

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: July 8 2009	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Sustainable Communities Act proposals – Addendum report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider the following information on proposal F / permaculture in conjunction with the report on the main agenda.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As set out in the report on the main agenda (appendix 1), the panel recommended proposal F ‘permaculture design principles’ for submission (although not by consensus) but subject to getting views from officers on how to make workable. This addendum report provides that additional information.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The proposal from the panel is: **Permaculture design principles** - A permissive regime that enables Council to prioritise permaculture¹ design principle in local planning policy.
4. Developers are currently required to provide outside amenity space, but how people use that is up to them (it could be, for example, food production or play space).
5. The advice from officers is that the best ‘workable’ way of achieving the aims of the proposal is through national policy guidance that would:
 - require developers to consider the needs of permaculture in the design of amenity of space (e.g. that the land would need to be free from contamination)
 - guide local planning authorities on what they should be looking for
6. Policy, community and resource implications:

Policy implications: there would be social and health advantages of people being involved in food production, which would support the delivery of our Corporate Plan priorities and Southwark 2016.

¹ The meaning of ‘permaculture’: promoting design that increases sustainability and self sufficiency of food supply and production within a wider context – recognising the overriding importance of food.

Community impact: there will be competing demands on amenity open space, so if there is a demand for the space to be used for permaculture there may be less space for other priorities.

Resource implications: training of staff to implement it.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

8. The deadline for submitting proposals to the Local Government Association is the 31 July 2009, this matter cannot wait for a further meeting to be held, the consequences of a delay would be that the proposal could not be submitted.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

9. This additional information is late due to the complexity of the proposal and the need to consult with the proposer.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Executive member decision by the leader 10/02/09: Responding to the Sustainable Communities Act	http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=469	Claire Webb 020 7525 7136
Minutes of the panel meeting	Town Hall, Peckham Road	Claire Webb 020 7525 7136

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	
Report Author	Claire Webb, Corporate Policy	
Version	Final	
Dated	July 2 2009	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	July 2 2009	