

CABINET (LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK) COMMITTEE

7 June 2007

WINCHESTER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – SUSTAINABILITY
APPRAISAL

REPORT OF HEAD OF STRATEGIC PLANNING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

CAB 1395 Winchester District Local Development Framework – Core Strategy-Sustainability Appraisal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY :

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) helps to ensure that the spatial planning process is proactive in progressing sustainable development. It involves developing a sound understanding of the environmental, social and economic characteristics and priorities of the area, and then ensuring that they are integrated into planning policies. The first stage of the process is referred to as 'scoping', and the consultants appointed earlier in the year to undertake sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment of the LDF have recently completed some early data collection, in the form of 'baseline information' and a 'plans and policy review'. This information will be used to develop the sustainability objectives and framework for the LDF.

This report provides a brief description of the SA process and updates members on the progress so far.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That the Committee notes the form and content of the Appendices which will be updated as new guidance and advice is published.
- 2 That the Committee considers its involvement in the Sustainability Appraisal workshop proposed at paragraph 3.3 of the report.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

1.1 Sustainable development is central to the reformed planning system. Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 specifically requires local development documents to be prepared with a view to contributing towards the achievement of sustainable development. At its meeting in February (CAB 1395(LDF) refers), Members agreed to the appointment of Enfusion, a consultancy specialising in undertaking sustainability appraisals for local development frameworks, to undertake the sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment for the Council's LDF.

1.2 In developing the sustainability framework for the District, government guidance sets out key stages to be undertaken simultaneously with the preparation/production stages of the core strategy. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) helps to ensure that the land use planning process is proactive in progressing sustainable development. It involves developing a sound understanding of the environmental, social and economic characteristics and priorities of the area, and then ensuring that they are integrated into land use planning policies.

1.3 This environmental, social and economic information is collated during the first stage of SA, the 'Scoping' stage. It is then used to develop a 'SA Framework' of sustainability objectives against which Plan policies can be appraised. The appraiser is assisted by a set of 'decision-aiding questions'. The Framework should reflect priorities for sustainability for Winchester, which are within the sphere of influence of the spatial planning system.

2.0 Sustainable Development and Local Development Frameworks

2.1 A key requirement of Local Development Frameworks is that they contribute to the aims of Sustainable Development, which has been defined by the Government as :-

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

- 2.2 To ensure this, each document or plan produced through the Local Development Framework will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The UK Government has prepared Guidance for SA, which recommends an integrated approach that incorporates the requirements of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), (a process which considers the effects of the Plan on the environment at the strategic level). This involves extending the breadth of issues required to be considered under SEA to cover the full range of social, economic and environmental aspects for Sustainability Appraisal.
- 2.3 By undertaking SA, it is possible to look at the content of the emerging Plan during its development and examine how it will contribute to the aims of sustainable development. Suggestions to improve the plan's contribution to sustainable development can also be identified.
- 3.0 Stages in the production of the SA/SEA
- 3.1 The process of SA / SEA for the LDF documents involves a number of stages:
- Stage A: Scoping:
- Setting out current (or baseline) information about the District as it is today, and considering how things may change under a business-as-usual approach (i.e. without the LDF document).
 - Identifying key issues affecting sustainable development in the District.
 - Developing sustainability objectives which the LDF document should work towards in order to achieve sustainable development.
 - Consulting on the scope of the SA.
- Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects
- Testing the draft plans and policies in the LDF document against the sustainability objectives, in order to determine how they contribute to sustainable development.
 - Using these results, suggest and incorporate changes to the LDF document to ensure that it meets the sustainability objectives.
- Stage C: Preparing the SA report
- Preparing a report detailing the SA process
- Stage D: Consultation
- Public participation on both the LDF document and the SA
- Stage E: Monitoring
- Once the document has been adopted, monitoring its effect on sustainable development.
- 3.2 Stage A of the SA/SEA process is well underway and a 'baseline' report is attached at Appendix A for information together with a 'plans and policy review' (Appendix B) which examines all the various plans, strategies and policies at international, national, regional and local level that may have an influence on the Winchester LDF.
- 3.3 This information will be used to develop a set of sustainability objectives for the LDF. This process explicitly requires consultation with the three statutory consultees, these being Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage. To ensure a broader approach it is planned to hold a workshop with the statutory consultees together with the local development framework officer steering group to develop the SA objectives. It is also considered important for Members to not only fully understand the process but also the outcomes. It may therefore be pertinent for some Members from this Committee to also contribute to this workshop.

- 3.4 Wider consultation will be undertaken on all the Sustainability Appraisal reports when these are issued with the Core Strategy Issues and Options paper later in the year.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4.1 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

- 4.2 The Council's SCI was adopted in January 2007. Paragraphs 5.6 – 5.10 (pages 17/18) set out the requirement for sustainability appraisals and strategic environmental assessments as an integral part of the LDF process.

5 CORPORATE STRATEGY (RELEVANCE TO):

- 5.1 The use of consultants on this key project will contribute to the Council's priority of 'Making our working practices fit for the 21st Century'. An additional outcome of this project is for the development of a corporate sustainability appraisal methodology that can be applied across the Council on a range of document and policy statements to demonstrate that there is a meaningful commitment to the delivery of sustainable development and sustainable working practices.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The funding of consultants to undertake this project is included within the growth bid for the LDF Reserve, agreed by Cabinet in February 2007 (CAB1481). The appointment of the consultants was endorsed by this Committee in February 2007 (CAB 1395LDF).

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Draft SA Review of Relevant Plans and Policies

Appendix B – Draft SA Baseline Information

Appendix A

Winchester SEA/SA – Review of Relevant Plans & Policies

A.1 INTRODUCTION

The review of relevant Plans and Policies has been presented in a detailed data table.

- A.1.1 Sustainable Development & Environmental Policy
- A.1.2 Air Quality & Noise
- A.1.3 Climatic Factors
- A.1.4 Economy
- A.1.5 Landscape, Open Space & Recreation
- A.1.6 Cultural Heritage including Architectural & Archeological Heritage
- A.1.7 Biodiversity, Fauna, Flora & Soil
- A.1.8 Water
- A.1.9 Material Assets
- A.1.10 Transport
- A.1.11 Housing
- A.1.12 Communities & Health
- A.1.13 Other Spatial Development Policy

A.1.5 Landscape, Open Space and Recreation

National

PPG 17 – Planning for Open Space, Sport, and Recreation 2002	
This guidance comprises the planning guidance to support outdoor and recreational activities which contribute to the delivery of broader sustainable development objectives such as the support of urban renaissance and rural renewal, the promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well being.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	The recreational quality of open spaces can be eroded by insensitive development or incremental loss. In considering planning applications - either within or adjoining open space - local authorities should weigh any benefits being offered to the community against the loss of open space that will occur. Accessibility should be promoted by sustainable modes of transport (including disabled facilities).
Framework for Sport in England: Making England an Active and Sporting Nation: Vision for 2020 2004	
The Framework has been developed through independent analysis of the facts and the figures underpinning sport, and through research and impact evaluation – finding out what works best to make England an active and successful sporting nation.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<p>Game Plan established two broad targets, related to activity and success.</p> <p>“Increasing significantly levels of sport and physical activity with the target of achieving 70% of the population as reasonably active – defined as participating in 30 minutes of moderate exercise five times a week – by 2020”.</p> <p>“Our target is for British and English teams and individuals to sustain rankings within the top 5, particularly in more popular sports”.</p> <p>Targets are as defined above and indicators will include the regional analysis of sporting activity.</p>

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) 2000	
CROW extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land, modernise the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), provide better management arrangements for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	Emphasises the public's right of access to open country and common land, and gives additional protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Act imposes a duty on public bodies, including WCC to have regard to the conservation and enhancement of the AONBs in the County. Indicators : area of land with open access increase/decrease in footpaths, bridleways, RUPPs

Regional

South East England Regional Assembly Tourism and Related Sport and Recreation 2003 (Proposed Alterations to Regional Planning Guidance)	
The strategy endorses the diversification from traditional roots whilst consolidating and upgrading tourist facilities in a way which promote higher value activities, decrease seasonality and support urban regeneration.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Help diversify and develop rural economy ▪ Promote environmental quality and local distinctiveness ▪ Generate community benefits to enhance the quality of life ▪ Provide a greater variety of jobs across a wider range of skills

Mission Possible: The South East Plan for Sport 2004-2008
The plan sits within the National Framework for Sport in England, focusing on how the overall objective of increasing the participation rate of 30 minutes activity, five times a week to 70% of the population by 2020 can be adopted by the South East region.

Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the current level of participation by 1% year on year. ▪ Make the South East a successful sporting region. ▪ Establish a network of multi-sport community clubs. ▪ Encourage economic and environmental sustainability. ▪ Use natural resources in the region to increase participation. <p>Indicators:</p>
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An analysis of accessible natural greenspace provision in the South East 2007

The main part of the analysis was based on the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), originally developed by English Nature, now part of Natural England. Using the ANGSt model, the study has identified levels of provision and areas of deficiency, as well as the area, distribution, and composition of accessible natural greenspace.

Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<p>The report shows how new access opportunities can be provided for through targeting areas such as woodlands which currently fall outside the definition of accessible greenspace, and the effect this will have on levels of greenspace provision.</p> <p>ANGSt targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size ▪ That there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km of home ▪ That there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km of home ▪ That there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km of home
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South East Forestry Plan – Seeing the Wood for the Trees 2006

The plans vision is for woods to make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of the South East region, in both rural and urban areas.

Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More people’s health and wellbeing improved through visiting woodlands ▪ Greater use being made of trees and woodlands for community projects and activities ▪ Trees and woodlands supporting the development of sustainable communities ▪ Woodlands enhancing and protecting the region’s environment, together with safeguards for the heritage features within them ▪ Woodland habitats and species being brought into good ecological condition ▪ The economic value of woodland products to the region being increased ▪ Woodlands playing a greater role in attracting tourism, inward investment and other economic activity ▪ Woodlands and trees, especially ancient woodlands and veteran trees, protected from loss ▪ Integrated, strategic planning of woodland management
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County

The Hampshire Landscape – A Strategy for the Future	
<p>The strategy provides a framework for the economic and social requirements of those living and working in the countryside while ensuring the protection and conservation of the landscape through sustainable management. It also sets guidance for urban design and community planning in rural areas through Village Design Statements (VDS).</p>	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<p><u>Landscape Character and Diversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain and enhance the overall quality and diversity of landscape character across the county and the distinctive sense of place and individual identity of each particular area. <p><u>Biological Diversity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and complement the aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire, enhancing biological diversity throughout the wider countryside <p><u>Development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and complement planning policies by helping to ensure that new development respects and, where practicable, contributes towards enhancing the character and local sense of place of the landscape; • Scarce and irreplaceable landscapes are recognised and respected when development proposals are being considered.

Local

Winchester City Council Open Space Strategy 2006-2007

This strategy provides a comprehensive framework for the provision of recreational space within each Parish and Winchester and also provides guidance on the Winchester District Local Plan's proposal for recreational space.

**Objectives,
Targets &
Indicators**

To measure deficiencies in areas of recreational space against the Local Plan standard and to determine what recreational provisions are required for new dwellings in the Plan area or the amount of contribution that will be sought in lieu of the lack of recreational space development.

Indicators: monitoring the availability of open space
monitoring the number of developer contributions achieved

Winchester City Council Open Space Strategy 2007-2008

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for the provision of recreational space in the Plan area. The Strategy will be used by the City Council's Planning Officers as a basis for determining what recreational provision is required for new dwellings in the Plan area, or, alternatively, the amount of contribution that will be sought in lieu of that provision.

**Objectives,
Targets &
Indicators**

This Strategy measures deficiencies in areas of recreational space against the Local Plan standard, as revised by the 2001 National Playing Fields Association standard. The Local Plan standard establishes the minimum amount of land (in hectares), required for recreational use, divided into the following three categories, for every 1,000 residents:

- 0.8 Children's Play
- 1.6 Sports Grounds
- 0.4 General/Informal Use

Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Strategy: Developing Active Communities Towards 2012 and Beyond

The strategy looks to increase the number of opportunities for more people to participate in sport and physical activity by developing high quality facilities that meet the communities' needs and help achieve a better quality of life.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	Increase the number of physically active people and the numbers of sports related employees whilst improving access to good quality facilities.

Itchen Valley Management Strategy, Hampshire County Council 1995	
The strategy aims to provide a more integrated approach to the management of the Itchen by bringing land use planning and water resource management together. The current approach is not sufficient to cope with the adverse changes occurring in the Valley and by bringing together all the relevant authorities and agencies it is intended to retain the character and environmental diversity of the Valley.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	To protect the Itchen Valley from inappropriate development by careful interpretation of planning policies, produce Water Level Management Plans for SSSI's, maximise use of appropriate grant aid schemes and to set up an information system to monitor environmental change

South Downs Draft Management Plan 2006	
Translating national policy for protected areas to a local level the plan relates to the protected area of the South Downs and the potential effects of outside development on the conservation and enhancement of the area. The plan is complementary to existing policies and carries statutory weight influencing a wide range of future decisions.	
Objectives, Targets & Indicators	<p>Defines key objectives with a view to further consultation defining priorities and future actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect, conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the South Downs including the physical, ecological and cultural landscape and natural resources. ▪ Promote informal tourism only so far as it is in line with the first objective.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote sustainable social and economic development in support of the first two objectives.
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Landscape, Open Space and Recreation – Implications for the LDF

Regional and sub-regional plans for greenspace will need to be translated into plans for delivery at the local level and brought together with plans for housing and other development. Local Development Frameworks, which set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area, will be the main vehicles for planning and delivering greenspace. These should be informed by local greenspace strategies, as recommended in Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002). Evidence-based local greenspace strategies are key to the effective planning and prioritisation of expenditure on greenspaces.

LDF to pay due regard to p.38's 'Key Delivery Organisations', including local authorities which should :

- develop Council-wide greenspace strategy, with particular attention to its relationship to other local authority strategies for air quality, health and recreation, sustainability, social inclusion, economic regeneration, biodiversity, etc
- implement the greenspace strategy by working in partnership with government agencies, NGOs and neighbouring local authorities
- Audit existing greenspace resources and other land-use as early as possible and assess local needs

The LDF should be complimentary to the work of the South Downs Joint Committee and the County in terms of protection of the landscape.

Supplementary planning documents on the provision of open space, greenspace and play and sport space could be considered by the LA.

Appendix B

Winchester SEA/SA Baseline Information

B.1 INTRODUCTION

Baseline data has been presented in two formats: in summary text form and a more detailed baseline data table. All data will be updated before the plan appraisal takes place. Sources are shown in the list at the end of the section and refer to the baseline documents used for the LDF SEA/SA.

- B.1.1 Population
- B.1.2 Human Health
- B.1.3 Employment
- B.1.4 Social Exclusion
- B.1.5 Housing
- B.1.6 Transport
- B.1.7 Landscape & Townscape
- B.1.8 Cultural Heritage
- B.1.9 Biodiversity & Conservation
- B.1.10 Water Resources
- B.1.11 Air Quality
- B.1.12 Climatic Factors
- B.1.13 Soil & Minerals
- B.1.14 Waste

B.1.8 CULTURAL HERITAGE

Summary

The District has a rich archaeological resource including remains from prehistory to the military history of the last century and has an extensive amount of listed buildings. The City Council has designated 37 Conservation Areas in the District to date and has 109 Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Indicator	Data Source	Current Data	Comparators and targets		Trend	Issues/Constraints/ Opportunities
Topic: Cultural Heritage						
World Heritage Sites	2	0	South East: 2	UK: 27		
Historic Buildings at Risk	3, 19	49	South East: 233		Figures fluctuate depending on levels of funding for repair and the characteristics of buildings (age, location, use).	Historic towns struggle with impacts of tourism unless carefully managed. Tourism is estimated to be worth approximately £135 annually to Winchesters economy. However adverse consequences such as erosion, congestion, pollution and intrusion can harm the preservation of protected
English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk (2006)	41	Total – 5 Grade I (a) - 1 Grade II* - 2	Test Valley – 0 Gosport - 7			

Indicator	Data Source	Current Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Issues/Constraints/ Opportunities
		Grade II Scheduled Monuments – 1			sites. Fortunately the Tourism Strategy is aware of these issues and focuses on sustainable tourism to preserve historical culture and ensure the quality of life of residents who may also be affected.
Number of listed buildings	3, 18	2262 (92% Grade II) (5.5% Grade II*) 2.5% Grade I	Hampshire: 10,766 (93.4% Grade II) (4.6% Grade II*) (2% Grade I) UK: 442,000 (94% Grade II) (4.1% Grade II*) (1.4% Grade I)	Winchesters high percentage of Grade 1 building reflects the historic nature of the town and the requirement for preservation.	The extensive stock of historic buildings in the District represents a major asset and should continue to enjoy a high level of protection. However, it should be accepted that sometimes alternative uses and alterations may be needed to ensure their continuing conservation.
Number of archaeological sites of interest	12	103	UK: 95,000		
Registered Historic Battlefields	4	1	Hampshire: 1 England: 43		Whilst Conservation areas

Indicator	Data Source	Current Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Issues/Constraints/ Opportunities
Conservation Areas	7	37	Test Valley: 36 Hampshire: 281 England: 8,000		should not be seen as a barrier to development, good quality development should be sought to ensures their integrity is not undermined.
Historic Parks and Gardens	4	10	Hampshire: 57		
Church of England Statistics	41	Winchester Diocese		Canterbury Diocese	
		Total number of Churches	413	329	
		% listed grade I or II*	48	67	
		Total % of listed churches	77	78	
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	41	109	Hampshire: 626		