

Dear Clerk,

The draft Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is being published for a six-week consultation, beginning at 10am on Monday 30th October 2023 and ending at 10am on Monday 11th December.

Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

The Planning Obligations SPD is a guidance document that explains the Council's approach to securing planning obligations (also known as Section 106 contributions) from new development. Planning Obligations may be sought from housing, commercial, employment and mixed-use developments as well as minerals and waste developments. Their purpose is to ensure the necessary on site or off site infrastructure is provided to mitigate the impacts of new developments, and make them acceptable in planning terms.

The Planning Obligations SPD sets out the different types of infrastructure the Council seeks contributions towards, and the supporting evidence to justify how much is collected. It also sets out the approach to site viability and the prioritisation of infrastructure.

This guidance will ensure developers understand the type and scale of planning obligation requirements from an early stage in the development process and make appropriate provision. This in turn will enable the creation of sustainable communities, whereby high-quality development is supported by high-quality infrastructure.

Details of the Consultation

The consultation will run for six weeks from 10am on Monday 30th October until 10am on Monday 11th December 2023. Full details of how to respond to the consultation are set out on the Consultations page of the Council's website:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations>

Submitting comments via Commonplace:

We are excited to be hosting this consultation on our new digital engagement platform, [Commonplace](#). We encourage you to explore the document on this platform and submit your responses using this method.

The consultation document has been split down into topic specific pages, or tiles, to hopefully provide an alternative, and more interactive way of viewing the content. There are feedback boxes on each page to capture your comments. A copy of the full document in PDF format is also available to download should you wish. As well as your views on the SPD itself, we are keen to receive your feedback on the Commonplace platform, to help us to ensure our engagement is as effective as it can be moving forward. This can be shared by commenting via Commonplace or by email to

LocalPlan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Submitting comments via email or post:

Comments on the consultation document may also be submitted via email to LocalPlan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or by post to:

Strategic Growth, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ.

Next Steps

A summary of the comments received and how they have been taken into account will be presented to Executive in the Spring 2024 alongside the final Planning Obligations SPD.

Once adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and will be used when assessing planning applications and negotiating planning obligations for new development.

Kind Regards,

Community Engagement Team
Communications, Insight and Engagement
Office of the Chief Executive