

Report to: Cabinet Meeting: 10 June 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Claire Penny – Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director - Planning & Growth

Lead Officer: Matthew Norton - Business Manager, Planning Policy & Infrastructure, Ext. 5852

<b>Report Summary</b>	
<b>Type of Report</b>	Open Report / Key Decision
<b>Report Title</b>	Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To present the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which has been amended in response to comments received from consultees and also with factual updates; and to seek endorsement for its adoption.
<b>Recommendations</b>	That Cabinet approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Council’s responses within the Consultation responses document at Appendix A to the report; and</li> <li>b) the adoption of the Solar Energy SPD as attached at Appendix B to the report.</li> </ul>
<b>Alternative Options Considered</b>	Cabinet has already approved the production of the Solar Energy SPD therefore no alternative options have been considered.
<b>Reason for Recommendations</b>	To allow the District Council to adopt the Solar Energy SPD.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 In 2024, Members asked Officers to create a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) addressing issues around major solar energy developments. A draft version of this SPD was taken to Planning Policy Board on 22 May 2024. Amendments were made in the light of comments made by Members, and this version of the draft SPD was taken to Planning Policy Board on 8 July 2024. Members endorsed the document’s progress to Cabinet.
- 1.2 On 23 July 2024, Cabinet gave authorisation for the draft SPD and supporting documents to be placed on public deposit for a minimum six-week consultation period. The consultation began on 30 July 2024 and ran for eight weeks because of the summer holiday period. Following the close of the consultation on 24 September 2024, responses were reviewed and consequent amendments to the draft SPD were proposed. Other amendments that were factual updates were also proposed. These amendments were

endorsed by Planning Policy Board on 26 March 2025, and endorsement was also given to take the SPD to Cabinet for adoption.

- 1.3 Comments received and the actions taken can be seen in the Consultation Responses Document attached as **Appendix A**. The amended SPD itself is attached as **Appendix B** with proposed new text underlined and material that it is proposed to remove crossed through. Officers have also begun work on having a Landscape Sensitivity Study carried out which will support the SPD and inform decision making.

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that Cabinet approves the adoption of the Solar Energy SPD and the Council's responses within the Consultation Responses Document. The Consultation Responses Document will be included in a formal Statement of Consultation published alongside the adopted SPD.

## **3.0 Implications**

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate

### **Financial Implications – FIN25 – 26/9189**

- 3.1 No direct financial implications have been identified.

### **Legal Implications – LEG2526-1092**

- 3.2 Planning documents that form part of the Council's Policy Framework are reserved to Full Council for approval; Cabinet is the appropriate body to approve this supplementary planning document which does not form part of the Policy Framework.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The 23 July Cabinet report is published - <https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=288&MId=1010>