

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Fareham Borough Council Local Plan Part 3: The Welborne Plan

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

Adoption Statement; Produced in accordance with Regulations 16 (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

June 2015

Local Plan Part 3: The Welborne Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Adoption Statement

The purpose of this Statement

- 1 The overall purpose of the SA process is to promote sustainable development through consideration of social, environmental and economic concerns in the preparation of planning policies and to evaluate reasonable alternative options. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 established the requirement for a process of Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out alongside plan-making. The centrality of SA to Local Plan making is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012, which requires that a sustainability appraisal which meets the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors. It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.
- 2 This Adoption Statement for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Part 3: The Welborne Plan has been prepared in accordance with the following requirements:
 - Regulation 36 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
 - Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004
 - Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012
- 3 The Adoption Statement explains how environmental/sustainability considerations were incorporated into the Welborne Plan, and how the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was taken into account including;
 - how the representations received through the consultation process were integrated with the Plan;
 - the reasons for choosing the adopted Welborne Plan in the light of the alternatives considered; and,
 - how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Welborne Plan will be monitored.

Introduction

- 4 Fareham Borough Council adopted the Local Plan Part 1- The Core Strategy in August 2011. This part of the development plan includes Policy CS13 which established the policy context for bringing forward Welborne. The Local Plan Part 1 was subject to its own separate SA process, which has been taken into account in undertaking the SA work which underpins the Welborne Plan. It should be noted that

at the stage of adopting the Core Strategy the new settlement had yet to be named Welborne, and was commonly known as the Strategic Development Area to the North of Fareham.

- 5 The Council adopted the Local Plan Part 3 - The Welborne Plan on 8th June 2015. The Welborne Plan covers a part of the Fareham Borough located to the north of junction 10 of the M27 motorway. The area within the adopted boundaries of Welborne covers some 371 hectares of land.
- 6 The Welborne Plan is the long term strategic plan for the development of approximately 6,000 dwellings, approximately 20 hectares of employment land with associated social and physical infrastructure, and includes the strategic vision, objectives and the key policies needed to achieve a sustainable development. It identifies the amount of development, and the broad locations for each of the major land uses including residential, employment, green infrastructure, primary and secondary education, a district and local centres. It also sets out the strategy for avoiding or mitigating risk to the Solent Special Protection Area identified through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 7 Since the beginning of 2012, a considerable amount of consultation and public engagement has been undertaken by Fareham Borough Council, as an integral part of preparing the Welborne Plan. To inform this process a SA (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) was scoped out¹ and undertaken. A Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Report were also undertaken. This was also the subject to a process of consultation with both the public and the relevant statutory bodies. The main stages of Consultation included;
 - A public survey of options relating to housing, open space, community facilities and sustainable energy (February 2012)
 - Engagement with young people including school visits and a workshop exercise with the Fareham Youth Council (Spring 2012)
 - SA Scoping Report up-date (May 2012)
 - The HRA Baseline Evidence Review (May 2012)
 - Five public exhibitions and a public survey on masterplanning and development options (July 2012)
 - SA Options Assessment Report and HRA Screening Report (April 2013)
 - A six week consultation on the draft Welborne Plan which included five public exhibitions both inside and outside of the Borough in affected neighbourhoods (May- June 2013)
 - SA of Draft Welborne Plan (October 2013)
 - A six week consultation on the Proposed Submission Draft Welborne Plan, including the Final SA report (February 2014)
 - SA of the Publication Welborne Plan (January 2014)
 - Appropriate Assessment Report for the Publication Welborne Plan (January 2014)
 - A six week consultation on a Suggested Change to the Welborne Plan, including the accompanying (July- August 2014) SA and HRA Addendum (June 2014)

¹ For the SA Scoping Report and all other SA documents referred to above, please see the Welborne Examination pages on the Council's web-site

- A six week consultation of the Proposed Modifications to the Welborne Plan, including the accompanying SA and HRA of the Main Modifications (January 2015)
- 8 To assist the process of engaging with a wide cross-section of community and local interests a Standing Conference was established in February 2012. This is independently chaired and includes representatives from local community groups, housing providers, adjoining local authorities, local businesses, and the site promoters. The Standing Conference held various meetings during the period up to adoption to inform and help guide the plan preparation. The Standing Conference also undertook a series of workshops and received a number of presentations on different aspect of sustainability.
 - 9 The Welborne Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2014 together with the Sustainability Appraisal, and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Welborne Plan was subject to an Examination by an independent Inspector with public hearings during October 2014. The Inspector's final report in May 2015 found the Welborne Plan to be sound, subject to a number of modifications put forward by the Council.

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Welborne Plan

- 10 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was at the heart of the process of preparing the Welborne Plan. Full details of the SA process are set out in the Sustainability Report on the Publication Draft Welborne Plan². The SA (incorporating SEA) was undertaken as an iterative and ongoing process which informed decisions made on the emerging Plan.
- 11 The SA was undertaken in accordance with current government guidance³ and best practice⁴ for a staged approach which considered the effects of the emerging Welborne Plan on socio-economic as well as environmental factors. Independent specialist consultants⁵ were appointed to carry out the SA. They worked closely with the plan-making team in an iterative way so that the findings and recommendations from the SA were integrated into each stage of developing of the Plan.
- 12 The first stage of the SA was to scope the range of sustainability issues within the area. Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed; baseline information regarding the character of the area and its likely evolution were collated and analysed; sustainability problems, issues & opportunities were identified; and a Sustainability Appraisal Framework of objectives and decision-making criteria was developed.
- 13 The Draft Welborne Plan was developed during early 2012 and was subject to a SA. The emerging plan considered the spatial options for housing, employment and associated infrastructure in a number of strategic locations. The SA Report which

² Sustainability Report on the Publication Draft Welborne Plan

³ The SA process is consistent with the current advice set out in the government's Planning Practice Guidance- sustainability requirements for Local Plans

⁴ Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005): A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive.

⁵ Urban Edge Environmental Consulting

supported the Draft Welborne Plan sets out how the SA has informed the plan-making, including SA of the alternative options for strategic direction.

- 14 A range of positive and negative effects are predicted to occur during implementation of the Plan in relation to the following sustainability themes:
- Significant positive effect on housing provision over the short, medium and long term.
 - Significant negative effect on landscape quality over the short, medium and long term by facilitating development on greenfield land and in relative proximity to heritage assets.
 - Significant positive effect on protecting the setting of cultural heritage assets over the short, medium and long term by enhancing landscape and townscape quality, safeguarding the distinctiveness and character of settlements and enhancing green infrastructure networks.
 - Significant negative effect on landscape quality over the short, medium and long term by facilitating development on greenfield land, which are magnified when considered in combination with strategic developments and Local Plans in the wider area.
 - Significant positive effect on landscape and townscape quality over the short, medium and long term through the development of high quality green infrastructure networks and high quality design in Welborne.
 - Significant positive effect on supporting the uptake of sustainable modes of transport over the short, medium and long term, including walking, cycling and public transport use in Welborne.
 - Significant positive effect on improving accessibility to facilities and employment over the short, medium and long term by focusing development at locations accessible to services, facilities and amenities.
 - Significant negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions over the short, medium and long term by increasing the built footprint of the area and facilitating an increase in traffic in the area, which are magnified when considered in combination with strategic developments and Local Plans in the wider area.
 - Significant positive effect on limiting greenhouse gas emissions from transport over the short, medium and long term by:
 - supporting sustainable transport use and reducing the need to travel,
 - supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy provision,
 - supporting climate change adaptation through the introduction of high quality green infrastructure networks and measures to manage the effects of climate change including flooding, extreme weather events and effects on water resources, and
 - encouraging the planting of trees and other vegetation.
 - Significant negative effect on noise, air and light quality over the short, medium and long term by increasing the built footprint of the area and facilitating an increase in traffic in the area.
 - Significant positive effect for improving environmental quality over the short, medium and long term through the introduction of high quality green infrastructure networks and measures to limit effects on environmental receptors.
 - Significant positive effect for supporting biodiversity linkages and networks over the short, medium and long term through improving green infrastructure networks and creating new habitats.

- Significant positive effect on helping biodiversity adapt to the effects of climate change over the short, medium and long term through supporting ecological networks and developing ecologically resilient landscape in Welborne.
 - Significant negative effect on designated nature conservation sites by increasing demand for recreational visits to these sites over the short, medium and long term, effects which are magnified when considered in combination with strategic developments and Local Plans in the wider area.
 - Significant negative effect on the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land over the short, medium and long term by stimulating landtake on greenfield land.
 - Significant positive effect by improving accessibility to jobs and educational opportunities in Welborne over the short, medium and long term, effects which are magnified when considered in combination with strategic developments and Local Plans in the wider area.
 - Significant positive effect on supporting the vitality and viability of centres, and the quality of townscape and the built environment, over the short, medium and long term by promoting access to centres via sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport.
 - Significant positive effect on health and well-being over the short, medium and long term by:
 - maximising accessibility to health, leisure and recreational facilities in Welborne,
 - supporting healthier modes of travel including walking and cycling,
 - through improvements to the quality and safety of the townscape and landscape and the promotion of green infrastructure networks, and
 - promoting the development of high quality, energy efficient housing.
- 15 Further refinements were made a result of the consultation, and any significant changes were subject to further SA and the findings were incorporated into the Submission Welborne Plan which was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2014, and was the subject of a subsequent Examination. The Planning Inspector's report into the Examination of the Welborne Plan was received by the Council in May 2015⁶. The Inspector found Welborne the Plan sound and the SA to be adequate, so that the Welborne Plan could be formally adopted by the Council, with the proposed modifications, without the need for any further SA.
- 16 In respect of the Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment (AA) (January 2014) the Inspectors Report concluded that the Welborne Plan may have some negative impacts on internationally important ecological sites, for example the Solent Maritime SAC, in terms of wastewater treatment and discharge. However, the more recent evidence provided by the Council demonstrated that wastewater could be satisfactorily dealt with, without harm to important ecology. Natural England is satisfied with the Council's approach. The Inspector's conclusion therefore was that the AA has been carried out and at this stage is adequate.

How the Sustainability/Environmental Report were taken into account and influenced the Welborne Plan

⁶ Final Inspectors Report on the Examination into the Welborne Plan; 12th May 2015

- 17 The SA Scoping Report established the baseline, the key sustainability issues, and the policy framework for the SA, and set the context for the SA. This informed the early draft of the Plan and provided the basis for assessment of possible options.
- 18 The subsequent stages of the SA were undertaken at the same time as the equivalent stages of the plan-making process so that the findings and recommendations of the SA could be integrated at each stage. The choices regarding spatial strategic locations and themes for strategic policies were subject to SA using the framework of SA objectives. Mitigation measures for any negative effects identified were suggested through changes to policy wording to strengthen the sustainability of the development. A report was published that recorded the findings of the SA⁷ and the way in which it had influenced the choices available to the plan-making.
- 19 As the SA had been incorporated into the plan-making process from an early stage, the Pre-Submission and Submission drafts of the Welborne Plan only required minor changes. Again, the findings of the SA and the way in which it had influenced to the plan-making were set out in the SA Reports.

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

- 20 At each stage of the consultation process, (from SA scoping through to the Submission of the Welborne Plan and its accompanying SA Report), the SA set out the nature of the responses and the way in which the SA took them into account. This included the initial formal scoping consultation with the environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

Reasons for choosing the Welborne Plan as adopted

- 21 The SA examined and appraised the vision, the broad locations for housing, employment and associated infrastructure. The potential positive sustainability effects of the proposed development, and the mitigation of potential negative effects, rely on the effective implementation of the policies as set out in the adopted Welborne Plan. The plan-making and the SA processes established that the Welborne Plan provided a sustainable and sound approach for implementing the development of a sustainable new community over the Plan period.
- 22 The rationale for the selection of preferred options, and rejection of alternatives, is clearly set out in Table 4.1 of the Sustainability Report on the Publication Draft Welborne Plan. The table explains the reasons for selection/rejection of a particular option include the findings of relevant evidence studies, the views of key stakeholders, public consultation, or the findings of SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).
- 23 In some cases an option was neither rejected nor preferred, and the option was subject to further development and testing. In other cases the relevant policy takes a

⁷ Sustainability Report on the Draft Welborne Plan; October 2013

more permissive approach to allow for future flexibility in meeting the sustainability objectives of the plan.

Measures to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the Welborne Plan

- 24 The Welborne Plan will be subject to an ongoing programme of monitoring as part of the Council’s Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR). This includes a broad range of indicators and targets. This will demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategic policies in the Welborne Plan and enable any unforeseen effects arising from its implementation to be identified. The Welborne Plan contains the commitment to review its Local Plans and produce a single Local Plan. Front loading this process has already started, and a draft Plan is expected to be published for consultation in the summer of 2016.
- 25 Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the predicted effects of the SA were accurate; and this information will be considered in the next round of plan-making and the accompanying SA. Monitoring Reports for the Welborne Plan will be available for review on the Council’s websites.
- 26 The following monitoring framework was recommended in the SA Report to monitor the significant environmental/sustainability effects of implementing the plan. These will be incorporated into the Council’s AMR.

SA Objective	Indicator
Accessibility	Modal share of trips undertaken to/from Welborne by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Car/van; - Bus; - Bus Rapid Transit; - Cycling; and - Walking.
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air quality on main local routes, close to sensitive receptors and sites of biological interest
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss or degradation of areas of local ecological interest, including ancient woodland remnants and Knowle Road verges - Delivery of green infrastructure and habitat creation - Area change in extent of priority habitats - Delivery of SANGs (ha) in line with occupancy of dwellings - Contributions to SDMP and/or New Forest Recreation Management Strategy (£)
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kilowatt hours of installed renewable and low carbon energy source - Proportion of Passivhaus homes delivered in each phase

SA Objective	Indicator
Economic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of local workers employed during construction - Amount (m2) of employment floorspace delivered
Food production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of allotments & community gardens (ha)
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of artefacts discovered and recorded - Number of artefacts destroyed - Number of artefacts incorporated within development and/or interpreted & presented to public - Number of features added to the Heritage at Risk register
Human health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor extent of traffic-related noise pollution increases with reference to existing dwellings at Funtley and north Fareham - Amount of sports/recreation facilities delivered
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of homes delivered (against trajectory) - Mix of size, type and tenure
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Per capita water consumption (105l/p/d)

For the evidence base to support the Welborne Plan and SA, please refer to the Examination pages on the Council's website.

Key Facts	
Name of Responsible Authority:	Fareham Borough Council
Plan Title:	Fareham Borough Local Plan Part 3: The Welborne Plan
Plan Type:	Statutory Development Plan Document
Plan Subject:	Local Development
Plan Period:	To 2036
Frequency of Review:	When required.
Plan Area:	The Welborne Plan area which incorporates land to the north and south of the M27 and to the east and west of the A32.
Date of Adoption:	8 June 2015
Address at which Plan and SA/SEA Documents can be inspected:	<p>Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7AZ</p> <p>http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/new_community/intro.aspx</p> <p>The plan and its accompanying SA/SEA documents can be viewed free of charge during normal business hours.</p>