

Update to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Wiltshire Core Strategy

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has promoted sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations into the Wiltshire Core Strategy. This requirement is set out in Section 19 (5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 and Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The SA incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment which assesses the significant environmental effects of the Core Strategy.

The SA has been undertaken through an iterative process throughout the Core Strategy preparation period, including the consideration of reasonable alternatives. A number of iterations of the SA have been consulted on, including assessments of modifications to the Core Strategy recommended before and after the examination in public. The various SA documents produced to inform the Core Strategy, including web links, are listed below in chronological order (taken as a whole, this series of documents sets out the process followed and justification for the assessment of policies in detail):

- Wiltshire SA Draft Scoping Report and associated topic papers (Wiltshire Council, January 2009) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ldfsustainabilityappraisal.htm>
- Wiltshire 2026 SA Report (Wiltshire Council, October 2009) - available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire2026.htm>
- Wiltshire SA Scoping Report and associated topic papers (Wiltshire Council, April 2010) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ldfsustainabilityappraisal.htm>
- Wiltshire Core Strategy Interim SA Report (Wiltshire Council, June 2011) – available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wcsconsult2011.htm>
- Wiltshire Core Strategy Consultation SA Report (Wiltshire Council, January 2012) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshirecorestrategypresubmissionconsultation.htm>
- Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission SA Report (Wiltshire Council, June 2012) – available at: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/submissionofwiltshirecorestrategy.htm>
- Wiltshire Core Strategy SA Report Focussed Consultation Document (Wiltshire Council, September 2012) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corestrategydocuments.htm?directory=Examination%20Documents> (document refs EXAM/ 05 – EXAM/05E)
- Wiltshire Core Strategy SA Report Addendum (Wiltshire Council, August 2013) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corestrategydocuments.htm?directory=Examination%20Documents> (document ref EXAM/57)
- Wiltshire Core Strategy SA Report Addendum (Wiltshire Council, April 2014) – available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/corestrategydocuments.htm?directory=Examination%20Documents> (document ref EXAM/99)

Conclusions on the assessment of modifications to the Core Strategy

In light of the time which has elapsed between the publication of the most recent SA Addendum Report in April 2014, which considered the effects of a number of changes to the Core Strategy (outlined in examination documents EXAM/73, EXAM/74 and EXAM/90A), and the decisions now to be taken by Cabinet and full Council committees, officers have undertaken a review of any additional material considerations which may have arisen since April 2014 which could affect the effects assessment and conclusions of the SA. These include the Inspector's own modifications to the Core Strategy included within the Inspector's final report on soundness, received by the Council in December 2014.

It is considered that any main modifications made to the Core Strategy since April 2014 will not lead to additional significant effects that have not already been considered and documented in the various iterations of the SA, or undermine its conclusions on the sustainability of the Core Strategy. Any minor modifications would also not be likely to lead to additional significant effects not already considered in the assessment. The Inspector's final report on soundness states in paragraph 6 that *'the main modifications that go to soundness have been subject to public consultation and, where necessary, SA'* and therefore it is considered no further changes to the SA are necessary.

A full Sustainability Appraisal adoption statement, incorporating detail on the following, will be provided and made publicly available upon adoption of the Core Strategy:

- sustainability considerations - how these have been integrated into the Core Strategy
- how the SA has been taken into account during the preparation of the Core Strategy
- how opinions expressed in response to consultations on the SA have been taken into account
- the reasons for choosing the Core Strategy as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives considered
- measures to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy