

## Best in Region

### Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document 2021

Submitted by: Milton Keynes Council



The SPD provides developers with plain guidance on meeting local sustainability policy criteria and sets a leading example for closing the performance gap.

The SPD is a core component in the delivery of the Council's ambition for carbon neutrality by 2030. Moreover, it raises standards in planning practice, by requiring major residential developers to demonstrate how performance gaps will be closed

through application of a quality assurance regime and monitor building performance so that developers and future residents are aware of any unintended performance gaps. The document provides a template for other local authorities to introduce similar standards, thereby driving delivery of healthier, and more energy efficient living environments across the country.

The submission focussed on how the aim of the SPD was to provide clear guidelines for developers and homeowners to follow, setting out the ambitions and standards for construction within Milton Keynes. But as well as detailing the partnership approach taken to its preparation, the submission also outlined how that would be taken through to implementation including monitoring of the policy by the development management team. Following the adoption of the SPD, the Council has granted either outline or full planning permission for over 5,000 homes demonstrating accordance with the policy.

The judges noted that the guidance approach was supported by good evidence and innovative mechanisms for monitoring building performance. The judges identified good evidence on the engagement with a wide range of organisations and implementing feedback. The judges identified that it was very positive to also 'look inward' to ensure planners have the skill / capacity to deliver the need and reduce the burden on technical specialists.

The judges felt that a stand-out feature of the submission was the monitoring approach and replicability of the SPD for other planning authorities. But also, in the investment in the expertise of planners to be able to advise on technical issues around delivery and felt that this will lead to efficiencies in the planning process as well as better outcomes.

The judges are proud to award **The Sustainable Construction SPD** an RTPI SE Award for Planning Excellence as joint winner of the Best in Region.

