

23 September 2020

New guidance to ensure low carbon, sustainable development in Guildford borough

New housing developments in the borough will have lower carbon emissions, be more sustainable and better able to meet the challenge of climate change after new guidance was adopted at a meeting of the Executive last night. This detailed guidance is called the Climate Change, Sustainable Design, Construction and Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

This guidance covers all types of development, from the building of thousands of homes to single houses. Areas covered include low energy design, sustainable building materials, water and energy efficiency, sustainable lifestyles and resilience to climate change. It will be used by land promoters, who identify sites for development, and housing developers in preparing their proposals before they are submitted for public consultation and Council assessment.

Supplementary Planning Documents can only assist adopted Local Plan policies and are guidance only.

Cllr Jan Harwood, Lead Councillor for Climate Change says:

"We thank everybody who has given us their views, with many positive and valuable comments which have helped to shape this SPD. This is an important step towards our goal of becoming a net-zero carbon borough by 2030, and one that is prepared for the challenge of Climate Change.

"The SPD is part of the guidance for a number of Council projects that address carbon emissions and sustainability. Environmentally and socially sustainable development is a key priority for the Council, and we will continue to engage with the community and developers to achieve our target of becoming a more environmentally sustainable society.

"This will be very much a living document, it will grow as we face the challenges of climate change. It will be updated as we adapt with the times."