

Report

Report subject : Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Report to : Cabinet
Date : Wednesday 07 June 2006
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1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and to enable Officers to move onto 'stage B' of the process, which provides for any options and objectives prepared as part of the core strategy, a development plan document or supplementary planning document to be tested against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives to ensure plans and policies are sustainable.

2.0 The proposal

- 2.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is now a mandatory element of the new Local Development Framework (LDF) process. It must be carried out on all Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD). The Sustainability Appraisal must also meet the requirements of the European Union's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC.
- 2.2 A sustainability appraisal assesses the likely economic, social and environmental effects that the policies of the LDF may produce. It aims to promote 'sustainable development', which is about making sure there is a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future. This document is about putting in place a robust framework, that will help us predict whether the outcome of our policies is consistent with our overall aim of delivering sustainable communities. If proposed policies are demonstrated to be counter to the goals of achieving sustainable communities then they will not be accepted.
- 2.3 Sustainability appraisal involves the following stages:

Stage A involves gathering information on the environmental, social and economic aspects of the district, identifying the main 'sustainability issues' (see page 26 of the attached report) in the district and developing 'sustainability objectives' (see page 27 of the attached report) to deal with them.

Stage B involves comparing the options of plans developed as part of the LDF with the sustainability objectives developed as part of the sustainability appraisal. Alternatives and options to the plan are also developed at this stage.

Stage C involves identifying: the effects of the plan; measures to make the most of benefits and reduce negative effects; and proposals for monitoring the plan. All work carried out up to this point is then set out in the sustainability appraisal report.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



Stage D gives the public an opportunity to tell us what they think about the Sustainability Appraisal report. The SA report is consulted alongside the plan developed as part of the LDF for a 6 week consultation period.

Stage E is an ongoing process and involves monitoring the performance of the plan and responding appropriately to any negative effects.

2.4 We are now towards the end of stage A of this process. The draft SA scoping report includes information on the following:

- The existing economic, social and environmental characteristics of the district.
- The sustainability issues (environmental, social and economic problems), which are important to the district.
- The 21 sustainability objectives, which we will use to assess future plans.

2.5 The sustainability issues identified are those that are considered to be important to the district. They are identified through analyzing any relevant plans, programmes and sustainability issues and baseline information. The detail is shown within Appendices 2 and 3 of the Draft SA Scoping Report attached to this report (**Appendix A** to this report).

2.6 21 Sustainability Objectives have been developed to reflect the sustainability issues within Salisbury District. These will be used to assess the future plans and policies developed as part of the Local Development Framework to ensure they achieve the goal of sustainable development.

2.7 The draft 21 Sustainability Objectives identified are:

	Sustainable Communities
Objective 1	To develop vibrant sustainable communities
Objective 2	To ensure that everybody has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home
Objective 3	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in Salisbury district and the rest of the district
Objective 4	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health
Objective 5	To reduce crime and fear of crime
Objective 6	To improve and protect accessibility to all services and facilities, especially in our villages
Objective 7	To improve transport choice, including sustainable transport solutions, provide affordable transport in rural areas, and improve safety and congestion on roads. <u>Planning Applications will require Transport Assessments when deemed necessary by the Local Planning Authority</u> .
Objective 8	To ensure a fully inclusive environment
	The Natural Environment
Objective 9	To use land efficiently, maximising the use of brownfield land including the re-use of materials from buildings and encourage urban renaissance.
Objective 10	To increase energy efficiency including the promotion of energy generated from renewable resources in the district and improving energy efficiency of buildings.
Objective 11	To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and landscape, including the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Objective 12	To reduce the risk of flooding.
Objective 13	To reduce pollution and waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.
Objective 14	To maintain and improve the water quality of the district's rivers and to ensure that water efficiency measures are implemented.
Objective 15	To improve air quality and reduce green house gas emissions
	The Economy
Objective 16	To raise educational attainment levels across the region and develop opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills to find and remain in work
Objective 17	To facilitate sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness of new and existing businesses including those in rural areas
Objective 18	To provide appropriate information and computer technology infrastructure to support business

Objective 19	To promote sustainable tourism and cultural activities in the district
Objective 20	To maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of new and existing services and facilities
Design and Conservation	
Objective 21	To protect, maintain and improve the built and physical environment and cultural heritage of Salisbury district including Stonehenge World Heritage Site, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.

3.0 Public Consultation

- 3.1 The regulations require local authorities to consult on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for a 5 week period. Regulations require the environmental consultation bodies to be consulted, namely English Nature, Environment Agency, Countryside Agency and English Heritage. Beyond this requirement, other community groups and social and economic bodies should be consulted as the Local Planning Authority considers appropriate.
- 3.2 The Council published the draft SA Scoping Report on 16th February 2006 for a 6 week period of public consultation finishing on 31 March 2006. An advert was placed in the Salisbury Journal on 16th February 2006 and 23rd February 2006. All statutory consultees and all those on the 'Local Plan' database were also notified of the public consultation by e-mail or letter. The document was furthermore available to view on the district council's website with an e-mail response link.
- 3.3 Consultation responses have been received from 33 respondents. These have been summarized within Appendix B of this report.

4.0 Comments from the Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel

- 4.1 The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was taken to the Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel on 24th April 2006 for their comments and suggested changes. Comments received that require amendments to the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report were:
- It was important to make a clarification between public transport and affordable, accessible transport. More emphasis should be given to the latter in the report.
 - It would be helpful if the report included reference to the new rules and regulations that had been introduced regarding public footpaths.
 - The needs of young people are very important to the council and the Sustainability Appraisal should make more reference to this and possibly include this issue as one of the main sustainability objectives.
 - Objective 14 referred to maintenance of the District's river water, but it would be helpful to have more emphasis placed on water catchment areas and abstraction of water from the district's rivers.
- 4.2 These required changes will be incorporated into the SA Scoping Report, as detailed in Appendix B to this report.

5.0 Future stages

- 5.1 The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report will be amended to take account of responses received and proposed changes to be made to create the 'Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report'. These changes are detailed in Appendix B of this report. This will then be used within Stage B of the Sustainability Appraisal process, as briefly described within paragraph 2.3 of this report.
- 5.2 The amendments to be made to the Sustainability Objectives that will be used within stage B are highlighted below:

Sustainable Communities	
Objective 1	To develop vibrant sustainable communities.
Objective 2	To ensure that everybody has the opportunity of living in a decent and affordable home, including the provision of sites for gypsies and travellers.
Objective 3	To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most deprived areas in Salisbury district and the rest of the district.
Objective 4	To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.
Objective 5	To reduce crime and fear of crime.
Objective 6	To improve and protect accessibility to all services and facilities, especially in

	our villages.
Objective 7	To improve transport choice, including sustainable transport solutions, provide affordable and accessible transport in rural areas, and improve safety and reduce congestion on roads.
Objective 8	To ensure a fully inclusive environment, including addressing the needs the young and old, those with disabilities and diverse groups.
New Objective	Improve accessible to the countryside and accessible natural greenspace'.
The Natural Environment	
Objective 9	To use land efficiently, where appropriate, maximising the use of brownfield land including the re-use of materials from buildings and encourage urban renaissance.
Objective 10	To increase energy efficiency including the promotion of energy generated from renewable resources in the district and improving energy efficiency of buildings that of buildings and to promote the generation of energy from renewable resources.
Objective 11	To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and landscape, including the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
New Objective	To conserve and enhance the district's biodiversity and geodiversity, including Appropriate Assessment where necessary.
Objective 12	To reduce the risk of flooding.
Objective 13	To reduce pollution and waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling.
Objective 14	To maintain and improve the water quality and quantity of the district's rivers and to ensure that water efficiency measures are implemented.
Objective 15	To improve air quality and reduce green house gas emissions.
The Economy	
Objective 16	To raise educational attainment levels across the region and develop opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills to find and remain in work.
Objective 17	To facilitate sustainable economic growth, development and competitiveness of new and existing businesses including those in rural areas.
Objective 18	To provide appropriate information and computer technology infrastructure to support business.
Objective 19	To promote sustainable tourism and cultural activities in the district.
Objective 20	To maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of new and existing services and facilities and re-emphasise the 'town centres first' objective in respect to retail development.
Design and Conservation	
Objective 21	To protect, maintain and improve the built and physical environment and cultural heritage of Salisbury district including Stonehenge World Heritage Site, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings.

6.0 Recommendation

- (1) Authorise Officers to use the sustainability objectives identified in the table at paragraph 5.2 of this report to test plans and policies and
- (2) To authorise Officers to progress on to Stage B of the sustainability appraisal process.

7.0 Background Papers:

PPS12 - Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, ODPM
 Creating Local Development Frameworks – Companion Guide to PPS12, ODPM
 Town and Country Planning Act (Local Development)(England) Regulations
 Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM

8.0 Implications:

- **Financial:** All initial costs associated with Sustainability Appraisal will be met from existing budgets. If additional funding is required for future years, it will be bid for through the portfolio planning process.
- **Legal:** Comments incorporated.
- **Environmental Health:** None
- **Human Rights:** The LDF process builds in the right to a fair hearing through a process of continuous community involvement.
- **Personnel:** None
- **Community Safety:** Not applicable at this stage
- **Council's Core Values:** Being fair and equitable, providing excellent service, communicating with the public, Open learning council and willing partner
- **Ward(s) Affected:** All