

## Planning Cabinet Advisory Group Designing Dementia-friendly Neighbourhoods Supplementary Planning Document

ITEM 7

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### Purpose

1. To inform CAG members of the draft Designing Dementia-friendly Neighbourhoods Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which has been prepared by the Urban Design team. To seek comments on the draft before it proceeds to a public consultation which would be followed by adoption.

### Background

2. The Council Plan includes a commitment (26) to “Support becoming a Dementia Friendly city, to improve the lives of those most in need of help and achieve MK-wide ‘Dementia Friendly Communities’ recognition from the Alzheimer’s Society by the end of March 2022.” The preparation of this SPD will help to meet that commitment by ensuring that new residential developments are designed to be dementia friendly.
3. The Designing Dementia-friendly Neighbourhoods SPD is aimed at developers involved in submitting planning applications as well as those involved in the determination of planning applications. Once adopted, it will become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
4. The SPD is not a policy itself, but is intended to provide design guidance which supplements the policies within the Design and Strategic Site Allocations chapters of Plan:MK. The SPD will enable the implementation of Policies SD1, EH7, D1 and other policies in Plan:MK.

### Issue/implications/key considerations:

5. National policy in the NPPF and local policy in Plan:MK emphasises the need to create healthy places. NPPF Paragraph 92 states that “Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which a) promote social interaction...; b) are safe and accessible...; and c) enable and support healthy lifestyles...” Policy SD1 of Plan:MK “Place-

making Principles for Development” requires that new development promotes good physical and mental health. The SPD provides guidance that aims to create neighbourhoods that will help to maintain the wellbeing and independence of people living with dementia.

6. The guidance in the SPD is based primarily on research undertaken by Oxford Brookes University, and the principles derived from that research. It also takes account of guidance in the RTPI’s practice note ‘Dementia and Town Planning (September 2020)’. The SPD is concerned with the layout and the public realm of new residential neighbourhoods. It does not provide guidance on the detailed design and internal layout of buildings, such as care homes.
7. The dementia-friendly design principles included in the guidance accord with best urban design best practice and add further weight to the importance of key placemaking principles, such as legibility, distinctiveness, mixed use and connected streets.
8. Pre-application discussions with Berkeleys Homes on the MKE Strategic Urban Extension have been informed by the principles included in this guidance. Berkeleys have committed in their outline application to create a dementia-friendly neighbourhood. The adoption of this SPD will assist in the consideration of the detailed design of MKE through subsequent reserved matters applications.
9. Informal engagement has been undertaken with the Dementia Pathway Implementation Group, which includes representatives from Alzheimer’s Society, NHS, CCG and others involved in the commissioning and providing of dementia services. Their views have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft SPD.

### **Next steps**

10. Following consideration by CAG and any feedback given on the document, the draft SPD is planned to be taken to Delegated Decision on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to approve the document for an eight-week consultation period over January-February 2022, with adoption of the SPD in April 2022.