Summary of Consultation Responses on draft Sustainable Design and Construction SPD 2010

The Draft Sustainable Design and Construction Guide Supplementary Planning Document were issued for consultation in 2010 after Cabinet approved of the consultation draft in October 2010. Public consultation took place between 4 November 2010 and 27 January 2011. Consultation methods included dissemination of information for public consultation via Haringey Council website, libraries and letters and e-mails. Draft SPD documents were available in public libraries and via the Haringey Council website. A total of 14 responses were received to the consultation.

Responses were received from all the Statutory Consultees – Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency as well as the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Responses were also received from the following organisations:
- Highways Agency
- Network Rail
- The Coal Authority
- Tottenham and Wood Green Friends of the Earth
- Sustainable Haringey Waste Group
- Tottenham Conservation Area Advisory Group
- Hornsey Conservation Area Advisory Group
- The Theatres Trust
- Andrew Mulroy Architects Ltd
- Highgate Society Environment Committee

Of the small number of responses received, the vast majority were strongly in favour of the SPD. The Highways Agency, Network Rail and the Coal Authority made no comment. Key issues that were raised included the following:
- Need to give due consideration to the historic environment and its protection throughout the document, particularly with regard to the incorporation of energy efficiency measures
- The Environment Agency should be referenced with regard to permits and consents that will be needed in relation to ground source heat pumps and biomass
- Greater clarity needed regarding definitions, areas of flooding and attenuation measures
- Amendments need to be made regarding the responsibilities for flood risk as a result of the Localism Act i.e. Local Planning Authorities now have responsibility for flood risk
- References to the buildings regulations and energy efficiency targets and guidance need to be updated to reflect the latest regulations and London Plan requirements
- There should be a requirement for energy efficiency works to existing buildings
- References to the waste targets and regulations need to be updated to reflect changes in legislation and the latest London Plan
- Passivhaus standard should be adopted as the norm for domestic developments
- Advice should be strengthened on the quality needed for timber cladding
- Targets need to be simple and empirically stated

All the above comments have been taken into consideration in the latest draft of the SPD and incorporated where appropriate. When comments are not taken into account, this is mainly because of lack of compatibility with local, regional, national policies. The SPD does not create new policy. For instance, Passivhaus building technique is suggested to be a compulsory standard but current local, regional and national planning policies do not support this standard to be compulsory for residential developments. However the Council is keen to encourage the use of the Passivhaus standards where feasible, and a reference to this technique is included in the SPD for information purposes. The document will continue to be reviewed in the future to ensure that any changes in regulations and legislation are reflected in the guidance provided.