

# Report

**Report subject:** Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

**Report to:** Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel

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## 1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panels comments on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and for the Panel to suggest any changes deemed necessary.

## 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 borough, 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.

**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.

2.4 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 Appendix 2 and 3 of Draft SA Scoping Report attached to this report.

2.5 21 Sustainability Objectives have consequently 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.

2.6 The 21 Sustainability Objectives identified are:

	<b>Sustainable Communities</b>
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.
Objective 8	To ensure a fully inclusive environment
	<b>The Natural Environment</b>
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 districts 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
	<b>The Economy</b>
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
	<b>Design and Conservation</b>
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.

- 2.7 The Council published the draft SA Scoping Report on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 for a 6 week period of public consultation. An advert was placed in the Salisbury Journal on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- 2.8 In order to assist those wishing to read and comment upon the draft SA Scoping Report a series of questions were devised in order to direct responses received.
- a) Have we adequately covered the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive?
  - b) Are there any other relevant plans, programmes, strategies or sustainability objectives, not considered in Table 1, that you consider might affect or influence the preparation of the three emerging LDF Plans or the development of the SA?
  - c) Are the identified key sustainable development themes correct?
  - d) Are there any other targets that should be included in Table 2?
  - e) Do you agree that the baseline information collected is relevant, accurate and of sufficient detail to support the emerging LDF Plans?
  - f) Do you know of any additional relevant baseline data, which should be added to the list?
  - g) Are the key sustainability issues identified appropriate and sufficient to enable assessment of the plan. Please specify any suggested additions or deletions.
  - h) Do you consider that the SA Objectives and indicators as shown are consistent with national, regional and county level policy and guidance, and are appropriate within the context of South Wiltshire?
  - i) Do the sustainability objectives and indicators as shown provide an appropriate framework for the sustainability Appraisal of the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents?
  - j) Should any sustainability objectives be added, removed or revised?

### 3.0 Future stages

- 3.1 All comments received from Planning and Economic Development Panel and from the public consultation process will be analysed and amendments will be made to the SA Scoping Report to produce a final report which will incorporate the Sustainability Objectives. These Objectives will be used in order to test the sustainability of options and policies proposed as part of the LDF itself. The future stages of the SA process specifically are detailed within paragraph 2.3 of this report.

### 3.0 Recommendation

**Planning and Economic Development Scrutiny Panel is requested to;**

- a) **Note the content of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**
- b) **Comment upon the content of the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, structured around the questions asked in paragraph 2.7 of this report and propose potential amendments**
- c) **Authorise Officers to take an amended draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to Cabinet for their acknowledgement**

**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

**Implications:**

- **Financial:** All initial costs associated with Sustainability Appraisal are able to be met within existing budgets. If additional funding is required for future years, it will be bid for through the portfolio planning process.
- **Legal:** Comments incorporated into draft Statement of Community Involvement
- **Environmental Health:** No comments
- **Human Rights:** The LDF process builds in the right to a fair hearing through a process of continuous community involvement.
- **Personnel:** No comments raised
- **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