

**Report of the Community Planning Officer**

**Report to the Chief Planning Officer**

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014

**Subject:** Adoption of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley Kirkstall Weetwood Moortown		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: N/A Appendix number: <b>Appendix 1</b> – Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement Adoption Final Version (August 2014) <b>Appendix 2</b> – Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement post-statutory consultation table (Version 8 February 2014) <b>Appendix 3</b> – Equality Screening Report (April 2014)		

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement (NDS) was formally adopted as supplementary planning guidance in 2005. The document is aimed at providing neighbourhood level design and planning guidance for residents and developers.
2. In March 2012, the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS Steering Group resolved to update and revise the NDS with a view to gaining adoption by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Since this time the Steering Group have been working towards this aim.

3. A six week public consultation was held from 08<sup>th</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 with a total of 8 responses being received. Revisions have been made to the draft NDS in response to these comments where appropriate and in consultation with colleagues from relevant teams within Leeds City Council.
4. If approved by the Chief Planning Officer the adoption draft version of the NDS will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and will sit within the Council's Local Development Framework.

### **Recommendations**

5. The Chief Planning Officer is asked to approve for adoption the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS as a Supplementary Planning Document from 1 September 2014.

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Chief Planning Officer approve the adoption draft of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement (NDS) for adoption by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

## 2 Background information

- 2.2 The original Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS was formally adopted by the Council in 2005 as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). The NDS represents the views of the residents of Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park and contains recommendations for the Council and developers to act upon when considering development proposals in the area.
- 2.3 The NDS Steering Group has been working on updating and revising the NDS since March 2012 with a view to its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The Steering Group went out to public consultation for a period of six weeks.
- 2.4 The six week public consultation period was held from 08<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 with a total of 8 responses being received. Further revisions have been made to the draft NDS in response to these comments where appropriate. The adoption draft (June 2014 – Appendix 1) includes these revisions.

## 3 Main issues

### Public Consultation Responses

- 3.1 A total of 8 responses were received to the public consultation. The respondents are shown below:

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Group/ Individual</b>
Kathryn Wiggin	Drummond and Churchwood Residents Association
John Dickinson	Local Resident
Martyn Thomas	Weetwood Residents Association
Doug Kemp	West Park Residents Association
Cllr Sue Bentley	Weetwood Ward
Seamus Corr	LCC Landscape Team
Nathan Huntley	NGT Project Team
Jenna Riley	LCC Community Planner

- 3.2 All the comments received were supportive of the wider aims of the document but attention was drawn to a number of minor concerns. Primarily these were restricted to suggested amendments to the wording of the document which represented relative minor changes. A full list of the

concerns raised and the actions carried out in response can be found in Appendix 2.

### Revisions to the Draft NDS

3.3 The main revisions to the NDS, which are reflected in the adoption draft, are as follows:

- Amended wording in relation to references to the New Generation Transport Scheme;
- The sketch of a proposed shared surface scheme at the junction of Weetwood Lane and Otley Road (The Three Horseshoes Proposal) has been omitted following concerns from LCC Highways, the NGT Project Team and Cllr Sue Bentley; and,
- References to potential development sites included in the Site Allocations DPD have been updated to reflect the current status of this document.

### Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD

3.4 The NDS adoption process for the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS has coincided with on-going work in relation to the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD. The adoption draft has been amended where appropriate to ensure compliance with these documents.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The public consultation draft (version 7) of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS was the subject of a six week public consultation from 08<sup>th</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2013. The public consultation was carried out in line with the Council's SPD Production Procedural Requirements guide. As such the public consultation was advertised on the Council's website, in the local press and by site notice at local centres within the NDS area. Interested parties were also informed by letter and email.

4.1.2 Inner North West Ward Members were consulted on the consultation draft (version 7) of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2013; Ward Members were specifically invited to make any comments on the draft document with a view to its adoption by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document. A report was also presented to a meeting of the Inner North West Area Committee on 21st November 2013 and the issue was raised at a number of the Area Committee's Planning Sub Group meetings.

4.1.3 Furthermore Cllr Sue Bentley has produced the foreword for the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS in which she fully supports the

aims and objectives of the NDS and thanks the NDS Steering Group and local community for their considerable efforts in producing a document which continues to reflect the aspirations of local people.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 The adoption draft of the NDS has been the subject of an Equality Screening Report (**Appendix 3**). This report concludes that there are no negative equality impacts as a result of the proposals discussed in this report. The draft NDS adoption process is considered to actively encourage engagement from all members of the local community. As such it has not been necessary to prepare an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The importance of place making through the planning process is emphasised in the Council's Local Development Framework Draft Core Strategy. The Draft Core Strategy states that "place making will be embedded into the planning process which has led to the creation, protection, and enhancement of buildings, places and spaces that are valued by people". It is considered that the draft adoption version of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS is in-keeping with the objectives of the Draft Core Strategy.

## **4.4 Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 The revisions to the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS have been carried out by the NDS Steering Group with assistance from the Inner North West Community Planner. The Community Planner is funded from the Area Committee Wellbeing Fund and works alongside existing Council resources. Funding for press adverts has been allocated through the Inner North West Area Committee Wellbeing Fund.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 The Chief Planning Officer is requested to approve the adoption of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) under Section 3E (Officer Delegation Scheme), Part 3 of the Council's Constitution. In Section 3E the Chief Planning Officer is authorised to discharge any function of the Executive in relation to the authority's role as Local Planning Authority.

4.5.2 The Council currently takes the guidance contained within the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) (2005) into consideration when making planning decisions within the NDS boundary. The revisions to the NDS and its updated status as a SPD will not alter this approach.

4.5.3 The decision to adopt the adoption draft of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS as a SPD is a key decision which was advertised in the Council's Forward Plan on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. This decision is considered to be a

key decision as it meets the second criteria of a key decision in that its outcome will have a significant effect on communities living in an area comprising one or more Council ward. If the Chief Planning Officer resolves to approve the adoption of the NDS the decision will be subject to call-in by Council Members for a period of 5 working days from the date of decision, the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.7 Neighbourhood Design Statements allow local communities to have valuable input in to the planning process at the neighbourhood level by setting out a vision, aims and aspirations for a neighbourhood area. The SPD adoption process allows such statements a recognised status within the Leeds Local Development Framework as a material planning consideration for future planning decisions.

5.8 It is considered that the adoption draft of the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park Neighbourhood Design Statement (NDS) has fulfilled the requirements of the SPD adoption process and is in compliance with all the relevant planning policy and guidance including those emerging policies within the Draft Core Strategy and Draft Site Allocations DPD.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Chief Planning Officer is asked to approve for adoption the Far Headingley, Weetwood and West Park NDS as a Supplementary Planning Document from 1 September 2014.

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.