning Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>South Holland Local Plan</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> Adopted October 1998 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.
<b>South Holland Local Plan Re-Deposit</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> April 2005 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.
<b>Pre-Inquiry Changes and Inquiry Changes</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> October 2005 – March 2006 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Updates the Local Plan re-deposit in response to changes in higher level guidance on objections received/ inquiry hearing sessions		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.

## Appendix B – Sustainability Framework

	<b>SH Sustainability Objective</b>	<b>Sub-Issue</b>	<b>SEA Issue</b>	<b>Baseline/trend</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b> "What impact does the policy have on...?"	<b>Possible Sustainability Indicators</b>
1	To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	Ensure that the needs of the district's residents are catered for	Population Material Assets	<b>17.9%</b> of Districts residents are under 16. <b>25.2%</b> of the Districts residents are over retirement age. <b>2.78%</b> of the Districts residents are of an ethnic minority. (2001 Census)	N/A	Regeneration in areas of greatest need and reduce deprivation? Provision to serve the needs of residents?	ONS population estimates/SHDC population estimates.
2	Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	To ensure that the District's children have access to high quality play areas and natural environment	Population Human Health	62% satisfied with quality of the natural environment. (SHDC).	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> residents satisfaction with the natural environment.	Increasing improved levels of health? Increasing provision of public local space?	Quality of Life/Viewpoint surveys. Leisure and Tourism Survey.
		To ensure that there is an adequate supply of high quality sports pitches to cater for the District's needs	Population Human Health	There are <b>46</b> pitches identified in SH for the sports of Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. (SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment)	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> the quality of these facilities		Future SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment
		To improve peoples perception of their own health	Human Health Population	<b>90.7%</b> of residents described their health as 'Good' or 'Fairly Good'. (2001 Census)	<b>Increase</b> the number of people who describe their health in a positive manner.		ONS statistics. Next Census.
3	To improve the accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community	To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space	Population	<b>71%</b> of residents find it 'easy' or 'very easy' to get to their local park or garden. (Quality of life survey 2005)	<b>Improve</b> ease of access to facilities.	Improving access to local services across the Plan area?	Quality of Life Survey/Citizens Viewpoint Survey. Open Space Background Paper.

	To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	To ensure that everyone has access to multifunctional open spaces (NEAP)	Population Human Health Landscape	% of residents within 1KM of a NEAP type open space. (Source)	<b>Collect</b> baseline information and <b>Maintain</b> the percentage of residents within 1KM of this type of facility.	The quality and quantity of green spaces in the District? The accessibility of residents to green spaces?	There is at present no process in place to collect this information. The review of the Open Space Background Paper can incorporate this.
4	To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	To improve people's perception of crime	Population	83% of the District residents feel safe. (SHDC)	<b>Collect</b> Baseline information	The potential for crime and violence?	Quality of life survey
		To improve people's perception of anti-social behaviour	Population	<b>69.9%</b> of residents think that teenagers hanging around on streets is a big problem. (SHDC General Survey, 2004)	<b>Improve</b> the perception of teenagers.		Future SHDC surveys.
6	To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	To protect and enhance the District's valuable green spaces	Landscape	14.122Ha in Crowland. 9.46Ha in Holbeach. 12.527Ha in Long Sutton. 32.112Ha in Spalding. 4.991Ha in Sutton Bridge.	<b>Improve</b> the amount and quality of open space in each of the Districts settlements.	Maintaining and improving the quality and distribution of urban and rural open space with an amenity value?	Future Open Space Background Papers. Monitoring of new developments.
		To ensure the highest quality of design in the built environment	Landscape Cultural Heritage	There is no quantitative method to assess the quality of the built environment. South Holland does have 1 registered park and garden at Ayscoughfee Hall.	<b>Maintain and improve</b> the overall quality of the built environment.	Enhancing the attractiveness and local distinctiveness of both urban and rural areas?	Include question in either General survey or Quality of Life/Viewpoint survey.
		To contribute towards a 'greener' District by protecting trees	Landscape	338 TPO's within District. (SHDC)	<b>Protect</b> TPO trees, or where not possible ensure <b>replacement</b> with mature specimen of equivalent value	Maintaining the number of trees and their settings?	SH Annual Monitoring report.

	To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment		Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	2 Local Nature Reserves 3 SSSI's and 8 SLNCI's within the District. Creation of new habitats. (SHDC)	<b>Maintain</b> , and where possible <b>improve</b> the number and quality of nature conservation sites.	Conserving and enhancing existing rural and urban habitats and providing new habitats appropriate to the area?	SH Annual Monitoring Report
7	To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	To improve the water quality of the Districts waterways	Water Population	1 monitoring station compliant, 1 station marginal and 2 significant failure. (Environment Agency)	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> the quality of waterways	Improving and maintaining ground surface waters(including reducing the risk of water pollution during flooding)?	Environment Agency monitoring
8	To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	To ensure that developments are making best use of land	Material Assets	Average density of residential developments is 26.8 dwellings per Ha. (SHDC)	To <b>continue</b> building new developments at appropriate densities.	Safeguarding high quality land from development? Protecting other greenfield land from development?	SH Annual Monitoring Report.
9		to make best use of previously developed land	Material Assets	32.6% of new homes built on PDL in 2004/05. (BV106)	To <b>continue</b> to meet Best Value targets relating to development on PDL.		SHDC Best Value monitoring for BVPP.
10	To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	To facilitate a reduction in run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping in new developments	Water Climatic Factors Material Assets	No Baseline data for the District.	<b>Establish</b> indicator and <b>collect</b> baseline information	Maintaining the integrity of existing floodplains and flood defences?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.
		Increase the number of developments that utilise SUDS which can be incorporated in landscaping/open space	Water	No Baseline Data for District.	To <b>collect</b> baseline data as part of monitoring, and <b>increase</b> number of developments using SUDS	Promoting the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and re-use of rainwater and grey water in new developments?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.



# **Open Space in New Residential Developments Supplementary Planning Document Sustainability Appraisal**

**June 2007**



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## Non-technical Summary

### Introduction and invitation to comment

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken for the draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Its purpose is to set out how sustainability issues have been taken into account during the preparation of the SPD, and identify any impacts it may have.

### Methodology

This SA incorporating SEA has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This SA has been undertaken line with the proposals set out in the scoping report. The Scoping Report provides a review of all the relevant plans, programmes and strategies, and also sets out the sustainability objectives against which the SPD will be assessed.

The evidence base for the SPD was published as a Background Paper to the Re-deposit Local Plan (now adopted) in April 2005. This background paper identified that in three of the District's five towns there is a shortage of open space in relation to the standards advocated by the National Playing Fields Association.

The baseline information for the sustainability framework has been collected from a range of sources, both from within the Council and externally, sources are quoted within the framework. The sustainability framework has been put together specifically for this SA of the draft Open Space SPD. Although work on the SPD and SA started in 2005, the majority of the work has been undertaken during the period of June to August 2006, following the Local Plan Inquiry.

### Assessment of Impacts of the SPD

When assessing the impacts of the draft Open Space SPD, the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability objectives was the first stage. Generally the two sets of objectives proved to be compatible, or have a neutral compatibility.

When considering the implementation of Local Plan policies, two options were considered, to rely solely on the Local Plan, or to produce additional guidance in the form of a SPD. The SPD option was decided upon as it would provide a more detailed guidance on design, conservation and the provision of equipment. The base policy for the SPD is Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments. Although it may also be relevant to the implementation of Policy LT1 Leisure, Recreation and Sports facilities, and Policy LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure.

### Appraisal of the draft SPD

The SPD was assessed against the sustainability objectives. The results of this appraisal show that the SPD scores well, generally having a minor positive impact.

As the focus of the SPD is restricted, it is unlikely that it would have any major impacts. No negative impacts were identified.

No specific mitigation measures have been proposed, as no negative impacts were identified during the appraisal. However, should any negative impacts occur as a result if implementation, corrective policy measures will be taken.

### **Monitoring**

As a majority of the baseline information was collected from Council sources, monitoring can be primarily undertaken through existing methods of data collection. Following adoption of the SPD a detailed monitoring framework will be produced setting out how monitoring will be undertaken.

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose and Structure of Report

Following Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) each new plan prepared must be accompanied by a strategic environmental assessment that will assess the impact of the plan on the environment. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has widened this assessment into a requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal which in addition to meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive, also assesses the impacts of the plan on social and economic factors.

This sustainability appraisal (SA) document sits alongside the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which has been produced to provide additional guidance in relation to the implementation of Policy HS11 (Open Space in New Residential Developments) of the Local Plan. Its purpose is to set out how sustainability issues have been taken into account during the preparation of the SPD and identify any impacts that its implementation may have.

The Scoping Report, published in May 2006 and revised following consultation with the statutory consultees sets out the scope of the SA, and the Council's sustainability objectives that are relevant to the SPD. As the Open Space SPD is specific in its focus, this is reflected in the scope of the SA.

The structure of this report is as follows:

**Section 1** contains the background to the report, including the requirement for SEA/SA, and details of the consultation arrangements in line with SEA requirements.

**Section 2** contains the methodology and how the process of the sustainability appraisal has been carried out. Information on the linkages to other plans and strategies and the baseline is also included in this section.

**Section 3** assesses the impacts of the SPD, comparing the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability framework, and considers the alternative options.

**Section 4** contains the appraisal of the draft SPD against the sustainability objectives. This section also includes any impacts of the SPD and mitigation measures.

**Section 5** contains details of how the SPD will be monitored.

### 1.2 Compliance with SEA Directive and Regulations

This SA has been produced in compliance with the ODPM guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (2005) and the ODPM's 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'. In following the guidance set out in these two documents it is considered that this appraisal meets the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The table below sets out the requirements of the SEA Directive, and where each requirement is covered in the report.

**Table 1. The requirements of the SEA Directive and where covered in this report**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Where Covered in SA Report</b>
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationships with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 2.2
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Section 2.3
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 2.3
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Section 2.2, 2.3 and Background Paper
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 2.2
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative.	Sections 4.1 and 4.2
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Section 4.3
An outline of reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 3.2
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	Section 5
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Non-technical summary above

### **1.3 Consultation arrangements**

Consultation on the SPD and this SA has been carried out wherever possible in line with the Councils Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the ODPM guidance ‘Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents’ (2005). In addition to the four statutory consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency) Sport England, Government Office East Midlands (GOEM), the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and all of the District Councillors were also consulted on the Draft Scoping Report. Following this consultation, whereby comments were received from EMRA, Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and Sport England, some minor amendments were made, and the Scoping Report put on the website ([www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk)) and made available at the Council Offices, Spalding, the Market House at Long Sutton, and the District’s libraries.

The evidence base for the SPD has not been consulted upon strictly in line with the SCI:

- because this information, and the commencement of work on the SPD itself and the draft Scoping Report, pre-dates the SCI;
- it has been within the public realm since Spring 2005 as it formed the part of the evidence base of the Re-deposit Local Plan.

The SEA Directive requires that certain steps are carried out when consulting on the SA. These requirements, and where they are covered in the report are detailed in the table below

**Table 2. The consultation requirements of the SEA Directive and where covered in this report**

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Where covered in report</b>
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4)	Section 1.3
Authorities with environmental responsibility, and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity to, within appropriate time frames, express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)	Section 1.3
Other EU Member States, where the implication of the Plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7)	Not relevant to this SPD
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision making (Art. 8)	Section 4.2

This SA, as it sits directly alongside the SPD, has been consulted on as a part of the SPD consultation.

Following on from the public consultation, changes have been made to the SPD in response to the comments received from those who made representations. The comments received, and the Council's responses are set out in the Statement of Consultation produced to meet regulation 18(4) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. In general most of the comments received seeking changes to the SPD related to relatively minor changes. However, the issue of protecting and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity was considered by a number of parties to have not been made strongly enough within the SPD, resulting in the SA identifying neutral impact upon wildlife and biodiversity. This was not considered acceptable by those parties raising the issue. As a result of these comments, the references to protecting and enhancing biodiversity have been strengthened as much as is possible within the scope of the SPD. The appraisal of the impacts of the SPD on the sustainability objectives has been re-visited and the impacts re-appraised.

## **2.0 Methodology**

### **2.1 Approach to the Sustainability Appraisal**

The undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, is now mandatory for all new Development Plan Documents (DPD's) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's). As the adopted Local Plan was adopted before the 21 July 2006, the critical date for the requirement of the production of Sustainability Appraisals incorporating SEA, this SA is the first that the District Council has had to undertake. In effect this document is testing the water for those that will follow. It will provide lessons for officers to take on board in the future when preparing DPD's and their sustainability appraisals.

It is considered that the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment for the Open Space SPD is not necessary, as the increase in the amount of green space in new residential areas will not have a detrimental impact on The Wash. The inclusion of open space within residential developments should contribute to a reduction in run off water, which in turn should reduce the likelihood of pollution to the waterways. Following the consultation on the draft Scoping Report, and the draft version of this report, with the statutory consultation bodies and other groups, as detailed below, no comments were received indicating that an Appropriate Assessment should be carried out.

## **2.2 Linkages with other plans and strategies**

The Scoping Report provides a review of all the relevant plans and strategies that relate to the provision of open space. This list has been added to following consultation of the draft Scoping Report, when additional documents were recommended for inclusion by the statutory consultees and Sport England. The list has been broken down into a number of categories in order to stop it becoming unwieldy to the user and to group documents from similar sources or at similar levels in the governmental hierarchy. This review of plans and strategies is appended to this report at Appendix A.

The evidence base for the Open Space SPD was published in April 2005 alongside the Re-deposit Local Plan when it was published for consultation in the form of the 'Open Space in the Five Towns Background Paper'. This evidence was published in support of a number of policies, but in particular Policy HS11, on which the Open Space SPD expands. This background paper is available to view on the District Council's website [www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk) and at the Council Offices in Spalding, Market House in Long Sutton and the District's libraries. The Scoping Report, which sets out the scope of this SA and the sustainability framework containing the baseline data for the SA can also be viewed at these locations. Although the background paper focuses on the District's five towns, Policy HS11, and the Open Space SPD are applicable to any new residential development in the District.

The information that was collected as a part of the Background Paper to the Local Plan was not collected in line with advice given in PPG17. The information collected is a quantitative assessment of provision, rather than a qualitative assessment. The aim was to establish, regardless of quality what the level of provision in the District in term of open space, in order to inform the policies of the Local Plan. The apparent deficit of open space that emerged from the collection of the evidence base for the background paper has been used to justify the requirement of open space on new residential developments. The background paper was used during the inquiry to justify the Council's policy stance in respect of the provision of new open space. In his report, the Inspector has not made any comment in respect of the suitability of the evidence or its compatibility with guidance given in PPG 17.

The Open Space SPD is being produced to supplement policies from the Local Plan that deal with open spaces. This will primarily be in respect of Policy HS11 – Open Space in New Residential Developments. Policy LT2 – Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure also has implications for the level and quality of open space provision in the District. Finally Policy LT1 – Leisure, Recreation and Tourism is also relevant to the provision of open space; however it is likely to impact on such provision to a lesser extent as its focus is not solely on open space. The SPD will provide guidance on the implementation of the policy, such as the amount of equipment to be provided on an area of open space, and landscaping issues.

Planning policies in the Local Plan, and in future in the documents that will comprise the Local Development Framework, are prepared in a form to ensure consistency and close integration with the Community Plan, as the documents share a common vision. The provision of open space is particularly relevant to three of the five priority themes within the 2006-2009 Action Plan of the Community Plan. These themes are Health, Sustainable Communities and Thriving and Safe Communities. This is reflected in the objectives and sub-objectives in the sustainability framework.

### **2.3 The baseline information**

The baseline information collected for the sustainability framework in the Scoping Report covers a range of information in relation to the sustainability issues identified in the framework as being relevant to open space provision. A large proportion of the information collected was already held by the District Council in results from Annual Monitoring Reports and residents surveys sent out from various departments. However, it was necessary to obtain some of the information from other sources such as the Environment Agency and the 2001 Census. The information included as the baseline for the amount of open space in the District, taken from the Open Space Background Paper, shows that three of the towns have provision that is far short of the standards advocated by the National Playing Fields Association. Only Crowland and Long Sutton have provision above such standards.

The collection of the baseline data has highlighted a number of issues in respect of the current state of the environment, in its widest sense. Some of the key issues and facts that it has identified are as follows:

- Of the four Environment Agency river quality monitoring stations in the District, two are significant failures, one is marginally compliant, and the other is compliant.
- Within the District there are 2 local nature reserves, 3 SSSI's and 8 sites of local nature conservation interest.
- There are 338 Tree Preservation Orders within the District.
- There is 14.1Ha of open space in Crowland, 9.5Ha in Holbeach, 12.6Ha in Long Sutton, 32.1Ha in Spalding, and 5.0Ha in Sutton Bridge.
- The age profile for the District shows that 17.9% of residents are under 16, while 25.2% of residents are over retirement age.
- 62% of residents are satisfied with the quality of the natural environment.
- There are 46 pitches in South Holland for Football, Rugby, Cricket and Hockey.
- 71% of residents find it easy or very easy to get to their local park or garden.

As the SPD is District wide, and does not apply specifically to one settlement or area, the baseline data has in the majority been given at a District Wide level. Of the baseline data included within the sustainability framework, probably the most directly relevant to the Open Space SPD is that giving the amount of open space by town, as it sets down existing provision. With out the SPD it is expected that the amount of open space in each of the towns would continue to increase, albeit slowly and on a more ad hoc basis, and accessibility to open space should not alter dramatically, as the Local Plan policy HS11 would ensure that open space is provided on new residential developments. However, without the SPD it would be unlikely that there would be an increase in nature conservation sites, and subsequent biodiversity. Levels of run off and water quality would be unlikely to be particularly different

without the SPD to what they would be with an SPD, as the requirement for the provision of open space is set in policy.

#### **2.4 How and when the Sustainability Appraisal was carried out**

Work on the scoping report began in the second half of 2005 with the collection of the baseline data from a number of sources. This baseline data, combined with the evidence base put together for the Re-Deposit Local Plan which was published for consultation during spring 2005 have had an influence over the content of the SPD. Work on the Scoping report and SPD started in July 2005 with the sustainability framework and a draft of what the open space SPD should cover. Due to the scheduling of the Local Plan Inquiry, there was some delay in finalising and publishing the Scoping Report, which was published for consultation with the statutory consultees in May 2006. Following this consultation and the receipt of responses from the consultees, some amendments were made to the Scoping Report and sustainability framework before it was finalised.

The draft Open Space SPD and draft SA, which has been produced following the finalisation of the Scoping Report, were presented to the Councils Cabinet at their meeting on 5 September 2006 for approval for consultation. The consultation period for the documents then ran for a 6 week period from 10 October to 28 November 2006. Following the consultation, some changes have been made to the SPD, and subsequently to the SA, and the assessment section itself to take on board the changes made to the SPD. A review of the contents of the SA against the requirements of the SEA Directive and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has also been undertaken to ensure completeness.

This Sustainability Appraisal report was finalised in March 2007 following the finalisation of the SPD ready to be presented to Cabinet for adoption.

#### **2.5 The Sustainability Framework**

The framework for undertaking this sustainability appraisal is set out in the sustainability framework at Appendix B of the Scoping Report. The sustainability framework is also attached to this report at Appendix B. The framework sets out the baseline data in tabular form alongside the 10 sustainability objectives and the more detailed sub-objectives. Within the framework, assessment criteria and indicators are also set, which will form the basis of the sustainability appraisal itself.

The sustainability framework has been put together specifically to assess the impacts of the Open Space SPD. As the council produces more documents for the Local Development Framework, and sustainability appraisals are carried out, a comprehensive sustainability framework covering all the areas of planning policy will be formed, providing a general set of sustainability objectives that can then be selected specifically and added to for new documents.

As the SPD is to be focused on a tightly defined subject and is therefore limited in scope, it will only ever have a limited impact on the baseline data. However, it is still possible that there may be some relatively significant impacts that arise from the SPD, and it is the purpose of this SA to assess any impacts that may arise.

There are 10 sustainability objectives for this sustainability appraisal that cover a range of SEA issues, the table below provides details of the objectives and the issues they cover.

**Table 3. The Sustainability Objectives**

<b>Sustainability Objective</b>	<b>SEA Issue</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	Population Material Assets	The SPD may influence the creation of a sense of community among residents, and may help achieve social inclusion
2. Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	Population Human Health	The SPD will help to provide access to quality recreation facilities
3. To improve accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community	Population	The SPD will help to provide open space that is appropriate and accessible for all users
4. To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	Population Human Health Landscape	The SPD will help to provide open space that can be used for recreational activities and informal play
5. To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	Population	The provision of open space, guided by the SPD, will make residential areas attractive as places to live
6. To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	Landscape Cultural Heritage	The SPD encourages well designed open space that is appropriate to the area in which it is situated
7. To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	The SPD encourages the retention of existing on site features which may protect and enhance wildlife and habitats
8. To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	Water Population	The SPD through the provision of open space may help facilitate a reduction in run off, which in turn may help to reduce pollution. Open space in walking distance of homes may help to reduce car use
9. To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	Material Assets	The provision of open space on site with residential developments provides a good use of land, by reducing the need for further development to meet needs of residents
10. To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	Water Climatic Factors Material Assets	The provision of open space and green areas can help to reduce run off and absorb rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding

The SEA issues of soil, air and cultural heritage are not included within the above table as the sustainability objectives do not directly impact them, and the table only includes those impacts which are direct. There are, however, indirect impacts that were identified, in the case of soil; sustainability objective's 8 and 9 may have indirect impacts. For air, sustainability objectives 4 and 8 may have in direct impacts. Although normally all impacts, including indirect impacts, should be included. The limited scope of the SPD has resulted in the decision that such indirect impacts should not be included as their impact on the wider environment is likely to be so small that it would be negligible.

## 3.0 Assessment of impacts of SPD

### 3.1 Compatibility of objectives

The Open Space SPD has a number of objectives that supports its purpose of providing more detailed guidance for Policy HS11 in respect of the type of open space to be provided, and more detailed guidance regarding design matters. The objectives of the Open Space SPD are:

- a) to supplement the Local Plan/Local Development Framework policies on open space – primarily Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments, but also Policy LT1 Leisure, Recreation and Tourist Facilities and Policy LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Leisure, Recreation and Sport;
- b) to ensure that adequate open space is provided in new residential developments so that the overall level of provision for our population does not decline further;
- c) to provide guidance regarding the size and type of open space that will be required;
- d) to provide guidance on what and how much equipment will be required on an area of open space;
- e) to provide guidance on maintenance standards and costs for open space;
- f) to facilitate an increase in provision of equipped play areas where there is a need;
- g) to protect/provide area of nature conservation/biodiversity where possible;
- h) to better match the type of provision with needs across the District;
- i) to provide guidance on the requirement for the payment of commuted sums in respect of the maintenance of open space.

The first stage of the sustainability appraisal that was undertaken was to test the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability objectives in the sustainability framework. The table below sets out how the SPD objectives compared against the sustainability objectives. Objective 'a' from the SPD has not been included, as this is a general objective seeking to support the Local Plan policies.

Key for table 4

- ✓ objectives compatible
- neutral compatibility
- ✗ objectives not compatible

**Table 4. The compatibility of SPD objectives with SA objectives**

SA \ SPD	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
3	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓
4	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
5	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
6	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
9	✗	✗	-	-	✓	-	-	-
10	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

From the table it is possible to see that the SPD objectives are broadly in line with the sustainability objectives. SPD objectives b and c do raise some conflict with sustainability objective 9, however in plan making a balance needs to be achieved,

and it is possible to say that on greenfield sites the provision of open space may not be the best use of agricultural land. It is considered that the benefit of the provision of open space in new residential developments out weighs and disadvantages arising from the loss of agricultural land.

### **3.2 Options considered**

When considering the implementation of the Local Plan policies on open space, and achieving the objectives of the plan in respect of the provision of open space in the District, two main options were considered:

- to do nothing and therefore rely only on the Local Plan policies;
- to produce an SPD to provide additional guidance and detail to help the implementation of the policies.

The option to do nothing and rely only on the Local Plan policies was not considered to be an option that could realistically be followed through, as it would not achieve well designed and integrated open space. An SPD would provide guidance on issues such as design, nature conservation and matters relating to play equipment. The presence of an SPD would also help to reduce the need for staff time to be spent in negotiation with developers over matters of design on which guidance could be given in an SPD and also generally ease implementation of the policy.

There has been no formal assessment carried out on these options, as the principle for the need for open space contributions, and the need for the open space needs of a development to be met onsite has been established through the adoption of Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments requiring not less than 14% of gross site area. The options only related to how best this could be achieved.

### **3.3 The base policy**

The South Holland Local Plan was adopted at a special meeting of the Council on 18 July 2006. An inquiry had been held into the objections to the Local Plan. The Inquiry opened on 5 January 2006. Hearings were held during January, and the Inquiry formally closed on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The Council received the binding report of the Inspector on 30 June 2006. The Local Plan was adopted at a special meeting of the Council on 18 July 2006.

Although the Plan has not been subject of a SEA incorporating SEA, it has been subject to an old style sustainability appraisal, the results of which for Policy HS11 are attached at Appendix C. Within this assessment Policy HS11 did not score negatively against any of the sustainability objectives. As the policy has been subject to some form of sustainability appraisal, and has been formally adopted as a part of the Local Plan. This sustainability appraisal therefore focuses on the impact of the SPD above and beyond any impacts of the adopted Local Plan policies.

## 4.0 Appraisal of the Draft SPD

### 4.1 The sustainability appraisal of the SPD

The results of the sustainability appraisal are set out in order of the sustainability objectives. A summary table is included at Appendix D. The results tables set out the likely effects, and the likely timescale, permanence and scale of any effects. An explanation and comment is also given.

Key to appraisal tables

- ✓✓ option has significant positive impact on the SA objective
- ✓ option has minor positive impact on the SA objective
- option has neutral impact on the SA objective
- ✗ option has minor negative impact on the SA objective
- ✗✗ option has significant negative impact on the SA objective
- ? the impact on the SA objective is uncertain
- ST Short term (during the construction of the development)
- MT Medium term (5-10 years post completion)
- LT Long term (more than 10 years post completion)

Likelihood – High, Medium or Low

Scale – Local, Regional, National, Global

Permanence - Temporary or permanent

Effect – Secondary, Cumulative, Synergistic

Monitoring – Proposals for monitoring effects

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#### **Sustainability Objective 1 – To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community.**

Sub-Objective – Ensure that the needs of the District's residents are catered for.

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Assessment of effects			Explanation and comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The policy will help to create a sense of community and reduce social exclusion by providing communal facilities close to where people live. New open space will be required to be of a size and design to serve the needs of the residents of the new development.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> medium to high</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> a reduction in social exclusion can have positive impacts for health of residents, and increase community interaction.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures, such as the Annual Monitoring Report and Quality of Life survey.</p>

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## **Sustainability Objective 2 – Improve Access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities**

Sub-Objectives – To ensure that the District's children have access to high quality play areas and natural environment.

To ensure that there is an adequate supply of high quality sports pitches to cater for the District's needs

To improve peoples perception of their own health

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The SPD requires that the open space to be provided must meet the standards as set out if it is to be adopted and maintained by the relevant Parish Councils. An increase in open space in the district will improve opportunities for informal recreation, and activity among children. The increased use of native species and encouragement of biodiversity may also have educational benefits.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium to high  <b>Scale:</b> Local (district wide)  <b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> an increase in quality open space will increase the opportunity for residents to take part in informal recreation.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> Through existing monitoring practices such as the Annual Monitoring Report and Quality of Life survey, and the undertaking of a PPG17 compliant open space audit, that can than be updated.</p>

## **Sustainability Objective 3 – To improve the accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community**

Sub-Objective – To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space.

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓✓	✓✓	<p>By requiring open space provision a greater number of areas will improve access. The SPD requires that provision should take account of the needs of future residents. Financial contributions will improve access to better quality facilities by helping to provide increased ranges of equipment and maintenance in existing areas of open space.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> high  <b>Scale:</b> Local  <b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> provision will increase accessibility for all</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> the effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 4 – To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities**

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Sub-Objective – to ensure that everyone has access to multi functional open spaces

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>On larger sites open space provision will increase the opportunities for residents to access multi functional open spaces. Financial contributions to improve existing areas of open space will increase access to quality open space in existing areas of settlements.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> access to multi functional play areas will be improved.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> This is not currently monitored, but information can be collected and monitored through open space audits.</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 5 – To make South Holland a Place where people want to live, work and visit**

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Sub-Objectives – To improve peoples perception of crime

To improve peoples perception of anti-social behaviour

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Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>Well designed open space can reduce a poor perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. Well designed open space should be overlooked to reduce the possibility for instances of crime and anti-social behaviour, while providing somewhere for youths to go and meet with friends etc.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium to high</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> to help facilitate and improves perception of crime and anti-social behaviour</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring practices.</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 6 – To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings**

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Sub-Objectives – To protect and enhance the Districts valuable green spaces  
 To ensure the highest quality of design in the built environment  
 To contribute towards a 'greener' District by protecting trees

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Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
✓	✓✓	✓✓	<p>The SPD requires that wherever possible existing natural features of a site are retained, and that open spaces are in keeping with the wider landscape. The provision of open space will also serve to enhance the level of green spaces in the District, contributing to the quality of the built environment. The use of native species in keeping with the wider landscape will add to rather than detract from local distinctiveness.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> high</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> to increase green space and to improve the quality of the built environment.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> The effects of the SPD can be monitored using existing monitoring practices such as the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 7 – To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the environment**

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Sub-Objective – there is no sub-objective for this SA objective

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Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
✓	✓	✓	<p>The requirement for the retention of existing on site features will have a positive impact on the protection of wildlife and habitats, as will the encouragement of the provision of natural green areas; however the overall effect is likely to be neutral or only a small positive effect, given that there are likely to be some losses resulting from development.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> medium</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local (District Wide)</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> The SPD will help to prevent the loss of habitats and wildlife, and in some cases will also create new sites.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> the effects can be monitored through existing monitoring process. There is scope to widen such processes to capture more detailed information on effect. This can be done through monitoring undertaken for the Annual Monitoring Report</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 8 – To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve**

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Sub-Objective – To improve the water quality of the District's waterways

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Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The provision of green spaces within developments can help to reduce run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping on a development. A reduction in run off will reduce the likelihood of pollutants making their way into watercourses.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> medium to low</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local (District Wide)</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> Possibility that the SPD will contribute to improving the water quality in the District by reducing run off.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> Water Quality can be checked using the Environment Agency website.</p>

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**Sustainability Objective 9 – To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land**

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Sub-Objectives – To ensure that developments are making the best use of land  
To make the best use of previously developed land

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Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	-	-	<p>It is essential that well designed open spaces are provided in order to enhance the quality of life on new residential developments</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> medium to high</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effect:</b> new residential development will contribute to the loss of agricultural land; however, the provision of on site open space will not increase such losses.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> this can be monitored through existing monitoring processes such as the Best Value Indicator 106 and monitoring undertaken for the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

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### **Sustainability Objective 10 – To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk**

Sub-Objectives – To facilitate a reduction in run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping in new developments  
Increase the number of developments that utilise SUDS which can be incorporated in landscaping/open space design

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The provision of open space in new residential areas will help to facilitate a reduction in run off, and also a reduction in flood risk resulting from heavy rainfall. The SPD whilst supportive of the use of SUDS is unlikely to impact upon their use, although the Local Plan does contain a policy that addresses the use of SUDS.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> Medium to low</p> <p><b>Scale:</b> Local (District Wide)</p> <p><b>Permanence:</b> Permanent</p> <p><b>Effects:</b> The SPD may have some effect on the increased use of SUDS and the reduction in run off rates.</p> <p><b>Monitoring:</b> The use of SUDS in new developments can be monitored as a new indicator through existing monitoring processes such as new indicators within the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

#### **4.2 Effects of the SPD**

The appraisal of the SPD has identified that generally the SPD will make a positive contribution to the adopted Local Plan Policies. In particular the following benefits to the District have been identified:

- to promote the provision of open space in new developments, thus ensuring that the overall standard of provision does not become any worse;
- to promote social inclusion by providing facilities that meet the needs of residents;
- to improve accessibility to recreation and sports facilities;
- facilitating a reduction in run off, thus reducing the potential for pollution and risk to properties.

The appraisal has not identified any major negative impacts resulting from the implementation of the SPD. The only likely possibility for a negative impact relates to the loss of agricultural land, but as has been discussed at section 3.1. A balance has to be achieved between the best use of land and the achievement of sustainable communities.

#### **4.3 Mitigation of negative impacts**

As the results of the sustainability appraisal do not identify that the SPD will have a negative effect on any of the sustainability objectives, no mitigating measures have been proposed. However if monitoring of the effects of SPD should uncover any negative effects, then corrective policy action will be taken.

Despite there being no anticipated negative effects as a result of the SPD, it is not envisaged by the Council that the level of brownfield completions will be able to continue at a rate of 32% for the long term future. This anticipated decline is unlikely to be as a direct result of the SPD, but rather as a result of the fact that there is not a large supply of brownfield sites to come forward given the District's agricultural heritage. As developments on previously developed land are monitored as a best value indicator on a quarterly basis the Council will be able to keep a close watch on any changes and if necessary act accordingly.

## **5.0 Monitoring**

As a majority of the baseline information in the sustainability framework has come from sources within the Council the monitoring of the impacts of the SPD, either positive or negative, will predominantly be through established existing methods of data collection that occur at least annually. A majority of the indicators identified are already monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report with data collected at least quarterly, the annual Quality of Life survey, sent out to residents also provides annually updated data for indicators such as the proportion of residents who think anti-social behaviour is a problem.

For one or two of the sustainability objectives, there are not existing monitoring procedures in place, in order to rectify this, the Council will set up procedures to obtain baseline information and then monitor any changes on a regular basis along side existing monitoring activities.

Should any adverse effects become apparent through the monitoring of indicators mitigation measures will be put in place. As the Council adjusts to the new ways of working under the Local Development Framework system, the monitoring systems will be improved and refined to improve the quality of monitoring of the indicators in sustainability appraisals that are not key annual monitoring report indicators.



## Appendix A – Relevant Plans, Strategies and Documents

<b>EU Legislation</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</b>  <b>Author</b> European Union (then EC) <b>Publication Date</b> June 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int">http://europa.eu.int</a>	To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development		This SPD must be subject to a sustainability appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment.
<b>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</b>  <b>Author</b> European Union (then EC) <b>Publication Date</b> June 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int">http://europa.eu.int</a>	Authorities with relevant environmental responsibilities and the public are to be consulted during the assessment of plans and programmes and appropriate time frames for consultation should be set.		Consultation on the sustainability appraisal will need to be undertaken at the relevant stages in the SPD preparation process as defined in the ODPM's SA guidelines and PPS 12.
<b>Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (The Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the EC)</b>  <b>Author</b> European Communities <b>Publication Date</b> 2001 <a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm</a>	Achieving sustainable development. Document sets out 5 key methods and 4 priorities for action.		There is a key relationship between creating sustainable communities and the provision of open space.

<b>UK Legislation, Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Circular 5/2005 Planning Obligations</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> July 2005 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	Planning obligations provide a means to ensure that proposed development contributes to the creation of sustainable communities, particularly by securing contributions towards the provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities.		Guidance on open space contributions must take account of all the principles set out in the Circular - can include formulae and standard charges
<b>Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)</b>  <b>Author</b> <b>Publication Date</b> 1981 <a href="http://www.naturenet.net/law/wca.html">www.naturenet.net/law/wca.html</a>	Principle legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Deals in particular with the protection of wildlife and the protection of designated areas.		Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.
<b>A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK.</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> May 1999	The effective protection of the environment - limit global environmental threats; protect human safety from hazards such as poor air quality; protect things which people need or value such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.	Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of life Counts'	The SPD will seek to maintain and improve existing open spaces throughout the District that people need and value, and where necessary ensure the provision of new open spaces to meet new demand.

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<b>Quality of Life Counts - update 2004</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> April 2004 <a href="http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk">www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</a>	Update of indicators from 1999 'Quality of Life Counts' document, which set out indicators to provide a baseline assessment from which progress can be judged. Indicators based on objectives in 'A Better Quality of Life' (1999)	15 headline indicators; about 150 sub indicators	Some indicators may be relevant, as open space contributes to quality of life.
<b>Biodiversity - The UK Action Plan</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> January 1994 <a href="http://www.ukbap.org.uk">www.ukbap.org.uk</a>	To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.	Specific targets set out in individual action plans	Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.
<b>Sustainable Communities Plan</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> February 2003 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	The main objective is to create sustainable communities; involves ensuring there are enough decent homes, access to jobs, local environment in protected and enhanced etc.	60% of homes to be built on brownfield land	This will need to ensure an adequate level of provision of open space for local communities.
<b>Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> January 2005 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	To ensure that everyone has a share of the nations prosperity and a pleasant, safe and green place to live with excellent local services.		The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of pleasant, safe and green open spaces.

<b>Sustainable Communities: Homes for All</b>  <b>Author</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date</b> January 2005 <a href="http://www.apse.org.uk/05-04.pdf">www.apse.org.uk/05-04.pdf</a>	To offer greater choice and opportunity in housing across the country; ensure enough decent homes at prices people can afford with good access to services and jobs.	All social homes to reach the decent homes standard by 2010.	The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of clean, green and safe environments.
<b>Our Towns and Cities: The Future (The Urban White Paper)</b>  <b>Author</b> DETR <b>Publication Date</b> November 2002 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	To create places which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all, not just the few.		Quality and quantity of public open space is considered an important factor in quality of life.
<b>A Better Quality of Life: A strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK</b>  <b>Author</b> UK Government <b>Publication Date</b> May 1999	Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone - improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, reduce harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing etc.	Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of Life Counts'.	SPD should seek to secure new or improved open spaces which are accessible to local people, especially in areas of deficiency.
<b>Walking and Cycling: an action plan.</b>  <b>Author</b> DfT <b>Publication Date</b> June 2004 <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a>	To increase levels of walking and cycling in order to promote a healthy lifestyle, encourage sustainable travel, improve public space and increase levels of social inclusion.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bike where they are close to housing developments.
<b>Accessibility Planning Guidance (summary)</b>  <b>Author</b> DfT <b>Publication Date</b> September 2004 <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk">www.dft.gov.uk</a>	To promote social inclusion by helping people from disadvantaged groups or areas to access jobs and essential services.	LTP will need to set local targets for accessibility improvements.	The SPD should consider including provisions for improving accessibility to existing and proposed open spaces.

<b>By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System - Towards Better Practice.</b>  <b>Author</b> DETR/CABE <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a> <b>Publication Date</b> May 2000 <a href="http://www.odpm.gov.uk">www.odpm.gov.uk</a>	Provides a companion guide to the PPG series and provides guidance on how to deliver better quality urban design through the planning system.		Provision of open space should adhere to the principles set out in 'By Design'.
<b>National Playing Fields Association: Six Acre Standard</b>  <b>Author</b> NPFA <b>Publication Date</b> 2001	For Local Authorities/developers to accept the recommendations within the document and implement them.		The SPD will take into account the recommendations, as Local Plan policy has, when establishing open space standards to be provided.
<b>Game Plan: A strategy for delivering the Government's sport and physical activity objectives.</b>  <b>Author:</b> Department for Culture, Media and Sport <b>Publication Date:</b> December 2002	To get more people playing sport and taking physical activity.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.
<b>Planning Bulletin 12: Planning for Open Space</b>  <b>Author:</b> Sport England <b>Publication Date:</b> September 2002 <a href="http://www.sportengland.org">www.sportengland.org</a>	To provide guidance for local planning authorities through good practice examples on planning for sport.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.
<b>Making Space for Water</b>  <b>Author:</b> DEFRA <b>Publication Date:</b> 2004	To reduce the threat to people and their property and to deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefits consistent with government advice.		The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding.

<p><b>Landscape Character No 46 The Fens</b></p> <p><b>Author:</b> Countryside Agency <b>Publication Date:</b> <a href="http://www.countryside.gov.uk">www.countryside.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To ensure that new developments do not harm the character of the fens.</p>	<p>New development, and open space provided in accordance with the local Plan and this SPD may have some impact on the fenland landscape.</p>
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<b>Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> February 2005 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	LPA's should adopt a spatial approach to planning through the integration of land use policies with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function, including transport and regeneration.		Considering open space contributions as a part of development proposals will contribute towards the aim of adopting a spatial approach to planning.
	Development plans should promote social inclusion and cohesion. They should contain clear and comprehensive access policies, in respect of both location and physical access.		The location of, and physical access to open spaces should be considered carefully in order not to exclude any members of the community.
	LPA's should ensure that communities are able to contribute to ideas about how sustainable development can be achieved, to participate in forward planning and be involved in development proposals.		Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.
<b>PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> August 2004 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To raise the quality of life and environment in rural areas; promote more sustainable patterns of development; promote sustainable diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors; promote development of regions by improving economic performance.		The creation of open space can contribute to raising the quality of life and environment. Open space also contributes to sustainable development by providing leisure and social opportunities.

<b>PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> August 2005 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	Planning decisions should take account of biodiversity and geological conservation interests, and where possible build them into design. Harm to such interests should only be allowed where there are no less harmful alternatives	Seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity, where possible and appropriate.
<b>PPS12: Local Development Frameworks</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> September 2004 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To ensure effective public participation, to have a robust evidence base for all planning documents and to undertake sustainability appraisal for all documents to ensure the best option is that taken.		Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.
<b>PPG13: Transport</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> March 2001 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; to promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling and to reduce the need to travel, especially by car.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by bike or foot where they are close to residential developments.
<b>PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation (and companion guide: Assessing Needs and Opportunities)</b>  <b>Publication Date</b> Revised version July 2002 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>	To develop well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation in order to meet the wider objectives of urban renaissance, social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well-being and sustainable development.		Obligations can be used as a means to remedy deficiencies in the quantity and quality of open space. PPG17 guide is the key to setting local standards.

<p><b>PPG 25: Development and Flood Risk</b> <b>Publication Date:</b> 2001 <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>To ensure that where possible development is provided in low risk areas, and to provide guidance on developing in areas of higher risk where no lower risk land is available.</p>		<p>The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding</p>
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<b>Regional Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands</b>  <b>Author:</b> EMRA <b>Publication Date:</b> March 2005 <a href="http://www.emra.gov.uk">www.emra.gov.uk</a>	Translates national objectives to the regional level.		SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District
<b>Sustainable Communities in the East Midlands</b>  <b>Author:</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date:</b> 2003	To improve the sustainability of the East Midlands through a series of government funded developments.		Open space is an important element of sustainable communities as it contributes to the creation of a green environment.
<b>Cleaner, Greener, Safer Communities</b>  <b>Author:</b> ODPM <b>Publication Date:</b> <a href="http://www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk">www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk</a>	To create attractive welcoming open spaces whilst engaging local communities and catering for children and young people.		Parks and green spaces are essential in building sustainable communities and contributing to cleaner, safer, greener communities.
<b>East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy 'Putting Wildlife back on the Map'</b>  <b>Author:</b> EMRA <b>Publication Date:</b> 2006	To create and maintain a region where wild spaces and habitats are part of a healthy functioning ecosystem.		Areas of open space can improve the biodiversity of an area. In addition to recreational areas of open space, there is scope through the SPD for natural areas to be provided.

<b>Change 4 Sport</b>	The regional plan for sport, this document seeks to encourage greater participation levels in sports and physical activity.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision
<b>Author:</b>			
<b>Publication Date:</b>			

<b>County Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Lincolnshire Structure Plan Deposit Draft (Incorporating Proposed Changes)</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire County Council <b>Publication Date:</b> February 2005 <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Translates national and regional objectives to the County level		SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District
<b>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust <b>Publication Date:</b> 2000 <a href="http://www.lincsbap.org">www.lincsbap.org</a>	To maintain or enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of action plans targeted at specific elements of the County's natural environment.		Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity where appropriate.
<b>Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy</b>  <b>Author:</b> Lincolnshire County Council <b>Publication Date:</b> 2005 <a href="http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk">www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</a>	Sets out the aspirations of Lincolnshire County Council with regards to walking and cycling over a 5 year period.		Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bicycle where they are close to housing developments.

<b>South Holland Corporate Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>Our Community, Our Future. The Community Plan for South Holland.</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> 2003 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	A safe and crime free place to live: safer play facilities for all age groups placed away from roads that are regularly checked for wear and tear.		The creation of play spaces with well located and maintained equipment will provide something to do, and reduce anti social behaviour.
	Sustaining the green environment: more parks, trees and green spaces for recreation.		The creation of open spaces will help enable the provision of parks and trees whilst providing for informal recreation.
	A healthy lifestyle: exercise for health, more could be done to encourage the use of facilities.		The creation of open space and play spaces encourages people, especially children to be active
	Entertainment and Leisure: consideration of young people, providing leisure activities that relieve boredom.		The creation of play spaces with well located and maintained equipment will provide something to do, and reduce anti social behaviour.
<b>Crime and Disorder Strategy. 2005-2008.</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> 2005?	Sets out the priorities for reducing crime and the perception of crime within the District.		Well designed open spaces can reduce the perception and occurrence of crime.

<b>Play Policy</b>  <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> June 2005	Outlines what constitutes play and considers the current issues. Raises awareness of play issues and seeks to ensure they are given appropriate level of priority.		An understanding of play issues can contribute to ensuring that open spaces are appropriate.
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<b>South Holland Planning Policy and Strategy</b>			
<b>Title of plan, programme or document</b>	<b>Aims and Objectives</b>	<b>Target (if applicable)</b>	<b>Relevance to Open Space SPD</b>
<b>South Holland Local Plan</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> Adopted October 1998 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.
<b>South Holland Local Plan Re-Deposit</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> April 2005 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.
<b>Pre-Inquiry Changes and Inquiry Changes</b> <b>Author:</b> SHDC <b>Publication Date:</b> October 2005 – March 2006 <a href="http://www.sholland.gov.uk">www.sholland.gov.uk</a>	Updates the Local Plan re-deposit in response to changes in higher level guidance on objections received/ inquiry hearing sessions		Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.

## Appendix B – Sustainability Framework

	<b>SH Sustainability Objective</b>	<b>Sub-Issue</b>	<b>SEA Issue</b>	<b>Baseline/trend</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Assessment Criteria</b> "What impact does the policy have on...?"	<b>Possible Sustainability Indicators</b>
1	To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	Ensure that the needs of the district's residents are catered for	Population Material Assets	<b>17.9%</b> of Districts residents are under 16. <b>25.2%</b> of the Districts residents are over retirement age. <b>2.78%</b> of the Districts residents are of an ethnic minority. (2001 Census)	N/A	Regeneration in areas of greatest need and reduce deprivation? Provision to serve the needs of residents?	ONS population estimates/SHDC population estimates.
2	Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	To ensure that the District's children have access to high quality play areas and natural environment	Population Human Health	62% satisfied with quality of the natural environment. (SHDC).	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> residents satisfaction with the natural environment.	Increasing improved levels of health? Increasing provision of public local space?	Quality of Life/Viewpoint surveys. Leisure and Tourism Survey.
		To ensure that there is an adequate supply of high quality sports pitches to cater for the District's needs	Population Human Health	There are <b>46</b> pitches identified in SH for the sports of Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. (SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment)	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> the quality of these facilities		Future SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment
		To improve peoples perception of their own health	Human Health Population	<b>90.7%</b> of residents described their health as 'Good' or 'Fairly Good'. (2001 Census)	<b>Increase</b> the number of people who describe their health in a positive manner.		ONS statistics. Next Census.
3	To improve the accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community	To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space	Population	<b>71%</b> of residents find it 'easy' or 'very easy' to get to their local park or garden. (Quality of life survey 2005)	<b>Improve</b> ease of access to facilities.	Improving access to local services across the Plan area?	Quality of Life Survey/Citizens Viewpoint Survey. Open Space Background Paper.

	To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	To ensure that everyone has access to multifunctional open spaces (NEAP)	Population Human Health Landscape	% of residents within 1KM of a NEAP type open space. (Source)	<b>Collect</b> baseline information and <b>Maintain</b> the percentage of residents within 1KM of this type of facility.	The quality and quantity of green spaces in the District? The accessibility of residents to green spaces?	There is at present no process in place to collect this information. The review of the Open Space Background Paper can incorporate this.
4	To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	To improve people's perception of crime	Population	83% of the District residents feel safe. (SHDC)	<b>Collect</b> Baseline information	The potential for crime and violence?	Quality of life survey
		To improve people's perception of anti-social behaviour	Population	<b>69.9%</b> of residents think that teenagers hanging around on streets is a big problem. (SHDC General Survey, 2004)	<b>Improve</b> the perception of teenagers.		Future SHDC surveys.
6	To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	To protect and enhance the District's valuable green spaces	Landscape	14.122Ha in Crowland. 9.46Ha in Holbeach. 12.527Ha in Long Sutton. 32.112Ha in Spalding. 4.991Ha in Sutton Bridge.	<b>Improve</b> the amount and quality of open space in each of the Districts settlements.	Maintaining and improving the quality and distribution of urban and rural open space with an amenity value?	Future Open Space Background Papers. Monitoring of new developments.
		To ensure the highest quality of design in the built environment	Landscape Cultural Heritage	There is no quantitative method to assess the quality of the built environment. South Holland does have 1 registered park and garden at Ayscoughfee Hall.	<b>Maintain and improve</b> the overall quality of the built environment.	Enhancing the attractiveness and local distinctiveness of both urban and rural areas?	Include question in either General survey or Quality of Life/Viewpoint survey.
		To contribute towards a 'greener' District by protecting trees	Landscape	338 TPO's within District. (SHDC)	<b>Protect</b> TPO trees, or where not possible ensure <b>replacement</b> with mature specimen of equivalent value	Maintaining the number of trees and their settings?	SH Annual Monitoring report.

	To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment		Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	2 Local Nature Reserves 3 SSSI's and 8 SLNCI's within the District. Creation of new habitats. (SHDC)	<b>Maintain</b> , and where possible <b>improve</b> the number and quality of nature conservation sites.	Conserving and enhancing existing rural and urban habitats and providing new habitats appropriate to the area?	SH Annual Monitoring Report
7	To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	To improve the water quality of the Districts waterways	Water Population	1 monitoring station compliant, 1 station marginal and 2 significant failure. (Environment Agency)	<b>Maintain</b> and where possible <b>improve</b> the quality of waterways	Improving and maintaining ground surface waters(including reducing the risk of water pollution during flooding)?	Environment Agency monitoring
8	To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	To ensure that developments are making best use of land	Material Assets	Average density of residential developments is 26.8 dwellings per Ha. (SHDC)	To <b>continue</b> building new developments at appropriate densities.	Safeguarding high quality land from development? Protecting other greenfield land from development?	SH Annual Monitoring Report.
9		to make best use of previously developed land	Material Assets	32.6% of new homes built on PDL in 2004/05. (BV106)	To <b>continue</b> to meet Best Value targets relating to development on PDL.		SHDC Best Value monitoring for BVPP.
10	To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	To facilitate a reduction in run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping in new developments	Water Climatic Factors Material Assets	No Baseline data for the District.	<b>Establish</b> indicator and <b>collect</b> baseline information	Maintaining the integrity of existing floodplains and flood defences?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.
		Increase the number of developments that utilise SUDS which can be incorporated in landscaping/open space	Water	No Baseline Data for District.	To <b>collect</b> baseline data as part of monitoring, and <b>increase</b> number of developments using SUDS	Promoting the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and re-use of rainwater and grey water in new developments?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.

## **Appendix C – Extract from Sustainability Appraisal of Adopted Local Plan**

Policy HS11 – Open Space in New Residential Developments		
South Holland Sustainability Objectives	Overall Net Impact	Commentary
Social Progress which recognises the Needs of Everyone		
1. To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	✓ ✓	Open space is an essential component for the quality of residential environment.
2. To ensure that as many people as possible can make realistic transport choices and improve access to a sufficient and reliable public transport system	/	No significant effect.
3. To reduce the out-migration of the young working population	✓	The policy could have a positive effect in this respect.
4. To improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community services and facilities	✓ ✓	Open spaces are a valuable community amenity feature.
Effective Protection of the Environment		
5. To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	✓ ✓	The policy is particularly concerned with the aesthetics of the District.
6. To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment	✓ ✓	Increase in open space in urban areas could benefit wildlife and provide new habitats.

7. To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Provision of open space could lead to an improvement in environmental quality.
8. To reduce the length and number of motorised journeys and to encourage alternative means of transport which have less environmental impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.
<b>Prudent Use of Natural Resources</b>		
9. To avoid the irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.
10. To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.
11. To minimise the overall production of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.
12. To minimise the overall energy consumption, and encourage the use of renewable sources of energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.
<b>Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment</b>		
13. To maintain and improve retail and other economic services in both market towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>	No significant effect.

14. To encourage and accommodate economic growth (including indigenous and inward investment)	/	No significant effect.
15. To encourage economic diversification and provide for a growth in employment so that everyone can share greater job opportunities	/	No significant effect.
16. To protect and enhance the agricultural based economy	/	No significant effect.



## Appendix D – Summary of Sustainability Appraisal

		Assessment of Effects								
	Sustainability objective	Short Term	Medium term	Long Term	Likelihood	Scale	Permenance	Effects	Monitoring	Comments
1	To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	-	✓	✓	medium to high	local	permenant	a reduction in social exclusion can have positive impacts for health of residents, and increase community interaction	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures - AMR and Quality of Life	The policy will help to create a sense of community and reduce social exclusion by providing communal facilities close to where people live. New open space will be required to be of a size and design to serve the needs of the residents of the development
2	Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	-	✓	✓	medium to high	Local (District wide)	permanent	an increase inquality open space will increase the opportunity for residents to take part in informal recreation	through existing monitoring practices such as the AMR and Quality of Life survey and the undertaking of a PPG17 compliant audit that can be updated	The SPD requires that open space to be provided must meet the set standards if it is to be adopted. An increase in open space will improve opportunities for informal recreation, and activity among children
3	To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space	-	✓✓	✓✓	high	local	permenant	provision will increase accessibility for all	effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the AMR	by requiring open space provision a greater number of areas will have improved access. The SPD requires that open space should take account of needs of future residents. Financial contributions will improve access to better quality facilities by helping provide increased levels of equipment and maintenance.

4	To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	-	✓	✓	medium	local	permenant	access to multi functional play areas will be improved	This is not currently monitored, but data can be collected and monitored through open space audits
5	To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	-	✓	✓	medium to high	local	permenant	to help facilitate and improve perception of crime and anti-social behaviour	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures - AMR and Quality of Life
6	To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	✓	✓✓	✓✓	high	local	permenant	to increase green space and to improve the quality of the built environment	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the AMR
7	To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the environment	✓	✓	✓	medium	Local (District wide)	permenant	the SPD will help to prevent the loss of habitats and wildlife, and in some cases will also create new sites	the effects can be monitored through existing monitoring processes. There is scope to widen such processes to capture more detailed information. This can be done through the AMR
8	To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	-	✓	✓	medium to low	Local (District wide)	permenant	possibility that the SPD will contribute to improving the water quality in the District by reducing run off	water quality can be monitored using the Environment Agency website
									on larger sites open space provision will increase opportunities for residents to access multi-functional open spaces. Financial contributions will be used to improve existing areas, and therefore improve access to quality open space
									well designed open space can reduce a poor perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. Well designed open space should be overlooked to reduce the possibility for crime and anti-social behaviour, while still providing somewhere for youths to go
									Wherever possible existing features shoul dbe retained, and open space should be inkeeping with the wider landscape. Open space will also serve to enhance the level of green space, contributing to the quality of the built environment.
									the retention of existing on site features will have a positive impact on the protection of wildlife and habitats, as will the encouragement of natural green areas; however the overall effect is likely to be a small positive, as there will also be some losses that result form development.
									The provision of green spaces in developments can help reduce run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping on a development will reduce the liklihood of pollutants making their way into watercourses

9	to avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	-	-	-	medium to high	local	permenant	new residential development will contribute to loss of agricultural land; however the provision of open spaces will not increase such losses	through existing monitoring processes such as Best Value Indicator 106 and the AMR
10	To accommodate the climate change process	-	✓	✓	meduim to low	Local (District wide)	permenant	the SPD may have some effect on the increased use of SUDs and the reduction in run off rates	the use of SUDs in new developments can be monitored as a new indicator in existing monitoring processes such as the AMR  The provision of open spaces in ew residential areas will help tofacilitate a reduction in run off, and also a reduction in flood risk from heavy rainfall. While supportive of the use of SUDs, the SPD is unlikey to impact upon their use, the local Plan does contain a specific policy.

**Statement of Consultation and Representations  
Received  
(Regulation 18(4) Statement)**

**June 2007**



## **Introduction**

Work on the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), and Sustainability Appraisal was first started in July 2005 with the development of the SPD and sustainability objectives for inclusion within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. This was followed by the development of the sustainability framework and table of relevant plans, policies and strategies, both for inclusion within the Scoping Report and eventually the Sustainability Appraisal. Some progress was also made on the SPD itself, with much of the background data having been collected as a part of the background evidence for the Local Plan.

Since the initial preparatory work was undertaken, during the summer of 2005, there has been a considerable hold up of progress due to the Local Plan inquiry. The Inquiry ran from January to April 2006, with preparation beginning in earnest in October 2005.

As the Statement of Community Involvement was not even in draft form when work began on the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal, there has been no pre-preparation consultation undertaken, as there is no legal requirement for such to be undertaken for an SPD. Paragraph 4.39 of PPS12 states that the "*Local Planning Authority should consult in accordance with its statement of community involvement where applicable, or the minimum requirements in the Regulations where there is no adopted statement.*" As the Statement of Community involvement was only adopted on 12 December 2006, consultation has been undertaken in line with the Regulations.

### **Consultation under Regulation 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.**

The draft Open Space SPD and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal were made available for public consultation for a six week period from 10 October to 28 November 2006. The documents, and response forms, were made available to view in a number of locations around the District. The locations where the documents could be viewed were the Council Offices in Spalding, Market House, Long Sutton and all the public libraries.

A public notice/statement of SPD matters was placed in the Lincs Free Press on 10 October 2006 (appendix). Hard copies of the document's, response forms and copies of the public notice were sent to a range of organisations as a part of the consultation. The organisations that were sent copies were:

- Government Office for the East Midlands
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Natural England (English Nature)
- Natural England (Countryside Agency)
- English Heritage
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Sport England
- Environment Agency
- Parties that made representations to Policy HS11 of the Re-Deposit Local Plan
- All the Parish Councils and District Councillors

The parties that made representations to policy HS11 were consulted, as HS11 is the main policy to which the SPD relates, and they were deemed to have an interest in the contents of the SPD.

The public notice/statement of SPD matters as published and sent out did not include the paragraph “*Representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address of the adoption of the SPD*” as required by Regulation 16(e) for inclusion within the statement of SPD matters. In order to overcome this omission, a letter including the statement was sent to everyone who was sent the original documentation for it to be read/displayed alongside the public notice. Copies were also retained to send out to anyone who made representations, but had not been sent documentation directly. A copy of the letter is at Appendix A alongside the public notice.

### **Representations received**

In total 12 groups/ organisations (Appendix B) made formal representations, of which one was received late. This resulted in a total of 44 representations. The issues raised by those making representations have been summarised and set out at Appendix C along with the Council's response and changes that have been made to the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal.

The summary of the representations has also been made available alongside the adopted documents at the following locations:

- Council Offices, Spalding and Market House, Long Sutton
- on the Council's website [www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk); and
- in local libraries

Full copies of the representations received have been made available alongside the adopted documents at the Council Offices in Spalding and at Market House, Long Sutton.

### **Further Consultation**

Following the formal consultation stage undertaken in October 2006 officers responsible for the adoption and maintenance of open spaces raised issues with some of the detail of the Draft SPD in relation to the need for appropriate species of tree to be used, and that where Parish Councils exist, they should be the adopting party of open space, and subsequently receive commuted sums for maintenance. As these issues were such that they could impact upon the level of service provided by the Council, and were not actual objections to the content it was considered that the best way forward was to make the necessary changes.

Following the changes in response to comments from officers responsible for adoption and maintenance of open spaces, a re-consultation exercise was undertaken specifically consulting with all parties consulted on October 2006 under Regulation 17 of the Town and County Planning Act (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. In particular the views of the Parish Councils were sought, as the changes would affect them directly. In order to draw the consultees' attention to the relevant sections, the covering letter set out a summary of the key changes and where in the document they were.

Only 5 parties responded to this specific re-consultation, these were:

- EMRA
- Cllr F Biggadike
- Cllr S Marthews
- Spalding & District Civic Society

- Sport England
- Natural England

### **Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

Although the Town and Country Planning (Local development) (England) Regulations 2004 do not require consultation to be undertaken during the pre-production stage for SPD's, the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, which the Sustainability Appraisal was produced in accordance with, requires that the Scoping Report of the Sustainability Appraisal be consulted upon. The extent of this consultation on the Scoping Report is relatively narrow; the following groups/organisations were consulted:

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Countryside Agency
- Government Office for the East Midlands
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- Sport England

For completeness, the Scoping Report Consultation has been included within this statement. A summary of the responses received and the councils response has been included in Appendix C with the summary of representations received to the consultation on the SPD and Sustainability Appraisal.

## **Appendix A – Public Notice/Statement of SPD Matters**

### **SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Consultation Under Regulation 17**

#### **Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document**

South Holland District Council has published a Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation. The Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document has been produced to supplement policies within the Adopted Local Plan. In particular this Draft Supplementary Planning Document primarily supplements Policy HS11: Open space in new residential developments, and also to a lesser degree Policy LT2: Safeguarding open space for sport, recreation and leisure and Policy LT1: Leisure, Recreation and Tourist Facilities. This Draft Supplementary Planning document is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal which meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC).

Copies of these draft documents can be viewed at the Council Offices at Priory Road in Spalding on Mondays to Thursdays from 8:30am to 5:15pm and on Fridays from 8:30am to 4:45pm. They are also available to view at the Market House, Long Sutton, and at the Public Libraries in Spalding, Holbeach, Long Sutton, Crowland and Donington on normal days and during normal hours of opening. See also our website [www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk)

Any comments on either of the documents should be made in writing and sent to:  
Planning Policy Team, Council Offices, Priory Road, Spalding PE11 2XE. Alternatively  
comments can be e-mailed to [localplan@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@sholland.gov.uk). Comments should be  
received no later than 5:15pm on 28 November 2006.

**Steve Williams  
Head of Planning & Development  
10 October 2006**

date: 7 November 2006

your reference:

our reference: File 1706/KE

ask for: Mrs K Eales

email: keales@sholland.gov.uk

Council Offices  
Priory Road  
Spalding  
Lincolnshire PE11 2XE

tel: 01775 761161

fax: 01775 711253

[www.sholland.gov.uk](http://www.sholland.gov.uk)

Dear

### **Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document**

As you will be aware, the District Council are currently consulting on the Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal under Regulation 17 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. I am writing to inform you that Regulation 16, which sets out what should be included within the statement of SPD matters to be consulted upon under Regulation 17, includes the requirement for the following statement to be included:

*"Any representations may be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specific address of the adoption of the SPD"*

This statement was omitted from the public notice published along side the consultation documents, hence the need for me to write and inform you. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused.

Yours sincerely

**Katherine Eales**  
**Planning Officer**

## **Appendix B – List of Respondents to Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Draft Open Space SPD and SA**

### Scoping Report

- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- Sport England
- EMRA
- English Nature
- Countryside Agency

### Draft SPD and SA

- Matrix Planning
- Mrs K Heath
- Sutton St Edmund Parish Council
- EMRA
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- GOEM
- Sport England
- Smith Stuart Reynolds (on behalf of Allison Homes Eastern Ltd)
- Graham Warren Partnership (on behalf of Broadgate homes Ltd)

### Late representations to Draft SPD and SA

- English Heritage



## Appendix – Summary of Representations and Council's responses

Rep 1	Rep 2	Name	Organisation	Document	Section	Summary of Representation	Council's Response
SCR 001	001	Annette Hewitson	Environment Agency	Scoping Report	App A	Would recommend including 'Making Space for Water' and PPG25 Development and Flood Risk to encourage sequential test, and the location of areas of open space in higher risk areas on sites.	Appendix A of the Scoping Report has been amended to include the two documents identified
SCR 001	002	Annette Hewitson	Environment Agency	Scoping Report	App B	Objectives 10 and 11 appear to be confused. The sub-issues only relate to 10. Under assessment criteria, include reference to creation of new floodplains and washes.	Objectives 10 and 11 have been reviewed, and 11 incorporated into 10. It is not considered appropriate to encourage the creation of new flood plains and the master policy in the Local Plan relates to open space in new residential developments. This has been included as a criteria to say that the integrity of floodplains and defences should be maintained.
SCR 002	001	Ann Plackett	English Heritage	Scoping Report	general	No specific comments to make	Noted
SCR 003	001	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	general	Support overall strategy of document	Noted
SCR 003	002	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	Section 2, Paragraph 2.1	Need to also refer to PPG17 for locally derived standards	As policy HS11 of the local Plan is based on the six acre standard the Council considered that it would not be appropriate to introduce references to PPG17 in supplementary documents, as this should be done in policy. No change necessary.
SCR 003	003	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	Section 2, Paragraph 2.2	Contributions should be sought from all development, as new development increase pressure on existing facilities.	This comment does not directly relate to the stated paragraph, however, the point raised is addressed within Policy HS11 of the Local Plan. No change necessary.

SCR 003	004	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	Section 2, Para 2.4	Specific mention should be given to sport	The representation is noted, however, the references to open space are generic, and sport does not need to be specifically singled out. On the large allocations, there is already provision within the Local Plan for sport to be included within the open space provision. No changes necessary
SCR 003	005	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	App A	Include references to Game Plan and Change 4 Sport and Planning Bulletin 12.	Appendix A of the Scoping Report has been amended to include the three documents identified
SCR 003	006	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	App B	There is a danger that the needs of villages may be overlooked.	The Local Plan Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments applies to residential developments anywhere in the district, therefore the needs arising from new developments in villages will be addressed. No changes necessary.
SCR 003	007	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	App B	Work is currently being done on new Key Performance Indicators for LAA's, 2 of which refer to open space issues.	As the KPI's are currently in draft form, the Council does not consider it appropriate to include them within the Sustainability Framework, however, once they are adopted, they can be included. No changes necessary
SCR 004	001	Andrew Pritchard	EMRA	Scoping Report	general	Scoping report is comprehensive in covering the relevant regional core objectives.	Noted
SCR 004	002	Andrew Pritchard	EMRA	Scoping Report	App A	Recommends inclusion of East Midlands regional Biodiversity Strategy - Putting Wildlife back on the Map.	This document has been included within Appendix A.
SCR 005	001	Neil Pike	English Nature	Scoping Report	Para 2.4	Support document, especially paragraph 2.4.	Noted.
SCR 006	001	Sally Murray	Countryside Agency	Scoping Report	general	Support proposed document	Noted.
SCR 006	002	Sally Murray	Countryside Agency	Scoping Report	App A	Include reference to Landscape Character No 46: The Fens	This document has been included within Appendix A.
SCR 006	003	Sally Murray	Countryside Agency	Scoping Report	general	Within the SPD reference should be made to green linkages and the right of way network.	This representation does not relate directly to the Scoping Report, but will be borne in mind when working on the SPD itself.

001	001	Gordon Smith	Matrix Planning	SPD	Section 3	There does not appear to be a lower threshold, therefore Appendix D should give the tariff per dwelling, and an example of a unilateral undertaking	The policy does not include a minimum threshold and it would be incorrect to do so in the SPD. Using the example working in Appendix D it is possible to work out the single dwelling tariff, or the tariff for any site, so the council does not consider that any further work is considered on this matter.
001	002	Gordon Smith	Matrix Planning	SPD	Section 3	Queries status of supporting text in LP and whether Council can impose tariff on sites of under 15 dwellings.	The Council does not consider that requesting developer contributions to Open space on sites smaller than 15 dwellings to be a problem. This issue has not been raised by any of the other objectors. No change necessary
002	001	Mrs K M Heath		SPD	general	Greater emphasis should be given to retaining open areas. Only in very exceptional cases should they be allowed to be redeveloped.	The section within the SPD on safeguarding open space has been improved further in support of Policy LT2 of the Local plan.
003	001	Jane Ripley	Sutton St Edmund parish Council	SPD	general	As small rural village do not believe document applies, but thanks for consult.	Noted.
004	001	Andrew Pritchard	EMRA	SA	App A	Support inclusion of East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy - putting wildlife back on the map.	Noted.
004	002	Andrew Pritchard	EMRA	SPD	general	Key aims of SPD reflect relevant objectives of RSS, including water issues.	Noted.
004	003	Andrew Pritchard	EMRA	SA	Section 2.5	Scoping report and SA comprehensive in covering relevant regional core objectives.	Noted.
005	001	Annette Hewitson	Environment Agency	SPD	Paragraph 3.12	Draft document well laid out and concise. Particular support for inclusion of SUDS.	Noted.
005	002	Annette Hewitson	Environment Agency	SPD	Section 3	Seeking reference to 'making space for water' to be referred to, especially as South Holland falls within an area of high risk.	Within section 3 a reference to flood risk issues and the benefit of open space has been included.

006	001	Mark Felton	Natural England	SPD	Section 3	Support commitment to open space, however, would like to see greater reference to integrating local landscape character and distinctiveness.	Within Section 3 a reference to local landscape character, and the character of the built environment has been included at paragraph 3.22.
006	002	Mark Felton	Natural England	SPD	Paragraph 3.17	The section relating to footways and cycleways needs to be re-worded to retain clarity, but at the same time encourage green linkages through sites.	Paragraph 3.17 has been amended to include reference to the potential for footpaths and cycleways to be provided as green linkages, which although not open space, add to the potential for biodiversity.
006	003	Mark Felton	Natural England	SPD	Paragraph 3.22	Reference should be made to the use of native species for trees and other planting	Paragraph 3.22 has been amended to clarify that planting schemes for open spaces should be of native species appropriate to the location.
006	004	Mark Felton	Natural England	Scoping Report	Appendix B	The baseline data is lacking, more data in respect of landscape and biodiversity should be included.	The scoping report is now in final form, and was not being consulted upon. This comment also contradicts responses from English Nature and Countryside Agency (as was) received during the scoping consultation. No changes necessary.
006	005	Mark Felton	Natural England	SA	Section 2.5	Supportive of the sustainability objective, however, more information is needed on how they will be monitored.	Section 5 relating to Monitoring has been expanded to provide more information on monitoring, as has the monitoring section for each objective in the actual appraisal at section 4.
006	006	Mark Felton	Natural England	SPD	general	The use of village and town design statements should be included.	While the Council do not disagree with the potential for the use of village and town design statements, they do not directly apply to this SPD. No change necessary.
007	001	Elizabeth Biott	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	SPD	Paragraph 2.2	Support the requirement to provide open space in new developments, however, the body of the text does not fully support the objectives, particularly in relation to areas of nature conservation.	Greater references to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and wildlife have been included throughout the SPD where appropriate, as has the benefit green spaces can have, and the potential for retaining existing features, and therefore biodiversity.

007	002	Elizabeth Biott	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	SPD	Paragraph 3.9	Recommend standards for access to natural green spaces for inclusion in SPD	Although the District council does not disagree with the intention of this representation, it is not directly relevant to open space in new residential development, nor are the suggested standards achievable within the District, taking into account the baseline data in respect of natural conservation sites in teh District. No change necessary
007	003	Elizabeth Biott	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	SPD/SA	general	The SPD and SA should be aiming for a positive effect on wildlife and habitats. The SPD should promote a net increase in biodiversity and wildlife.	Greater references to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and wildlife have been included throughout the SPD where appropriate, as has the benefit green spaces can have, and the potential for retaining existing features, and therefore biodiversity. The SPD has also been re-appraised following the increase references to wildlife and biodiversity.
007	004	Elizabeth Biott	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	SPD	general	The Creation of natural green space provides opportunities to increase biodiversity.	Noted.
008	001	Graham Foster	GOEM	SPD/SA	general	The SPD and SA as produced meet the Regulations and Stages as required.	Noted.
009	001	Ben Hunt	Sport England	Scoping Report	App A	Acknowledgement of changes to Appendix A	Noted.
009	002	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	general	Draft SPD only refers to sports pitches in the context of safeguarding, there needs to be justification of the absence of a requirement for contributions to sports pitches.	The SPD does not exclude sports pitches, as open space is referred to in a generic way, however in the context of open space contributions from new residential development, the provision of sports pitches is unlikely in most cases. The large allocated sites, where provision would occur will be subject of development briefs to ensure inclusive design of such facilities. No change necessary.

009	003	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SA	Section 2.1	Clarity is needed over different approaches, as there is concern that rural areas may be overlooked.	The SPD supplements Policy HS11 Open Space in new residential development. This policy, and therefore the SPD applies to all new residential development, wherever in the District it may be. The Policy and SPD apply to the need arising from new developments, and it would not be appropriate for these to seek to meet need that has arisen previously. No change necessary.
009	004	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	general	The SPD should, as the SA does, that PPG17 encourages formulation of local standards, and also that the LPA will work towards playing pitch assessments and background papers for the Core Strategy.	Neither the standard, or method of formulation are up for debate at this time, as they have been adopted in the Local Plan. Although the point raised is a valid one that the Council can take on board for the preparation of its Core Strategy, it is not one that can be dealt with here. No change necessary.
009	005	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	Section 3	The standards do not take account of areas not available for public use. Encouragement of dual use arrangements should also be made.	This representation does not fall within the remit of the SPD or the policies which it supports. No change necessary.
009	006	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD/SA	general	Stresses the importance of a sound evidence base.	Noted.
009	007	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	Section 4	Recommends that greater emphasis is given to the enhancement of facilities to encourage greater use.	Section 4 has been amended to provide greater emphasis on enhancement of existing facilities.
009	008	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	general	There is no mention of Sports Pitches and organised sport.	The SPD does not exclude sports pitches, as open space is referred to in a generic way, however in the context of open space contributions from new residential development, the provision of sports pitches is unlikely in most cases. The large allocated sites, where provision would occur will be subject of development briefs to ensure inclusive design of such facilities. Section 4 relates to the protection of facilities and provides size standards for pitches. No change necessary.

009	009	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD	general	The SPD needs to make clear that contributions or provision will be required from all forms and sizes of development.	The main policy to which the SPD relates is in respect of new residential development, which is where the main demand for open space occurs. There are no minimum thresholds in the policy or the SPD. No changes are necessary.
010	001	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	Paragraph 3.8	Requests that open space on large sites should be linked to phases and not the site as a whole.	Additional wording has been included in paragraph 3.9 to make reference to open space being provided either by the time 50% of the development is occupied, or 2 years from the commencement of the relevant phase.
010	002	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	Paragraph 3.9	On large sites it is not possible for everyone to be within 200m of an area of open space without provision being fragmented. Suggest replacement of 200m with 400m.	The stipulation of distances has been removed from the descriptions of the different types of open spaces, instead the wording has been strengthened in respect of the crossing of roads etc to access open space, allowing some scope for flexibility in terms of broad location.
010	003	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	Paragraph 3.10	Open space standards should have regard to the type of dwelling to be provided, for example one bed flats or bungalows are unlikely to generate the same level of need for high levels of children's play space.	Paragraph 3.10 has been expanded upon to provide more detail in respect of provision having regard to the dwelling types and expected future residents.
010	004	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	Paragraph 3.12	Support the potential for the use of SUDs as part of open space provision, however would need reassurance in respect of adoption of SUDs schemes.	As the SPD relates to the provision of open space, and not specifically to the provision of SUDs, the Council does not consider that it would be appropriate to address this issue in the SPD, as there is a specific policy within the Local Plan relating to SUDs.
010	005	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	Paragraph 3.12	Assurance would need to be given that the Council or another body would adopt a SUDs scheme, and that 10 years maintenance would not be sought, unless costing details are provided in SPD.	This representation is to all intents and purposes the same as 004. The Council's response to this would be the same as 004 with the addition that as SUDs are not play space, costings would not be appropriate in the SPD.

010	006	Allison Homes	Smith Stuart Reynolds	SPD	checklist	<p>It is not always appropriate for open space to be centrally located, therefore such a stipulation should be removed.</p>	Rather than remove the stipulation for open space to be centrally located, additional wording has been added to state that where possible open space should be centrally located, to allow for the cases where it may not be possible.
011	001	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	Section 1	<p>The use of the NPFA standard is inappropriate, and should be replaced by locally set standards as advocated in PPG17.</p>	The standards for open space within the SPD are as adopted in the Local Plan. It is not for the SPD to amend these, as its purpose is to simply supplement adopted policy. No change necessary.
011	002	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	general	<p>SHDC needs to undertake a robust assessment of need to replace existing databases and the background paper, at present there is no up-to -date evidence base.</p>	As already stated, the standards in the SPD are those as adopted in the Local Plan. Before commencing work on the LDF the evidence base will be reviewed and updated. No change necessary.
011	003	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	Paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7	<p>These paragraphs are generally supported, however, the reference to the NPFA should be removed from 3.6</p>	The reference to the NPFA in paragraph 3.6 has been removed.
011	004	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	general	<p>The NPFA standard produces artificial requirements. Following a robust assessment of provision the 14% requirement should be dropped from the LDF, which being informed by a robust assessment will be more specific about facilities required. Reference to the NPFA standard being dropped once a robust assessment has been carried out should be made.</p>	To all intents and purposes that representation is the same as 001 and 002. the standard has been adopted in the Local Plan, and cannot be changed in this SPD. Once the Core Strategy and Generic development Control Policy DPD's are adopted, this SPD will cease to become relevant, as the policy that it supplements will have been replaced. The Council will then consider what SPD's if any need to be produced. No changes necessary.
011	005	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	general	<p>Following the undertaking of a robust assessment, the off site contributions figures will also need to be re-worked to relate to the identified needs and local standards for provision.</p>	As stated, the standards, and therefore also off site provision, are adopted in the Local Plan and cannot be changed in the SPD. A full review of standards will be undertaken for the LDF. No change necessary.

011	006	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	Paragraph 3.13	Suggests wording to the end of paragraph 3.13 to state that landscaping schemes should be submitted to and approved by the Council prior to the commencement of development.	Additional wording has been added to paragraph 3.13 to state that landscaping schemes should be submitted to and approved by the council prior to commencement of the development.
011	007	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	Paragraph 1.1	The SPD should make reference that the Council is to carry out a robust assessment and will apply local standards in the LDF.	As the SPD supplements specific adopted Local Plan policies, once LDF policies come into effect, it will no longer be supplementing an adopted policy, the Council at that time will have to make the decision whether to write a new SPD.
011	008	Broadgate Homes Ltd	Graham Warren Partnership	SPD	Paragraph 3.8	Suggests additional wording to paragraph 3.8 to make specific reference to development briefs.	Additional wording has been added to paragraph 3.8 to make reference to development briefs. The wording as suggested has not been included, as Holland park is not the only development brief to be prepared, and the council considered that both sites should be referred to. The direction of the addition is as suggested.
012 LATE	001	Ann Plackett	English Heritage	general	general	Had the District Council carried out a screening process, the would have found that an SEA would not have been necessary.	As the SPD supplements Local Plan policy that has not been subject of and SEA the Council considered it best practice to undertake and SA incorporating SEA.
RC 001	001	Darren Horn	EMRA	SPD - Reconsult	general	no comments	Noted
RC 002	001	Cllr F Biggadike		SPD - Reconsult	general	If compulsory for PC's to take over open space then can they be consulted	PC's have been consulted on the revised draft SPD, as the changes specifically concerned them, in particular in respect of adoption of new open space.
RC 003	001	Cllr S Marthews		SPD - Reconsult	general	Welcomes the document, however it is only of relevance to towns and large villages, excluding many villages.	Concern acknowledged, however, in the interests of sustainability new development is directed to the larger settlements, this SPD seeks to address a specific issue that arises from new residential development. No changes necessary.

RC 003	002	Cllr S Marthews		SPD - Reconsult	general	Many of the small rural villages do not have provision of open spaces etc to the standard set out in the SPD.	The comment is acknowledged, and the District Council do not disagree, however the SPD addresses the need arising from new development. This does not prevent Villages or Parish Councils seeking to remedy this deficit, as there are policies within the Local Plan that can be used to determine such planning applications. No changes necessary.
RC 004	001	John Charlesworth	Spalding & District Civic Society	SPD - Reconsult	general	Whenever parish Councils are referred to, should there be something to make clear what happens in the case of Spalding?	No changes necessary, Paragraph 3.6 already addresses Spalding.
RC 004	002	John Charlesworth	Spalding & District Civic Society	SPD - Reconsult	general	Should D&S statements for Planning applications include location justification for open space?	This query can be put to development control, and a requirement included within the D&A statement guidance, reference is not necessary in the SPD, as open space is expected to conform.
RC 004	003	John Charlesworth	Spalding & District Civic Society	SPD - Reconsult	page 4	How are large sites developed incrementally going to be addressed to ensure open space is provided at an adequate level?	All large allocated sites will be the subject of development briefs, which will address the overall development of the site, including open space. This is detailed in paragraphs 308 and 309 of the SPD. No changes necessary.
RC 004	004	John Charlesworth	Spalding & District Civic Society	SPD - Reconsult	Appendix B	Is it worth a note to the effect that the style or design of play equipment should be sympathetic to the character of its location?	Additional wording has been included within Appendix B to reflect this comment and address the issue.
RC 004	005	John Charlesworth	Spalding & District Civic Society	SPD - Reconsult	general	A number of typing errors have also been picked up and detailed.	These errors have been addressed. No further changes necessary.
RC 005	001	Ben Hunt	Sport England	SPD - Reconsult	general	No Comments	Noted
RC 006	001	Sally Murray/Neil Pike	Natural England	SPD - Reconsult	general	Approve of the changes made, they could be strengthened further by referring to the landscape character of the area.	Paragraph 3.23 specifically requires that trees are of a native species and are in keeping with the landscape. It is not considered necessary to make any further changes.

RC 006	002	Sally Murray/Neil Pike	Natural England	SPD - Reconsult	general	Reiteration of comments made at reference 006/002.	The Council's view on this matter has not changed, and given the context of the DPD it is not considered appropriate to further include references to green infrastructure as a whole, as the SPD addresses a specific issues of open space in new residential developments.
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