Basingstoke and Deane

Planning for our future

Basingstoke and Deane Pre-Submission

Local Plan 2011 to 2029

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – Non Technical Summary

Draft for public consultation - August 2013

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1.0 What is the Sustainability Appraisal Report and why is it required?

1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report has been produced to explain how sustainability has been considered and taken into account in the preparation of the Council's Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) and to ensure it contributes to the principle of sustainable development. Sustainable development is often taken to mean 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'1, and has been defined within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as follows:

'There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and
environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- ***an economic role*** *– contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;*
- ***a social role*** *– supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- ***an environmental role*** *– contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy'.*

1.2 As set out in the NPPF, a sustainability appraisal 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. Sustainability Appraisals are intended to support the selection of options in the preparation of plans, not to make the decision2. This document is a summary of the full Sustainability Appraisal Report which is available on the borough council website.

1.3 The Council has a duty to consider the sustainability of its plans through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It also has to prepare an environmental report of its plans as a result of requirements contained

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[1] Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future, World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), 1987, Part I, Chapter 2.
[2] Local Development Framework Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, PAS, 2007 and CLG Plan Making Manual, Communities and Local Government (CLG) (available: http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pageId=109798).

in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 20043. The requirements of both pieces of legislation have been met by the Sustainability Appraisal Report, which has been prepared following Government guidance.

1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Report should be read in conjunction with the Local Plan DPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report4. The Scoping Report was the first stage of the sustainability appraisal process and has been prepared as a stand-alone document (a non-technical summary of the Scoping Report is also available).

2.0 Which plan is being assessed?

2.1 The Council is preparing a Local Plan which sets out a vision and spatial strategy for the future development of the borough, specific site allocations and a range of local planning policies to guide and shape future development. The Local Plan covers all of the area of Basingstoke and Deane for which the Borough Council is responsible for planning purposes. A Pre-submission or draft Local Plan has been prepared by the borough council and this is now out for consultation.

2.2 The plan sets out a strategy for meeting the needs of the borough over the plan period (2011 to 2029), including for housing and businesses. Through the preparation of the plan there has been consideration of what the appropriate level of development should be and different options for delivering growth in light of environmental and other constraints.

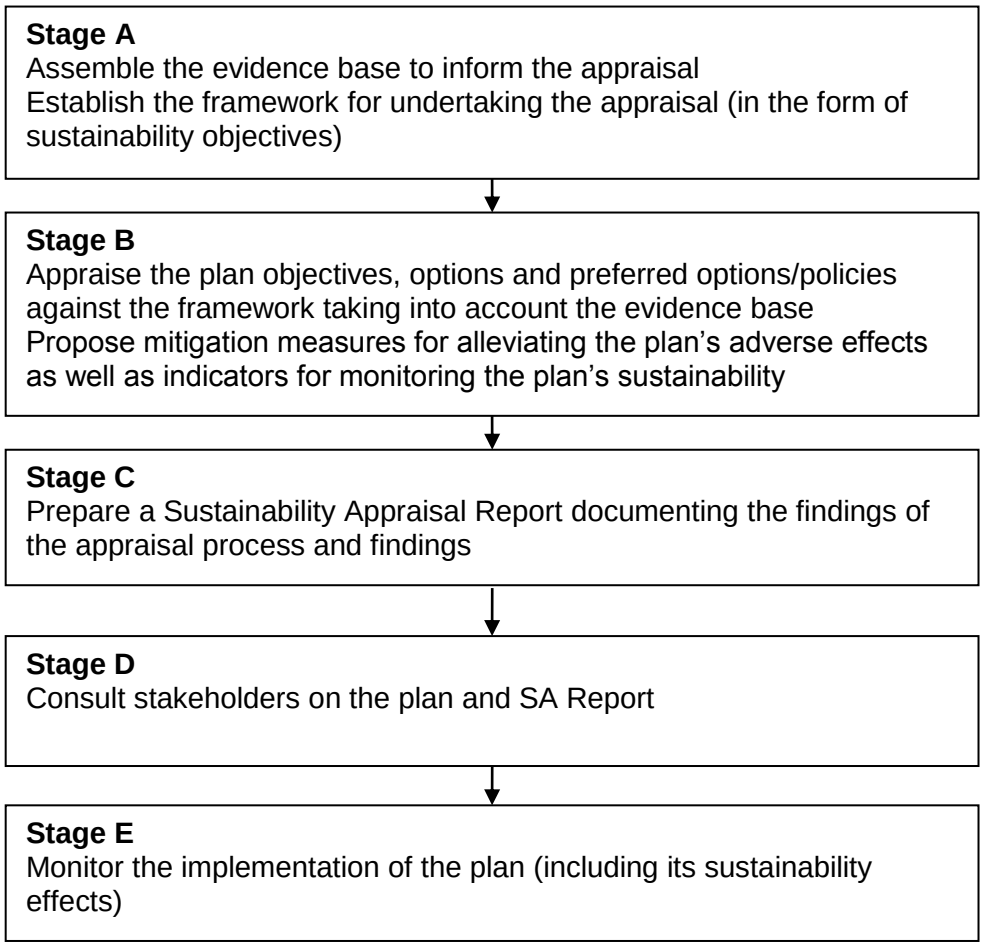
2.3 The Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared by the Council. External advice has been sought on its approach and content, and also to consider its legal compliance.

3.0 Sustainability Appraisal Methodology

What Does the Sustainability Appraisal Report Cover?

3.1 The sustainability appraisal process includes five main stages summarised below:

[3] This legislation is also referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations.
[4] Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (available: http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/environment-and-planning/planning/emerging-local-plan/sustainability-appraisal)



3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report[5] met the requirements of Stage A, assembling the back ground information or evidence base to inform the appraisal process, and establishing the framework for the process, including setting the objectives against which options would be tested.

3.3 The Scoping Report should be read in conjunction with the full Sustainability Appraisal Report. For information, a separate non-technical summary of the Scoping Report is available.

3.4 This summary and the main report for the sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan DPD focus on stages B and C of the process (as set out above).

The Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Local Plan DPD covers the following:

- A summary of the findings of the Scoping Report, including reference to the sustainability objectives
- An assessment of the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability objectives
- An assessment of the sustainability of the options and reasonable alternatives

[5] Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (available: http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/environment-and-planning/planning/emerging-local-plan/sustainability-appraisal)

considered in the preparation of the Local Plan, including overall housing numbers and site allocations
- The identification of the potential significant effects resulting from the implementation of the Local Plan
- An outline of the proposed monitoring strategy to measure the effects of implementing the Local Plan

3.5 There is a requirement to describe how the assessment of the sustainability of the Local Plan has been the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal. In summary however, the key challenge has been the strategic nature of parts of the Local Plan, and the inherent uncertainties surrounding the implementation of strategic proposals and their detailed effects and outcomes. Furthermore, implementation of some of the policies are reliant on more detailed Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) , Action Plans and masterplans carried out and any difficulties that have been encountered. This is provided in.

4.0 Setting the Context – The Scoping Report (Stage A)

4.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report sets out the context required as part of the sustainability appraisal process and the full Sustainability Appraisal Report also provides some updates in this information.

4.2 Basingstoke and Deane borough covers an area of over 245 square miles, over 90% of which is undeveloped. It has a population of approximately 167,799 (Census 2011). The borough's largest town, in terms of population, facilities and employment, is Basingstoke and there is also a network of towns and villages, some of which are historic market towns. The borough has a high quality landscape and built environment, with a large part of the borough falling within the nationally recognised North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are many Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings and the source of the River Test, the River Itchen catchment, and the River Loddon all lie within the borough. The borough is in close proximity to London, the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, and Heathrow and Gatwick airports, which has helped its commercial success. Businesses and public sector bodies have come together to form the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which works to facilitate economic growth in the area.

4.3 There are a range of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the production of the Local Plan. These range from international to local level documents, covering social, economic and environmental issues. From these it has been possible to identify a number of key messages and objectives that have informed the preparation of the sustainability appraisal and Local Plan. These range from conserving water resources to supporting sustainable economic growth. Appendix 2 of the Scoping Report and Appendix 1 of the full Sustainability Appraisal Report outline the relevant plans, policies and programmes.

4.4 The Scoping Report includes a review of the existing position in the Borough in relation to the environment, economy, local community and a number of other matters. It also gives some consideration of how the borough is likely to evolve in the future. This has enabled the identification of a range of issues and problems,

which informed the preparation of the sustainability objectives. The key sustainability issues for the Borough are outlined below. The Local Plan and other supporting documents have a role in helping to address the issues identified, which range from appropriate economic growth to the affordability of housing.

Environmental:

Climate change: it is expected that the impacts of climate change will be more pronounced for South East England than any other UK region, with potential implications across the borough in terms of water resources, flooding, agriculture, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity, landscape character and historic buildings, and health.

Landscape and Biodiversity: the countryside of the borough is one of its key assets, and almost a third of the borough comprises the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Sustaining vibrant communities whilst protecting the landscape is a key sustainability issue.

Basingstoke and Deane has large areas of a number of key habitats identified as priorities for action in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan, including areas of heathland, ancient semi-natural woodland, chalk rivers and streams, and arable land. Many are nationally designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINCs). There is scope for improvement in the state of some of these sites.

Water Environment: the borough's rivers are recognised as being of high quality and are therefore deemed to be particularly sensitive. The River Test is a nationally renowned chalk river whilst the River Loddon is designated as a salmonid river under the EU Fish Directive and an in-water Site of Special Scientific Interest. The impact of future growth and development on water quality is therefore a particular issue for the borough. The south east is the driest region in the UK and has the highest demand for water. Although there is expected to be sufficient water to supply planned growth, the need for new resources should be offset by adopting greater water efficiency and demand management measures. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment outlines flooding issues for the borough.

Historic Environment and cultural heritage: the borough enjoys a rich historic environment, and its conservation, enhancement and continued viability is a key issue to be addressed by the Local Plan.

Resource Efficiency: the borough aims to consume fewer resources and produce less waste in order to minimise the environmental impact. This includes prioritising the redevelopment of previously developed land and minimising the use of greenfield sites, minimising greenhouse gas emissions, supporting renewable/low-carbon energy development, and supporting the implementation of sustainable design and construction.

Economic:

Sustainable prosperity and economic growth: the Enterprise M3 LEP, of which the borough is part, has been developed to tackle economic issues such as transport, skills and enterprise. The council seeks to ensure prosperity, including the provision of employment land to meet the needs of business, the regeneration of Basing View, and attracting visitors. The retail function and image of Basingstoke Town could be enhanced and the important local role of other retain centres should be supported.

Access and Transport: the borough generally has an excellent transport infrastructure with major roads and mainline rail services connecting the borough to London, the rest of the south east and beyond. Car ownership and usage levels are high within the borough. Given related sustainability issues, such as climate change, reducing the amount of car travel will be a key issue in reducing vehicular carbon dioxide emissions, as well as congestion.

Sustaining vibrant communities: access to services and facilities can be a particular issue for rural communities and deprived communities across the borough. There is a challenge in retaining existing rural services and maintaining the vitality and viability of smaller towns and settlements while protecting the countryside and supporting sustainable development.

Social:

Deprivation and social inclusion: although Basingstoke and Deane experiences relatively little deprivation in the national context, the overall figures mask pockets of deprivation that should be addressed. Six areas of the borough fall within the 40% most deprived areas in England.

Demographics: the borough has a higher than average proportion of the population between the ages of 30 and 55, which suggests a likelihood that over the next 20 years, the borough will have an increasingly ageing population. This may have implications in terms of housing requirements, the proportion of the population that are economically active, and increased pressure on medical facilities.

Housing: providing new housing is essential to enable everyone to have the opportunity of living in a decent home. There are also economic advantages in terms of sustaining economic growth, yet there are obvious sustainability issues, particularly environmental, as a consequence of the development of new homes.

Housing affordability remains an issue, and there is a large number of people on the Housing Register who are in housing need. Certain sectors of the community have specific housing needs that should be addressed, such as gypsies and travelling showpeople. The provision of rural affordable housing to provide for local needs is also an issue.

Education and Skills: whilst educational attainment has improved over recent years, this could be improved when compared with neighbouring authorities and the regional average. Although Basingstoke and Deane council is not the local education authority, provision of educational facilities is a sustainability issue that can be addressed through the Local Plan. The borough's workforce is relative well skilled, although it lacks a large base of new graduates and highly skilled workers and therefore the provision of higher level learning may be an issue to address.

Open space and facilities: the borough does not have an 'oversupply' of open space and they vary in their quality and value. Access to high quality and useable open space for local communities should therefore be maintained, and where possible, enhanced. Despite the high quality of the natural environment in the borough, public access is limited and there is potential for improved access. The borough has a wider range of convenient and accessible community, recreation and cultural facilities which contribute to its attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. Whilst the borough is well-served with large-scale leisure facilities predominantly located in Basingstoke town, there remains a demand for more local facilities, particularly in the smaller towns and villages.

Sustainability Objectives

4.5 The final part of Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal process was to produce a set of sustainability objectives which form part of the overall framework. These have been used to test different options in the Local Plan. The sustainability objectives are:

1. To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent home
2. To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods
3. To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change
4. To protect and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna
5. To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests
6. To maintain and improve the quality of water sources in the Borough
7. To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy
8. To improve accessibility to all services and facilities
9. To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options
10. To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough and personal development
11. To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy
12. To maintain high and stable levels of employment
13. To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth
14. To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors
15. To protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the local built environment
16. To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies
17. To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities
18. To promote and improve access to open space and the countryside, and encourage healthy lifestyles
19. To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behavior
20. To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities

5.0 Assessing the Sustainability of the Local Plan DPD (Stage B)

Testing the Local Plan Objectives

5.1 The first part of testing the sustainability of the plan is to appraise the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability objectives. The Local Plan objectives are included in Chapter 2 of the Local Plan itself.

5.2 The appraisal of the Local Plan objectives identified that in general the objectives are compatible with the sustainability objectives and are likely to contribute to

delivering sustainable development. However there are some areas of potential conflict. This is inevitable considering the need to balance social, economic and environmental objectives and the requirement to accommodate levels of growth which meet identified needs whilst protecting the borough's high quality environment. If development takes place in accordance with all of the strategic objectives, any potential incompatibility may not necessarily be an insurmountable issue. Taking this into account, no changes to the objectives were recommended.

Developing and Appraising the Local Plan Options

5.3 A key stage of the sustainability appraisal process is the identification and testing of options to help achieve the objectives of the plan being assessed.

5.4 The identified options were tested against each of the sustainability objectives. The assessment took account of the constraints and opportunities in the area, national guidance (including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) and the evidence base that has been prepared to help inform the choices made in preparing the plan. It is important to note that the sustainability appraisal process helps to inform the preparation of the plan by highlighting issues associated with individual options, and outlines whether and how these issues could be addressed; it does not make the decisions.

5.5 The following matters have been considered as part of the sustainability appraisal process:

- Different levels of residential development over the plan period
- The approach to distributing developing across the borough both on a borough wide and individual settlement level
- The suitability of different sites to accommodate residential development
- The identification of sites for economic, retail, leisure and infrastructure uses
- Strategic and development management policies (i.e. those policies used to determine planning applications).

Scale and Location of Development

5.6 A key part of the Local Plan is the consideration of the level of growth and development required over the plan period. Where a need is identified there is then consideration as to how this need should be met. As noted above, in many cases evidence based studies have been prepared to help guide the identification of options and this background information has fed into the SA process.

5.7 In terms of residential development, the SA has given consideration to the implications of different scales of housing development, the approach to distributing it and the locations of sites to provide for housing.

5.8 The first stage was to consider the scale of housing development that should be provided within the Borough, in order to help inform the decision on an appropriate level of housing. The identification of options was informed by an evolving evidence base that has looked at a number of different scenarios based on housing needs. From this it was possible to identify alternative housing number options that were appraised against the sustainability objectives.

5.9 400 dwellings per annum (dpa), 600 dpa, 750 dpa and 900 dpa have been assessed to consider the relative implications of housing development at each of these levels on sustainability objectives. In terms of economic issues, all four options assumed a suitable level of economic growth, focused around the regeneration of Basing View rather than the development of new greenfield sites for employment uses. A summary of the results are given below:

Table 1: Summary of Performance of Options for Housing Numbers for the Whole of Basingstoke and Deane Borough

(see Appendix 9 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for more information)

Key

++	Significantly positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral/negligible/no effect
-	Negative effect
--	Significantly negative effect
?	Uncertain outcome

Note: The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation. They represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary contained within Appendix 9 to the main sustainability appraisal report. In addition, the symbols of performance should not be added up.

Font colour of objectives – pink=social, blue=economic, green=environmental

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – No / Low Growth (400 units per annum)	Option 2 – Medium Growth – Hybrid Zero Net Migration (600 units per annum)	Option 3 – Medium / High Growth – Objectively Assessed Need (750 units per annum)	Option 4 – High Growth – former South East Plan (900 units per annum)
1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent, affordable home.	--	+/?	+	++
2) To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods	-	+	+/++	++
3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change	+/-	-/+	-/+	-
(4) To protect, and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna	?	?	?	?

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – No / Low Growth (400 units per annum)	Option 2 – Medium Growth – Hybrid Zero Net Migration (600 units per annum)	Option 3 – Medium / High Growth – Objectively Assessed Need (750 units per annum)	Option 4 – High Growth – former South East Plan (900 units per annum)
(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests	?/-	-/?	-/?	-
6) To maintain and improve the quality of water resources in the Borough	0/?	0/?	0/?	0/?
7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy	+	+	+	+
8) To improve sustainable accessibility to all services and facilities	-	0	0/+	+
9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options	-	0	0/+	+
10) To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough, and personal development.	0	0	0	0
11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy	-	+	+	+

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – No / Low Growth (400 units per annum)	Option 2 – Medium Growth – Hybrid Zero Net Migration (600 units per annum)	Option 3 – Medium / High Growth – Objectively Assessed Need (750 units per annum)	Option 4 – High Growth – former South East Plan (900 units per annum)
12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment	+/-	+/-	+	+
13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth	-	+	+	+
14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors	?/+	?/+	?/+	+/?
15) To protect and enhance distinctive and high quality features of the local built environment	?	?	?	?
16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies	-	-	-	--
(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities	-	+	+	+
18) To promote and improve access to open space and countryside	?	?	?	?
19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial	?	?	?	?

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – No / Low Growth (400 units per annum)	Option 2 – Medium Growth – Hybrid Zero Net Migration (600 units per annum)	Option 3 – Medium / High Growth – Objectively Assessed Need (750 units per annum)	Option 4 – High Growth – former South East Plan (900 units per annum)
behaviour				
20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities	?	?	?	?

5.10 In summary, option 1 (low growth) would have the least environmental impact primarily due to less need for greenfield sites. However, it raises concerns regarding potential social and economic impacts, particularly regarding the need for housing and the creation of vibrant communities, and it is likely that an increasingly higher proportion of the population would be economically inactive. This would also be the least attractive option in terms of economic growth and investment in infrastructure. There is a concern that increased in-commuting for employment purposes would result. Option 4 (high growth) is likely to have the highest environmental impact due to increased development, the increased use of greenfield sites and potentially the most implications in terms of climate change. However, this option is more supportive of economic growth and investment in infrastructure, the provision of a wider choice of housing, and support for services.

5.11 The assessment therefore identifies that option 2 (600dpa) and 3 (750 dpa) are the most appropriate when assessing their overall impact against the sustainability objectives. However, in terms of SA objective 1 (providing all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent, affordable home), 750 dpa is the most effective of these two options as, unlike the 600 dpa option, it meets objectively assessed needs (as required by the NPPF) and takes into account a range of factors, including population growth, net migration, and household size.

Spatial distribution of Housing

5.12 An assessment of three different options for the distribution of new residential development across the borough was completed and the results are outlined below.

Table 2 Summary of Performance for Options for spatial distribution of housing

(see Appendix 13 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for more information)

Key

++	Significantly positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral/negligible/no effect
-	Negative effect
--	Significantly negative effect
?	Uncertain outcome

Note: The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary contained within Appendix 13 to the main sustainability appraisal report; in addition the symbols of performance should not be added up.

Font colour of objectives – pink=social, blue=economic, green=environmental

Sustainability Objectives	**Option 1 – Basingstoke focus for all development**	**Option 2 – Basingstoke focus and a spread of development to larger settlements in the borough**	**Option 3 – A spread of development to a greater number of settlements in the borough, where they have SPBs**
1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent, affordable home.	+/-	+	+/-
2) To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods	0	0	0
3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change	?	?	?
(4) To protect, and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna	?	?	?
(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests	?	?/-	?/-
6) To maintain and improve the quality of	?	?	?

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – Basingstoke focus for all development	Option 2 – Basingstoke focus and a spread of development to larger settlements in the borough	Option 3 – A spread of development to a greater number of settlements in the borough, where they have SPBs
water resources in the Borough			
7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy	?	?	?
8) To improve sustainable accessibility to all services and facilities	?	?	-
9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options	?	?	-
10) To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough, and personal development.	0	0	0
11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy	0	0	0
12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment	+/-	+	+/-
13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth	+	+	+/-
14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors	+	+	-
15) To protect and enhance distinctive and high quality features of the local built environment	?	?/-	?/-
16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the	-/?	-/?	-/?

Sustainability Objectives	Option 1 – Basingstoke focus for all development	Option 2 – Basingstoke focus and a spread of development to larger settlements in the borough	Option 3 – A spread of development to a greater number of settlements in the borough, where they have SPBs
maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies			
(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities	-/+/?	+/?	+/?
18) To promote and improve access to open space and countryside	?	?	?/-
19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behaviour	0	0	0
20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities	?/0	?/0	?/0

5.13 The primary sustainability issue for Option 1 (concentrating development at Basingstoke) was that this approach would result in fewer opportunities for new housing in the rural parts of the borough to meet local housing needs. It would also be less supportive towards existing and new community and commercial enterprises in the rural settlements due to limiting population growth outside of Basingstoke Town. However, this option is more likely to result in a major development area or comprehensive development which may offer benefits in terms of infrastructure provision.

5.14 Option 2 (focusing development at Basingstoke, but with some distribution to the larger settlements) has the fewest potential negative impacts due to its 'middle-ground' approach to the distribution of housing. It addresses the main housing need in Basingstoke Town, but also provides some opportunity for new rural housing provision in the larger settlements. By confining new development to the larger settlements it will protect the character of most rural settings, and their landscape setting. Development will also be directed to those rural settlements that already have some local services and public transport provision.

5.15 Option 3 (dispersal of development) could have potential adverse environmental impacts due to the location of new development sites across rural parts of the borough which may have limited access by public transport and fewer services and facilities within walking/cycling distance. This option could, therefore, result in increased reliance on the car and may result in more in-commuting to Basingstoke for employment purposes. Distribution of strategic development across the

borough could also potentially have an adverse impact on the character of rural settlements and their setting.

5.16 Whilst there remains many uncertainties surrounding the environmental impacts of the proposal due to the site specific nature of these issues, option 2 was considered to meet the majority of sustainability objectives when compared to the other approaches.

Sustainability Assessment of Sites

5.17 In light of the decision to provide most development in or around Basingstoke Town and at the larger settlements (spatial option 2), all of the 'Category One' greenfield sites in these locations have been subject to detailed SA to inform decisions on the provision of a sufficient housing land supply in the Local Plan. Category 1 sites were those identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA, Version 7, January 2013), that is, those greenfield sites which, on the basis of information available at the time of the SHLAA, were considered worthy of further consideration for inclusion as strategic allocations in the Local Plan, based on a number of suitability factors. This assessment built upon the detailed evidence base contained within the borough's site assessment, as well as other evidence available, particularly in respect of social and economic SA objectives. The assessment continued to be updated as the evidence base evolved.

5.18 In general, the sustainability appraisal identified that none of the sites assessed outperformed all the others in all regards. In addition, none of the sites were absolutely ruled out by any of the constraints. However, there were factors that resulted in some sites being considered to be less suitable, for example, as a result of ecological interests, flood risk, landscape effects and accessibility.

5.19 The sustainability appraisal process therefore informed the identification of a number of sites to help meet the housing requirement. The SA indicated that, on balance, the sites shown in the following Table 3 are generally the most sustainable to develop, with the most opportunities and fewest (and resolvable) constraints. Full assessments and the conclusions on each of the assessed sites is outlined in appendix 14 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Table 3 Summary of Performance for assessed sites (see Appendix 14 linked to the main report for more information)

Key

++	Significantly positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral/negligible/no effect
-	Negative effect
--	Significantly negative effect
?	Uncertain outcome

Note: The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary contained within Appendix 14 to the main sustainability appraisal report; in addition the symbols of performance should not be added up.

Font colour of objectives – pink=social, blue=economic, green=environmental

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent, affordable home.	+/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/-	++/?/+/-	++/-	+/-	+/-
2) To reduce deprivation and	?	0	-/?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods											
3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change	-/?/++	-/-/++	-/?/+	-/+/++	++/-	-/-/++	-/+/++	++/+	-/--/++	-/?/++	-/+/+
(4) To protect, and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna	0	-/?	-/?	-/?	+	-	+	+	?	0	0
(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests	++/+	--/-/0	-/+/-	-/+	-/-/++	?/+	+/-	0/-/++	-/?/0	+/-/?	?
6) To maintain and improve the quality of water resources in the	-/++/++/++	-/0/++/?	-/++/++/?	-/++/?/0/-	-/0/+/-	-/++	-/++-	-/0/+/0	-/++/++/?	-/0/++/?	?

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
Borough											
7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy	-/?/+	+/?/+	-/?/-	0/-	-/++	-	+/-	-/++	+/-/?	++/?	-/?
8) To improve sustainable accessibility to all services and facilities	?/+/?	-/?	0/+/?	+/-/?	-/0/-	-/0	-/?	+/0	--/?/--	+/0/?	+/0/+
9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options	0	?	0	-/0	-/0/-	-/0	-/0	+/0	-	0	0
10) To improve educational attainment and increase oppurtunities for new skills ad learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough, and personal	+	-/?	-	-	0/+	-	-	0	-	-	-/-

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
development.											
11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy	0/+/-	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/-	0/?	0/?/-	0/0/-	0/?/-	0/+/?	+/+/+
12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment	0/+/-	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/-	0/+/?	0	0/0/-	0/?/-	0/+/?	+/+
13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth	0/+/-	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/?	0/+/-	0/+/?	0	0/0/-	0/?/-	0/+/?	+/+
14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	-	0	0	0
15) To protect and enhance distinctive and high quality features of the local built environment	+/?	-	?/+	-/?	+	-	-	?/+	?/-	-	?
16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land,	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?/?	-/?	-/?	-/+/?	-/?	-/?	-/?

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies											
(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities	++/?	?	?	?/0/+	-	?	-/?	0/0/-	?/ -	+/?	+/+/+
18) To promote and improve access to open space and countryside	?	++	-/?	+/?	0	?	?	0/+	?	?	+/-
19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behaviour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy	0/?/-	?/ ++/ ?	0/?/++	0/?/-	0/0/++/-	0/-	0/-	0/+/++/-	0/?/-	?/-	+/+/-

SA Objective	Preferred sites										
	BAS024 Swing Swang Lane	BAS098 Manydown (parcels 1,2,3 and parts of 4 and 6)	BAS104 North of Popley Fields	BAS107 Razors Farm	BAS114 Kennel Farm	BAS121 East of Basingstoke	BAS122 Cufaude Farm	BAS132 Basingstoke Golf Course	SOL002 Redlands	OV002 Overton Hill	WHIT006 / 007 South of Bloswood Lane
communities											

Site combinations and cumulative impacts

5.20 Given that there are a significant number of sites located around Basingstoke Town and each of the larger towns and villages including Whitchurch, Overton and Bramley, it was considered appropriate to assess whether a combination of certain sites (which adjoin each other) would be more appropriate to accommodate development, or offer cumulative benefits or negative impacts. For example, sites to the east and south-west of Basingstoke were considered for their combined impact. Different development levels were assessed for each of the towns and villages, including a no growth option. Although there are no Category one SHLAA sites in Kingsclere and Oakley, given their characteristics and also the outcomes of the Local Plan evidence base, it was also considered appropriate to make an assessment of the potential implications of the principle of new development at these locations. The preferred options for each of the settlements is outlined in the Sustainability Appraisal Report and is reflected in the spatial strategy of the Local Plan.

Strategic and Development Management Policies

5.21 Alongside the policies setting out a housing number and site specific allocations, the Pre-submission Local Plan contains further policies, each of which have been appraised throughout their development in order to predict their social, environmental and economic effects. A number of policies have been updated to reflect issues highlighted through the sustainability appraisal process.

5.22 The assessment indicates mixed effects, and conclusions on each of the individual policies is set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. However, overall there are many sustainability benefits. The Plan offers significant positive effects on all of the social and economic objectives relating to housing, deprivation, access to services and facilities, creating and sustaining vibrant communities, access to open space and the countryside, community safety and health, as well as some of the environmental objectives. The main potential negative effects are largely a result of the impact of new housing on the environment given the use of greenfield sites for development. However, such housing allocations will ensure a sufficient supply of housing to meet identified needs. The impact of not providing new housing in and around Tadley, as a result of issues relating to the close proximity of the town to licensed nuclear installations, has also been identified as potentially having significant implications for local housing need.

5.23 Table 4 within this report sets out the assessment of the Local Plan policies which are out for consultation alongside this report.

Table 4 Summary of Performance for the pre-submission policies (see Appendix 18 linked to the main report for more information)

Key

++	Significantly positive effect
+	Positive effect
0	Neutral/negligible/no effect
-	Negative effect
--	Significantly negative effect
?	Uncertain outcome

Note: The symbols for performance should not be considered in isolation, they represent a broad indication and need to be read in conjunction with the commentary contained within Appendix 18 to the main sustainability appraisal report; in addition the symbols of performance should not be added up.

Font colour of objectives – pink=social, blue=economic, green=environmental

SA Objective	SS1: Scale and Distribution of New Housing	SS2: Regenerating Residential Neighbourhoods	SS3: Greenfield Site Aollocations	SS3.10: Manydown	SS3.11: Basingstoke Golf Course	SS3.9: East of Basingstoke	SS3.4: North of Popley Fields	SS3.3: Razors Farm	SS3.8: Cufaude Farm	SS3.7: Kennel Farm	SS3.6: South of Bloswood Lane	SS3.7: Redlands	SS3.5: Overton Hill	SS3.1: Swing Swang Lane	SS4: Ensuring a supply of deliverable sites	SS5: Neighbourhood Planning	SS6: New housing in the countryside	SS7: Nuclear Installations – Tadley and Burghfield	SS8: Basing View	SS9: Basingstoke Leisure Park	SS10: Chineham Railway Station	SS11: Whitchurch car park
1	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++/?	+	+/?	--	0	0	0	0
2	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	-	+	0	0	0

SA Objective	SS1: Scale and Distribution of New Housing	SS2: Regenerating Residential Neighbourhoods	SS3: Greenfield Site Aollocations	SS3.10: Manydown	SS3.11: Basingstoke Golf Course	SS3.9: East of Basingstoke	SS3.4: North of Popley Fields	SS3.3: Razors Farm	SS3.8: Cufaude Farm	SS3.7: Kennel Farm	SS3.6: South of Bloswood Lane	SS3.7: Redlands	SS3.5: Overton Hill	SS3.1: Swing Swang Lane	SS4: Ensuring a supply of deliverable sites	SS5: Neighbourhood Planning	SS6: New housing in the countryside	SS7: Nuclear Installations – Tadley and Burghfield	SS8: Basing View	SS9: Basingstoke Leisure Park	SS10: Chineham Railway Station	SS11: Whitchurch car park
3	+	-/+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	-	+/?	0	+	0	+	?
4	-/+	0	0	-/+	-/+	-/+	-/+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
5	-	?	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?/-	?	0	0	0	0	0
6	-	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
7	?	0	+	0	+	+	0/-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	?	0	0	?	0	0	0
8	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	+	0	?/+/-	++/?	-	+	++	+	?
9	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0/-	+/?	-	?	+	+	+
10	0	0	+/?	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0/-	+	-/0	0	+	0	0

SA Objective	SS1: Scale and Distribution of New Housing	SS2: Regenerating Residential Neighbourhoods	SS3: Greenfield Site Aollocations	SS3.10: Manydown	SS3.11: Basingstoke Golf Course	SS3.9: East of Basingstoke	SS3.4: North of Popley Fields	SS3.3: Razors Farm	SS3.8: Cufaude Farm	SS3.7: Kennel Farm	SS3.6: South of Bloswood Lane	SS3.7: Redlands	SS3.5: Overton Hill	SS3.1: Swing Swang Lane	SS4: Ensuring a supply of deliverable sites	SS5: Neighbourhood Planning	SS6: New housing in the countryside	SS7: Nuclear Installations – Tadley and Burghfield	SS8: Basing View	SS9: Basingstoke Leisure Park	SS10: Chineham Railway Station	SS11: Whitchurch car park
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+/?	0	-	++	+	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+/?	0	-	++	+	0	0
13	+	0	+/?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+/-/?	+/?	-	+	0	+	0
14	?/-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?/-	0	-	+	+	0	0
15	?/-	+	0	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	?/-	0	0	+	0	0	0
16	+/-	++	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	-	++	0	+	0	0	0
17	+/-	+	+	+	+	+	+/0	+/0	0/-	0/-	0/-	0	0/-	0	+/-	+/-	+	-	?	+	+	0

SA Objective	SS1: Scale and Distribution of New Housing	SS2: Regenerating Residential Neighbourhoods	SS3: Greenfield Site Aollocations	SS3.10: Manydown	SS3.11: Basingstoke Golf Course	SS3.9: East of Basingstoke	SS3.4: North of Popley Fields	SS3.3: Razors Farm	SS3.8: Cufaude Farm	SS3.7: Kennel Farm	SS3.6: South of Bloswood Lane	SS3.7: Redlands	SS3.5: Overton Hill	SS3.1: Swing Swang Lane	SS4: Ensuring a supply of deliverable sites	SS5: Neighbourhood Planning	SS6: New housing in the countryside	SS7: Nuclear Installations – Tadley and Burghfield	SS8: Basing View	SS9: Basingstoke Leisure Park	SS10: Chineham Railway Station	SS11: Whitchurch car park
18	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	?	+	0	0	0	0	0
19	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0
20	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?

SA Objective	CN1: Affordable Housing	CN2: Rural Excpetions for Affordable Housing	CN3: Housing Mix for market housing	CN4: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	CN5: Infrastructure	CN6: Essential Services	CN7: Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities	CN8: Transport	EM1: Landscape Impact	EM2: Strategic Gaps	EM3: Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area	EM4: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	EM5: Green Infrastructure	EM6: Water Quality	EM7: Managing Flood Risk	EM8: Delivering Renewable/Low Carbon Energy Development	EM9: Sustainable Water Use	EM10: Delivering High Quality Development	EM11: The Historic Environment	EM12: Pollution	EP1: Employment Development	EP2: Alternative Uses of Employment Sites	EP3: Town, District and Local Centres	EP4: Rural Economy	EP5: Rural Tourism
1	++	+	++	+	+/?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	?/--	+	+	+	+	?	+/?	0	0	+	+/?	0
2	+	+	0	+	+	+	0/+	0	0	0	0	0	?	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
3	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	++	++	+	+	0	++	0	?	?	?	0
4	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	0	+	?	++	++	++	++	0	-/+	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?
5	0	?	0	?	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+	-/+	0	0	+	+	0	?	0	?	?
6	0	0	0	?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/?	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	?	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	?	0	?	?
8	+	+/-	+	0/+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0	0/+	0	0	0	0	0/+	0	0	+	+	++	?/-	0

SA Objective	CN1: Affordable Housing	CN2: Rural Excpetions for Affordable Housing	CN3: Housing Mix for market housing	CN4: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	CN5: Infrastructure	CN6: Essential Services	CN7: Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities	CN8: Transport	EM1: Landscape Impact	EM2: Strategic Gaps	EM3: Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area	EM4: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	EM5: Green Infrastructure	EM6: Water Quality	EM7: Managing Flood Risk	EM8: Delivering Renewable/Low Carbon Energy Development	EM9: Sustainable Water Use	EM10: Delivering High Quality Development	EM11: The Historic Environment	EM12: Pollution	EP1: Employment Development	EP2: Alternative Uses of Employment Sites	EP3: Town, District and Local Centres	EP4: Rural Economy	EP5: Rural Tourism
9	0	-	0	+	+	+	+	++	0	0	0	0	0/+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	?/-	0
10	0	0	0	+	+/?	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
12	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
13	+	+	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
14	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	?	0	++	+	0	+	+	+	+/?	+
15	+	+	+	0/+	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	+	0	+	?	?	++	++	+	?	?	+	+	+
16	0	-	+	0	+	?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	++	+	+/-	0	+	+	+	?	?
17	++	+/-	+	0/+	+	++	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	?	+/0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+	++	+	+

SA Objective	18	19	20
CN1: Affordable Housing	0	0	+
CN2: Rural Excpetions for Affordable Housing	0	0	+
CN3: Housing Mix for market housing	0	0	+
CN4: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	0	0	+
CN5: Infrastructure	+	?	+
CN6: Essential Services	0	+	+
CN7: Community, Leisure and Cultural Facilities	++	+	+
CN8: Transport	0	0	+
EM1: Landscape Impact	0	0	0
EM2: Strategic Gaps	+	0	0
EM3: Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area	+	0	+
EM4: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation	+	0	+
EM5: Green Infrastructure	++	0	+
EM6: Water Quality	0	0	0
EM7: Managing Flood Risk	0	0	0
EM8: Delivering Renewable/Low Carbon Energy Development	0	0	0
EM9: Sustainable Water Use	0	0	+
EM10: Delivering High Quality Development	0/+	++	+/-
EM11: The Historic Environment	0	0	0
EM12: Pollution	0	0	+
EP1: Employment Development	0	0	0
EP2: Alternative Uses of Employment Sites	0	0	0
EP3: Town, District and Local Centres	0	+	+
EP4: Rural Economy	0	0	0
EP5: Rural Tourism	0	0	0

6.0 Identifying the effects of the Local Plan DPD

6.1 A key part of the sustainability appraisal process is identifying the significant effects of the Local Plan – this includes short, medium and long term effects; permanent and temporary effects; indirect effects, those which may result in combination with other factors (known as cumulative effects) and those where the effect is increased in combination with other factors (known as synergistic effects). It is also necessary to identify ways to prevent or reduce any significant negative effects through mitigation measures. The identified effects are set out in Chapter 10 of the main Sustainability Appraisal report.

7.0 Mitigation

7.1 Mitigation refers to the measures required to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Local Plan. Throughout the appraisal of policies and sites, , where potential adverse impacts have been identified or sustainability could be enhanced, recommendations have been made and amendments made to the policies where possible For sites, where suitable, potential issues and mitigation have been addressed through the criteria of the individual site policies. Mitigation will also be addressed/implemented when sites are considered in more detail through master planning or through the planning application process.

8.0 Monitoring the Plan

8.1 Monitoring plays an important role in assessing the actual effects of any plans, including the Local Plan. This can feed into more accurate future predictions of effects and can also help identify where changes need to be made to promote more sustainable development within the Borough.

8.2 Chapter 12 of the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Plan sets out a monitoring strategy. Guidance recommends that SA monitoring is incorporated into the council's existing monitoring arrangements, and the proposed framework therefore takes into account existing monitoring in the Annual Monitoring Report, and proposed monitoring of the Local Plan. This framework will be confirmed at the time of the adoption of the Local Plan, taking into account the results of public consultation and dialogue with statutory consultees.

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 The Sustainability Appraisal has played an integral role in the development of the Pre-Submission Local Plan. It has been used to consider various strategic options and

inform the most sustainable approach for the borough. Its recommendations have led to the refinement of policies to minimise adverse impacts and ensure sustainability issues for the borough are addressed. The assessment of the Pre-Submission Local Plan policies indicates mixed effects but, overall, there are many sustainability benefits. The wording of the specific site policies seeks to ensure that any potential negative effects resulting from the development of sites is addressed at master planning and/or planning application stage. Monitoring will be used to assess both the positive and negative effects of implementing the Local Plan.

10.0 Next steps

10.1 Following the public consultation on this SA report and the Pre-Submission Local Plan, any significant proposed changes to the Local Plan will be assessed and the SA Report updated. The final SA Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Submission Local Plan in due course.

11.0 Consultation on the Plan and Sustainability Appraisal

11.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (including this summary) has been prepared to support the Council's Local Plan DPD consultation document. The Sustainability Appraisal is subject to consultation as well as the Local Plan DPD that it accompanies. Further information is provided within Chapter 2 of the main report of the Sustainability Appraisal.

11.2 The consultation period runs from the 23 August to 4 October 2013. Comments on the Sustainability Appraisal can be made via the Council's website, emailed to or sent to: Planning Policy

11.3 Should you have any queries about the consultation process or the content of the Sustainability Appraisal report, please contact the Planning Policy Team.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment – Non Technical Summary

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