



Site Allocations and Policies DPD

Sustainability Appraisal

Adoption Statement

October 2014

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rutland County Council adopted the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) on 13 October 2014.
2. Regulations 16 (3) and (4) in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ("The SEA Regulations") require that the Council shall "as soon as reasonably practicable" after the adoption of the plan make a statement available containing the following particulars:
 - a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
 - b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
 - c) how opinions expressed in response to:
 - i) the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d)
 - ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4)
 - d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account
 - e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
 - f) the measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.
3. These particulars are set out below.
 - a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme**
4. Environmental considerations have played a key part in the preparation of the plan. Four of the plan's 12 objectives relate to "Sustaining our Environment".
5. The preparation of the DPD has been based on a sound process of sustainability appraisal and this has been integral to the preparation of the plan. In accordance with good practice, the Council has carried out Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) collectively as one assessment at each stage of plan production.
6. The SA has been carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance and legislative requirements and the requirements of the European Directive on strategic environmental assessment and has been carried out at each stage of the plan's preparation.
7. The SA has been subject to consultation with the consultation bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency) and published for consultation together with the Site Allocations and Policies DPD at each stage of preparation.
8. The recommendations of the appraisal and the response to consultation (including the comments of the consultation bodies) have been taken into account by the Council in

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developing alternative options and the policies and proposals of the plan. The main stages are outlined below:

- a Baseline and Scoping Report was prepared in July 2011 and updated in September 2012 which identified the key sustainability issues facing Rutland, and the key sustainability objectives to be used in the SA;
 - the objectives of the plan were assessed against the SA objectives, as was each policy in order to ensure that they are compatible and generally in accordance with the principles of sustainability;
 - the Options identified at the Issues and Options stage were appraised against the draft SA Objectives and an options appraisal carried out between the Issues and Options stage and the Preferred Options stage;
 - a SA was prepared for the Preferred Options DPD and the Submission DPD: this involved an assessment of the effects if the DPD on the SA Objectives, including cumulative effects, possible mitigation measures and monitoring indicators to be used;
 - a Supplementary SA was prepared for the Proposed Modifications to the DPD.
9. More details of the process can be found in the SA documents at each of the stages outlined above (see further information under paragraph 30 below). These are summarised in the SA of the Draft Submission Document (April 2013).
10. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), as required by Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 has also been undertaken at each stage of the plan's preparation. This was carried out as an iterative process alongside the policy and plan development, with the emerging proposals or policies continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified as necessary to help ensure that the subsequently developed policies and proposals do not result in significant effects or adverse effects.
11. The HRA reports were published and consulted upon alongside the Site Allocations and Policies DPD at each stage and the results of consultation were also fed into the plan preparation process. The HRA report concludes that the DPD would have no likely significant effects on any European sites.

b) How the environmental report has been taken into account;

12. The recommendations of the SA have been considered by the Council at each stage in the preparation of Site Allocations and Policies DPD and where necessary changes have been made to the plan as a result, as follows.
- a number of amendments to the sustainability objectives and criteria of the DPD were made following the recommendations of the Baseline and Scoping Report (July 2011) and updated (Sept 2012);
 - the recommendations of the SA of the Issues and Options consultation document and an options appraisal between the Issues and Options stage and the Preferred Options stage were taken into account in preparing the Preferred Options DPD;
 - a number of changes were made to policy and text in the Proposed Submission DPD as a result of the recommendations of the SA of the Preferred Options DPD.
13. The SA was considered by the inspector appointed to carry out the independent examination of the plan. The inspector was satisfied with the way in which the process has undertaken and its relationship with the site appraisals. The report concluded that the SA is adequate.

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c) how opinions expressed in response to:

- i) the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d) and**
- ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4)**

have been taken into account.

14. Regulations 13(2)(d) and 13(4) require the Council to invite the consultation bodies and public consultees to express their opinions on the relevant documents and to keep a copy of the documents available for inspection at its principal office at all reasonable times free of charge.
15. The Council has met this requirement by seeking the opinions of the consultation bodies (English Heritage, Natural England, the Environment Agency) on the DPD and SA and making the documents available at its principal offices, on its website and libraries in Rutland at each stage of the plan's preparation. The comments received from these bodies have been taken into account by the Council in preparing the DPD and SA reports and changes have been made where necessary as a result.
16. Further details of the consultation on the DPD that has been carried out, including the bodies and persons that were invited to make representations, how those bodies and persons were invited to make representations, the main issues that were raised in the representations and how these views have been taken into account is set out in the Consultation (Regulation 22c) Statement (July 2013).
17. In relation to the SA documents, the opinions expressed by the consultation bodies and public consultees have been taken into account by the Council as outlined below:

SA document	Comments received	How these were taken into account
SA/SEA Baseline and Scoping Report (July 2011) and SA/SEA Update (Sept 2012)	English Heritage Natural England Environment Agency	Considered by the Council developing the SA Framework and baseline data to be used for predicting and monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects.
Initial Sustainability Appraisal – Issues and Options (Sept 2011)	English Heritage Rutland Natural History Society	The issues addressed were noted and taken forward when reviewing the effects of Preferred Options (October 2012).
Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report (Oct 2012)	Natural England	Considered by the Council in developing the SA of the Proposed Submission DPD (April 2013).
Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Submission Document (April 2013)	Larkfleet Homes	Forwarded to the inspector carrying out the independent examination of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD.
Sustainability Appraisal: Supplementary Statement on Proposed Modifications (February 2014).	None.	

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d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account

18. The consultation under regulation 14(4) refers to any transboundary consultations where an authority is of the opinion that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State.
19. The Site Allocations and Policies DPD is not considered to have any significant environmental effects on another Member State and therefore no consultations under regulation 14(4) have been undertaken.

e) The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;

20. The plan that has been adopted is considered by the Council to provide the most appropriate option in the light of the findings of the SA and habitats regulation process, the response to consultation, and the need to provide for development to meet future needs in accordance with national and local planning policies.
21. A range of alternative options have been considered by the Council, initially through consultation on an Issues and Options document which sought views on 26 issues for consideration in the plan. The choice of the options to be carried forward in the Preferred Options document was influenced by the recommendations of the SA and the results of public consultation.
22. The sites that have been allocated in the plan have been chosen following a site appraisal process which has examined all the potential sites that have been identified and submitted to the Council in terms of a range of social, economic and environmental factors. This sits alongside with SA process which had influenced the Council's choice as the sites to be allocated.
23. The development of policies in the Proposed Submission document was influenced by the recommendations of the SA and the results of public consultation on the Preferred Options document. The Proposed Submission document was submitted the Secretary of State for public examination by independent inspector appointed by the Secretary of State.
24. The inspector's report on the examination of the plan considers the DPD provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the Council's area provided that a number of modifications are made to it. These modifications have been accepted by the Council in their entirety and included in the plan which has been adopted.
25. Further details of the reasons for selecting the policies and sites to be included in the plan are set out in the Site Appraisals (October 2012 and April 2013) and the SA appraisal documents (see further information under paragraph 30 below).

f) The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.

26. The Council has developed an implementation and monitoring framework for the Site Allocations and Policies DPD, which can be viewed in Appendix 6 of the adopted DPD. This builds upon the framework established in the Core Strategy DPD. New monitoring indicators are identified along with targets for each policy and where

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applicable links are provided to relevant Core Strategy monitoring indicators. The framework also identifies who will implement the policies.

27. The SA of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD identified a monitoring indicator to monitor the possible identified significant effects of the DPD. This monitoring indicator has been included within the implementation and monitoring framework.
28. These monitoring indicators will be reported on an annual basis through the Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). This document is based on the period 1st April to 31st March and is published by December of each year.
29. Where the monitoring indicators show significant failure(s) to meet targets, the Council will take action to rectify the situation as soon as possible. This may include the review of one or more policies or the review of the Local Plan. In the event of a shortfall or over provision of new dwelling completions against the housing trajectory, allocated sites may be brought forward or set back in the identified phasing to meet the housing requirements up to 2026.

Further information

30. Copies of all the documents referred to in this statement are available to view on the Council's website as follows:
 - Sustainability Appraisal: [Supplementary Statement on Proposed Modifications to Site Allocations and Policies DPD Draft Submission Document](#). (February 2014)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment Supporting Information – Review of Proposed Modifications](#) (February 2014)
 - [Sustainability Appraisal of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD Draft Submission Document](#) (April 2013)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment Supporting Information – Review of Proposed Submission DPD](#) (April 2013)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report](#) (October 2012)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Initial Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment Update to Baseline and Scoping Report following the publication of the NPPF and other Local Plan Policies](#) (September 2012)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment Supporting Information – Review of Preferred Options](#) (September 2012)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report Issues and Options](#) (September 2011)
 - [Site Allocations and Policies DPD Habitats Regulations Assessment Supporting Information](#) (13 September 2011)
 - [Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Rutland Local Plan Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document](#) (27 August 2014).

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- [Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document Proposed Submission Document](#) (April 2013)
- [Site Appraisals](#) (October 2012)
- [Site Appraisals](#) (April 2013)

Further information is also available on the Council's website
www.rutland.gov.uk/localplan

For enquiries please email localplan@rutland.gov.uk or telephone 01572 722577.