

Adoption of Sustainability Appraisal Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)

1. This Environmental Statement for the London Borough of Newham's Core Strategy Development Plan Document ("the Core Strategy") has been prepared in accordance with (a) Regulation 36 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, and; (b) Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It explains how sustainability considerations have been integrated in to the Core Strategy; how the Sustainability Appraisal ("the SA") has been taken in to account; the reasons for choosing the Core Strategy as adopted; how consultation responses have been taken in to account; and how the significant environmental affects of implementing the Core Strategy will be monitored.

Introduction

2. London Borough of Newham adopted its Core Strategy on 26 January 2011. The Core Strategy forms the over-arching document within Newham's Local Development Framework (LDF). The plan-making process included the development of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SA is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) are required by European Directive EC/2001/42, which was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004). The processes have been merged to allow for a single joint appraisal (SA/SEA) to be carried out. For the purpose of this document, this integrated appraisal will be simply referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).
3. The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 March 2011 and public hearings took place during October 2011 as part its examination by an independent Inspector. The conclusion of the Inspector's binding report is the Core Strategy is sound, subject to minor changes. Council received notification of the Inspector's decision on 16 January 2012.

How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Core Strategy

4. The SA prepared for the Core Strategy was developed throughout the plan-making process and submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the draft plan. These stages of the SA process are set out below.
5. The first stage of the SA for the Core Strategy was the production of a scoping report. This comprised the first stage of the SA process required to develop the

DPD. The five tasks undertaken to develop the scoping report were as follows: identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability; collection of baseline information; identifying of sustainability issues and problems; developing of the SA framework; and consulting on the scope of the SA. The scoping report established 18 sustainability objectives, which form the SA framework. These objectives were refined following consultation. The scoping report for the Core Strategy was published in November 2007. A copy of this report can be found on the Council's website.

6. The next stage of the SA was represented in the SA that accompanied a draft of the DPD which set out policy directions (the "Choices for the Core Strategy" stage). The Choices for the Core Strategy set out spatial policy directions and proposed strategic site allocations; the SA published alongside it assessed these proposals against the SA framework. The tasks undertaken by the SA developed for the Choices for the Core Strategy were: testing the DPD options against the SA framework; developing the DPD options; predicting the effects of the DPD; evaluating the effects of the DPD; considering the ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects; proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD; preparing an SA report; and public consultation on the options of the DPD and the SA report. The Choices for the Core Strategy and the SA developed for it were published in November 2010 subject to public consultation. These documents can be found on the Council's website.
7. The next stage of the SA was published alongside the draft DPD (the "Proposed Submission Core Strategy"). This stage of the SA assessed the proposed spatial strategy, including its spatial and core policies. The policies presented in the Proposed Submission Core Strategy were those the Council submitted to the Secretary of State on 31 March 2011 following public consultation on their soundness commencing February 2011. The SA tasks applied to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy reflected those that were undertaken at the previous stage.
8. In addition, the Core Strategy was also subject to the following impact assessments: a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), to determine whether the plan will effect European biodiversity designations; the PPS25 sequential test, as required by PPS 25 – Development and Flood Risk; and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). These have been developed alongside the draft DPD and SA.
9. The Inspector responsible for the examination of the Core Strategy noted in his report that the SA and the HRA were both carried out adequately.
10. A series of minor amendments were made to the Core Strategy Submission Draft after it was submitted to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) 31 March 2011 (including during the examination). These amendments represent minor changes to the draft DPD; no significant changes to the spatial and core policies and site allocations in the draft DPD were proposed and the minor changes did not change the findings of impact assessments prepared in conjunction with the draft DPD and submitted to the Secretary of State: the Sustainability Appraisal (SA); Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA); PPS25 Sequential Test; and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). The Inspector confirmed this in his report.

How the environmental report (SA/SEA) has been taken into account

Scoping report and Core Strategy Issues and Options

11. The development of the DPD commenced with the publication of the SA scoping report in November 2007. The scoping report established the baseline, the sustainability framework, the key sustainability issues and the policy framework which set the context for this SA and for the DPD itself. The scoping report then informed the Core Strategy Issues and Options – primarily through the identification of baseline data that and key sustainability issues that were reflected in this early draft of the DPD.

Choices for the Core Strategy

12. The subsequent stages of the SA were developed in unison with the draft DPD so that its findings could be integrated. The methodology of the SA that was published alongside the Choices for the Core Strategy was designed to capture the broad range of policy areas included in the draft DPD and form a tool for developing detailed policies as preparation of the DPD advanced. In addition, each of the strategic sites presented in the Choices for the Core Strategy was appraised against the SA framework. Specifically, the proposed developments and subject sites were assessed against the 18 sustainability objectives and comments were made flagging where compatibilities and incompatibilities are identified. Furthermore, recommendations for the proposed allocation and mitigation measures were identified.
13. SA workshops with officers preparing the Core Strategy were undertaken during the preparation of the Choices for the Core Strategy and its accompanying SA; in these workshops, the compatibility of proposed policy directions against the SA framework were discussed so that conflicts could be identified at an early stage and addressed before the publication of the draft DPD.

Proposed Submission Core Strategy

14. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy included six spatial policies and 27 core thematic policies, which were assessed against the sustainability framework. Each of the proposed policies was appraised and compatibilities and incompatibilities with the SA framework were identified. Furthermore, recommendations for policy development elsewhere in the LDF and mitigation measures were identified. Importantly, the SA considers the impact of policies in cumulative effect with the other spatial and core policies; this provides a summary of the potential impact of the DPD against each objective in the SA framework.

How the results of consultations have been taken into account

15. SA reports were subject to formal public consultation at the scoping stage and at the Choices for the Core Strategy and Proposed Submission stages. As statutory consultees, English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England received formal notification of these consultations, consistent with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. In addition, a number of stakeholder workshops were held during the plan-making process to discuss the emerging evidence base and policy directions. Where appropriate, responses on both the SA and the draft SA received from these

statutory consultees and from other respondents were incorporated into the final SA and DPD as far as is practicable.

16. Consultation responses: influenced the SA framework (including refinement of objectives); provided additional baseline information; established plans and programmes relevant to the plan-making process; and suggested to impact of policy directions on the SA framework, providing mitigation measures. Comments received at the scoping stage are reflected in the SA prepared in conjunction with the Choices for the Core Strategy, and comments received at the Choices for the Core Strategy stage are set out in the SA prepared in conjunction with the Core Strategy Proposed Submission. In addition, a detailed summary of stakeholder engagement can be found in the Regulation 30 (1)(d) Statement of Consultation submitted alongside the Core Strategy.

Reasons for choosing the Core Strategy as adopted

17. The SA considered policy proposals in the context of the broader spatial strategy (including spatial and core policies). It is important to note that the Core Strategy implements London Plan policies (including significant housing growth and employment provision); in this regard certain policy directions (such as housing and employment provision) had to be pursued to ensure conformity with Spatial Development Strategy. The SA appraised the spatial and core policies and strategic sites and includes recommendations as to how negative effects can be avoided or minimised. Importantly, the SA identifies that certain policy directions will need to be pursued simultaneously so that adverse effects arising from one policy direction are mitigated by policy directions set out elsewhere in the draft DPD; critically, policy directions implementing the significant growth in housing and employment will require the implementation of other core policies to avoid or minimise adverse effects. The impacts of strategic site allocations on the sustainability framework are also dependant on the implementation of core policies in the draft DPD.

18. Measures that are to be taken to monitor the effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy

19. The Core Strategy will be subject to an on-going programme of monitoring so that the effect of the spatial strategy on the sustainability framework can be determined. The monitoring framework includes a broad range of indicators (which also relate to the SA framework) and is set out in the Core Strategy. The regular monitoring programme will demonstrate the effectiveness of policies in the DPD and enable unforeseen impacts arising from implementation of the plan to be identified. Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the effects predicted by the SA are accurate. Monitoring reports for the Local Development Framework can be viewed on the Council's website.

<p>For further information please refer to the Council's website: www.newham.gov.uk Alternatively, contact Spatial Planning and Regeneration Policy on 0208 430 2639 or email ldf@newham.gov.uk.</p>
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