

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Fareham Borough Council
Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites and Policies
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 2: Development Sites and Policies 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 importance of SA to Local Plan making is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 165), 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 Sustainability/Environmental Statement for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites and Policies 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 Development Sites and Policies Plan, and how the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was taken into account including;
 - how the representations received through the consultation process were integrated into the Plan;
 - the reasons for choosing the adopted Development Sites and Policies Plan in the light of the alternatives considered;
 - and, how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Development Sites and Policies Plan will be monitored.

Introduction

- 4 Fareham Borough Council adopted the Local Plan Part 1 - The Core Strategy in August 2011. This set the key elements of the planning framework. This part of the Local Plan was subject to its own separate SA process, which has been taken into

account in undertaking the SA work which underpins the Development Sites and Policies Plan.

- 5 The Council adopted the Local Plan Part 2 - Development Sites and Policies Plan on 8 June 2015. The Development Sites and Policies Plan covers the whole of the Borough of Fareham, excluding that part of the Borough covered by the Welborne Plan.
- 6 The Development Sites and Policies Plan sets out the Council's approach to managing and delivering development identified in the Core Strategy (together with the additional requirements set out in the South Hampshire Strategy) for the Borough to 2026. It will help deliver the Vision and Strategic Objectives for Fareham set out in the Core Strategy.
- 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 specific policies for Solent Breezes, Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and Fareham College site redevelopment, consultations have also taken place throughout 2013. To inform this process a SA (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) was scoped out and 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;
 - Issues and Options stage of the plan preparation included public consultation starting in January 2008
 - SA Scoping Report (May 2012)
 - A six week consultation on the draft Development Sites and Policies Plan which included 8 days of public exhibitions both inside and outside of the Borough in affected neighbourhoods (October – November 2012)
 - SA Options Assessment Report and HRA Screening Report (October 2012)
 - Specific consultations on policies for Solent Breezes, Gypsy and Traveller accommodation and Fareham College site redevelopment, together with SA/SEA and HRA Screening, have also taken place throughout 2013
 - A six week consultation on the Proposed Submission Development Sites and Policies Plan, including the Final SA report (February 2014)
 - SA of the Publication Development Sites and Policies Plan (January 2014)
 - Appropriate Assessment Report for the Publication Development Sites and Policies Plan (January 2014)
 - Post-Examination Addendum to combined SA/SEA and HRA for Development Sites and Policies Plan (December 2014).
 - A six week consultation of the Proposed Modifications to the Development Sites and Policies Plan including the accompanying SA and HRA of the Main Modifications (January 2015)
- 8 The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2014 together with the Sustainability Appraisal, and Habitats Regulations Assessment. The Development Sites and Policies Plan was the subject of an Examination by an independent Inspector, with public hearings held during November 2014. The Inspector's final report in May 2015 found that the Development Sites and Policies Plan provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Borough, providing a number of modifications are made to the plan.

- 9 The Inspector also found the SA to be adequate, so that the Development Sites and Policies Plan could be formally adopted by the Council, with the proposed modifications, without the need for any further SA. In respect of the Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Inspector found that it had been satisfactorily carried out and concluded that LP2 can be considered to be compliant with the Habitats Regulations.

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Development Sites and Policies Plan

- 10 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was at the heart of the process of preparing the Development Sites and Policies. Full details of the SA process are set out in the Sustainability Report on the Publication Draft Development Sites and Policies Plan. 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 guidance¹ and best practice² for a staged approach which considered the effects of the emerging Development Sites and Policies Plan on a range of socio-economic as well as environmental factors. Independent specialist consultants³ were appointed to carry out the SA. They worked closely with the plan-making team in an iterative way such that the findings and recommendations from the SA were integrated into the developing stages of the Plan.
- 12 The first stage of the SA was to scope the issues for sustainability 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 SA Scoping Report was published in May 2012 for consultation with the statutory bodies, other interested organisations and the public.
- 14 The Development Sites and Policies Plan was developed during 2012 and subject to a SA. The emerging plan considered the spatial options for housing, employment and associated infrastructure through a number of strategic locations. The SA Report which supported the Publication Development Sites and Policies Plan sets out how the SA has informed the plan-making process, including the alternative options for development and infrastructure allocations.
- 15 A range of positive and negative effects are predicted to occur during implementation of the Plan, including:
- Long-term, significant positive effects in relation to the housing objective;
 - Short-term and long-term significant negative effects are predicted in relation to built and cultural heritage, however, it should be possible to reduce negative effects via

¹The NPPF and the Planning Practice Guidance-sustainability requirements for local plans

² Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005): A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive.

³ Urban Edge Environmental Consulting

high quality designs which respond to and enhance the setting of historical features and through the use of an appropriate selection of materials, while there is also potential for some positive long-term effects;

- Short- and long-term residual negative impact on the quality, character and setting of landscape and townscape character at the local scale in some parts of the borough;
- Long-term, significant positive effects in relation to accessibility and sustainable travel;
- Overall carbon emissions in the borough can be expected to increase as a result of the Plan's implementation, leading to small-scale long-term negative effects in relation to climate change, but the Plan also defines a spatial strategy for avoiding the resultant impacts and providing for an increased supply of renewable energy;
- There is scope for increased water or air pollution in the short-term, but a neutral or positive effect is predicted in the longer term. Impacts on residential amenity through light and noise pollution are considered to be counterbalanced by the Plan's environmental protection policies;
- The Plan is predicted to lead to negative impacts to ecological receptors in the short to medium term, but many of these impacts are capable of being mitigated. Long-term effects are likely to be both positive and negative, and highly site-specific;
- Small scale long-term negative effects in relation to the consumption of water and materials, however, it is considered to make a significant contribution to the best use of land;
- Significant short-, medium- and long-term beneficial effects are predicted with regard to strengthening the local economy as a result of the Plan's provisions for new employment floorspace;
- Significant short-, medium- and long-term beneficial effects on the vitality and viability of centres; and
- The majority of proposed development site is expected to make at least a minor contribution in relation to creating and healthy and safe community.

- 16 Further refinements were made as a result of the consultation; any significant changes were subject to SA and the findings incorporated into the Submission Development Sites and Policies Plan which was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2014. Through Examination, the Planning Inspector found the SA to be adequate and that the Welborne Plan could be adopted with the proposed modifications which were subject to further SA in January 2015.

How the Sustainability/Environmental Report were taken into account and influenced the Development Sites and Policies Plan

- 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, or through additional requirements within site development briefs. A report was published that recorded the findings of the SA and the way in which it had influenced the choices available to the plan-making body.

- 19 As the SA had been incorporated into the plan-making process from an early stage, the Pre-Submission and Submission drafts of the Development Sites and Policies 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 Development Sites and Policies 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 Development Sites and Policies 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 Development Sites and Policies Plan. The plan-making and the SA processes established that the Development Sites and Policies Plan provided a sustainable and sound approach for the planning of the Borough over the Plan period.
- 22 The rationale for the selection of preferred options, and rejection of alternatives, is set out in the Sustainability Report on the Publication Draft Development Sites and Policies Plan. The report explains the reasons for selection/rejection of a particular option include impacts on ecological designations, flood risk, viability, availability, existing land uses, low development capacity, and non-compliance with Core Strategy Policy CS6.

Measures to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the Development Sites and Policies Plan

- 23 The Development Sites and Policies 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 Development Sites and Policies Plan and enable any unforeseen effects arising from its implementation to be identified. The Development Sites and Policies Plan contains the commitment by the Borough Council 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.

- 24 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. AMRs will be available for review on the Council websites.
- 25 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
1. To provide good quality and sustainable housing for all	Amount of affordable housing provided
	Number of households on the Housing Waiting List
2. To conserve and enhance built and cultural heritage	Number of features added to the Heritage at Risk register
3. To conserve and enhance the character of the landscape	Number/area of TPO trees lost or negatively affected
4. To promote accessibility and encourage travel by sustainable means	Length of new footpath/cycle-ways delivered through development
	Area of mixed use development delivered
5. To minimise carbon emissions and promote adaptation to climate change	Kilowatt hours of installed renewable and low carbon energy source
6. To minimise air, water, light and noise pollution	Incorporation of measures to protect groundwater
	Impact on groundwater source protection zones
	Air quality conditions within AQMAs
7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity	Net loss (ha) of local nature conservation sites to development
	Area of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat created through development
	Number/proportion of planning applications which provide a net gain for biodiversity
8. To conserve and manage natural resources (water, land, minerals, agricultural land, materials)	Proportion of previously developed land re-used
9. To strengthen the local economy and provide accessible jobs available to residents of the borough	Type and floorspace of premises provided
	Net gain and range of jobs provided

SA Objective	Indicator
10. To create vital and viable new centres which complement existing centres	Number of vacant retail units and % of non retail uses in primary and secondary frontages
11. To create a healthy and safe community	Type and floorspace of healthcare, education, leisure and community facilities premises provided
	Size and type of sports and recreation facilities provided

For the full evidence base which supports the Development Sites and Policies 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 2: Development Sites and Policies Plan
Plan Type:	Statutory Development Plan Document
Plan Subject:	Local Development
Plan Period:	2011-2026
Frequency of Review:	The Council is commencing work on the Local Plan Review in 2015.
Plan Area:	Administrative area of Fareham Borough excluding the Welborne Plan area.
Date of Adoption:	8 June 2015
Address at which Plan and SA/SEA Documents can be inspected:	Fareham Borough Council, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, PO16 7AZ http://www.fareham.gov.uk/planning/local_plan/devsitepolplan.aspx The plan and its accompanying SA/SEA documents can be viewed free of charge during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8.45am to 5.15pm).