

Planning Committee (Major Applications) B

Wednesday 10 September 2025

6.30 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02 - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Webpage: www.southwark.gov.uk

Date: 4 September 2025

Meeting Name:	Planning Committee (Major Applications) B
Date:	10 September 2025
Report title:	Adoption of the Climate and Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/A
From:	Head of Planning Policy and Monitoring Innovation

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Planning Committee (Major Applications) B provide comments in relation to the draft Climate and Environment SPD before its proposed submission to cabinet for adoption.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Climate and Environment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is scheduled for approval at October cabinet following public consultation which closed in November 2024.
3. Part 3C (paragraph 21) of the council's constitution sets out the requirement for full cabinet to adopt the Climate and Environment SPD, taking account of comments from the planning committee.
4. The Southwark Plan 2022 was adopted in February 2022. To support the implementation of the Southwark Plan, the SPD has been prepared to provide applicants and case officers with additional information on how to implement the climate and environment policies. It also provides guidance on how to conform to national and local legislature.
5. The SPD will be used by developers and those interested in the measures which can be taken to make development and the environment cleaner and more biodiverse, energy efficient and resilient to the effects of climate change. It will be a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy framework implications

6. The Climate and Environment SPD provides guidance on how to apply the

relevant policies of the Southwark Plan 2022. It also gives guidance on how to conform to national and local legislature and policies within which the council must operate. The SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

7. The adoption of the Climate and Environment SPD will have an indirect neutral to positive community impact. This is because the additional guidance will help to improve the quality and sustainability of development in the borough and help mitigate environmental impacts. It will help ensure residents have access to open spaces and biodiverse environments and live in an environment which is more resilient to overheating and climate change.
8. The Climate and Environment SPD aligns with the [Southwark 2030 Strategy](#), which sets out a shared vision for a fair, green, and safe borough where everyone can live a good life as part of a strong community.
9. By adopting the Climate and Environment SPD, the council is helping to deliver on Southwark 2030's goal of ensuring a clean, green and healthy environment for all, by providing additional guidance around the implementation of the council's environmental policies.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

10. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees.
11. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.
12. The council's Approach to Equality commits the council to ensuring that equality is an integral part of our day-to-day business. The Equality Framework for Local Government exists to help organisations, review and improve their performance for people with characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010.
13. The Equalities Impacts and Needs Analysis (EINA) concluded that the Climate and Environment SPD will have no negative impacts on equalities in Southwark. The SPD does not create new policies, but provides guidance on how existing policies should be implemented.
14. The EINA found that the SPD will have a broad range of neutral to positive impacts that will benefit all borough residents. These include climate change mitigation, minimising flood risk, environmental protection, improved air quality, protection of green infrastructure and biodiversity and effective waste management. There are no mitigating or improvement actions to be taken as a

result of the EINA.

Health impact statement

15. Policy guidance in the SPD which will have a neutral to positive impact on the health of the borough's residents by including guidance on managing overheating and energy efficiency in homes, air quality and the protection and management of green infrastructure and open space.

Climate change implications

16. The council has declared a Climate Emergency with the ambition to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.
17. The council has also committed to considering the implications on climate change resulting from its decision making, following council assembly on 14 July 2021.
18. Plan-making will contribute to these ambitions through the preparation and implementation of planning policies, specifically in the development management process. Planning applications will be required to meet the policy requirements set out in the Southwark Plan 2022 and the SPD.
19. This is supported by Southwark's Climate Change Strategy and Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Strategy which sets out Action Points to meet these targets.
20. The SPD conforms with the Southwark Plan 2022 and does not create any new policies. As such there are no new climate change implications to consider.

Resource implications

21. There are no additional resource implications arising from the Climate and Environment SPD. Staffing and any other resources connected to the SPD are to be contained within existing departmental capacity.

Consultation

22. In accordance with Southwark's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), the draft SPD was made available for comment for 14 weeks, exceeding the minimum period of twelve weeks. Additional time was added to the consultation to account for the summer period. The consultation ran from 21 August 2024 until 27 November 2024.
23. The council complied with the statutory consultation methods and additional consultation methods required by the SCI. The consultation was held on the consultation platform, Citizen Lab. An email was sent to 31,159 people on the Southwark consultation database, 7,500 to contacts who have signed up for the council's community engagement mailing list. Five in-person events were held. Comments were accepted by email or post.

24. Fifty responses were received, 27 of which were from residents.
25. The consultation responses have been analysed and revisions made to the SPD. This has included changes requested by the Environment Scrutiny Commission. The revised SPD is in Appendix 1. The table below sets out which sections of the SPD have been revised.

Revisions made to SPD
Section 1: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification of the difference between minimum requirements to meet Southwark Plan policy and best practice to achieve sustainable design.
Section 2: Energy and Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification on how standards align with GLA Energy Assessment guidance and best practice design considerations to reduce carbon emissions. BREEAM and water usage sections have been revised for clarity. Clarifications to the cooling hierarchy and energy hierarchy Be Lean section to set out the design actions considered best practice (2.3). Wording has been added to the DHN section to set out the considerations for connection and exemptions. Clarification on best practice in the Retrofitting, Whole Life Carbon and Circular Economy sections.
Sections 3 and 4: Flood Risk & Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional text on how development can adapt to flood risk and minimum standards, reflective of local and national policy. Revisions to reflect environmental protection best practice and signposting to Southwark Technical Guidance and Air Quality Neutral assessment.
Section 5: Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure and Trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New section added on food growing spaces. BNG section updated to clarify the latest legal and policy requirements. The role of tree shading added in relation to streets and play spaces. Additional guidance on the ecological impact assessment and the ecological mitigation hierarchy, including wildlife habitats.
Section 6: Transport and movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification regarding cycle standards and footpaths and changing facilities.
Glossary and Appendices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A glossary of definitions has been added. Appendices provide a list of additional guidance links and a checklist to aid the assessment of applications against Whole Life Cycle Carbon and

Circular Economy Statement Guidance. This is to help applicants assess the approach to retrofit and refurbishment for major referable schemes and other planning applications.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

53. Not applicable.

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

- 54. As mentioned above, the authority to adopt SPDs like this Climate and Environment SPD is reserved to full Cabinet (pursuant to paragraph 21 of Part 3C of the council's constitution) having regard to the comments received from the planning committee.
- 55. Thus, this report invites the Planning Committee (Major Applications) B the opportunity to provide comments and make recommendations in light of this Climate and Environment SPD (in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3F of the council's constitution).
- 56. And in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2024) the Climate and Environment SPD will add further details to the Southwark Plan 2022 policies. The Climate and Environment SPD does not form part of the development plan, so it cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. However, it is to be a material planning consideration in decision-making of planning applications.

Strategic Director of Resources

- 57. This report requests planning committee to provide comments in relation to the draft SPD before submission to cabinet for approval in October 2025.
- 58. The strategic director of resources notes that there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 59. Staffing and any other costs associated with this recommendation are to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

- 60. In order to include comments received from planning committee members in the final version of the draft SPD document which will be submitted for approval at October cabinet, the document has to be presented at the committee meeting on 10 September 2025, as the following planning committee meeting will only take place after October cabinet.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

- 61. The publication of this report was delayed in order to ensure the appropriate governance sign-off.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Plan (2022)	Council website Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Email Planning Policy Planning.policy@southwark.gov.uk Tel: 020 7525 5380
Link: https://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-environment-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy-and-guidance/southwark-plan-2022		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Climate and Environment SPD Electronic only: please see Agenda for Planning Committee (Major Applications) B on Wednesday 10 September 2025, 6.30 pm - Southwark Council – see agenda item 6
Appendix 2	Policy note on flood risk management Electronic only: please see Agenda for Planning Committee (Major Applications) B on Wednesday 10 September 2025, 6.30 pm - Southwark Council – see agenda item 6

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Juliet Seymour, Assistant Director of Building Control and Historical Environment		
Report Author	Charlotte Brooks-Lawrie, Head of Planning Policy and Monitoring Innovation		
Version	Final		
Dated	3 September 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBERS			
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included	
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes	
Strategic Director of Resources	Yes	Yes	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		3 September 2025	

OPEN**COMMITTEE:****PLANNING COMMITTEE (MAJOR APPLICATIONS) B****MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025-26****NOTE:**

Original held in Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Gregory Weaver, Constitutional Team, Tel: 020 7525 3667

OPEN

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