



**Sustainability Appraisal
(incorporating a Strategic
Environmental Assessment)**

**Final Sustainability
Appraisal Report**

**SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

October 2008

CONTENTS

SECTION		PAGE
NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY		
SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION		
1.1	Context	1
1.2	Sustainable Development	1
1.3	The Local Development Framework	2
1.4	Sustainable Resource Management SPD	3
1.5	Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment	4
1.6	Appraisal Methodology and Limitations	6
1.7	Quality Assurance	8
SECTION 2: SCOPING. STAGE A - SETTING THE CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING ON THE SCOPE		
2.1	Task A1: Review of Relevant Policies, Plans, and Programmes and Sustainable Development Objectives	9
2.2	Task A2: Collecting Baseline Information	10
2.3	Task A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems	10
2.4	Task A4: Developing the SA Framework	11
2.5	Task A5: Consulting on the Scope of the SA	17
SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY. STAGE B - DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS AND ASSESSING EFFECTS		
3.1	Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA Framework	18
3.2	Task B2: Developing the SPD Options	19
3.3	Tasks B3 and B4: Predicting and evaluating the effects of the SPD	19
3.4	Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects of implementing the SPD	20
3.5	Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD	20
SECTION 4: RESULTS OF THE APPRAISAL		
4.1	Introduction	21
4.2	Options Appraisal	21
4.3	SA of the SPD	21
4.4	Mitigation	25
4.5	Monitoring	25
SECTION 5: CONSULTATION AND FUTURE STAGES		
5.1	Introduction	27
5.2	Scoping Report Consultation	27
5.3	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report Consultation	27
5.4	Future Stages of Sustainability Appraisal	28
SECTION 6: REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY		
6.1	References	29
6.2	Glossary	29
APPENDICES		
1	SA of Core Strategy Policies CS10 and 12 (Taken from the SA Report of the Core Strategy)	I
2	Quality Assurance Checklist and Links to SEA Directive	XI
3	Sustainability Statement	XV

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The following non-technical summary has been produced as a stand alone document to inform consultees and the general public on the appraisal process in plain English, avoiding the use of technical terms. The production of a non-technical summary is also a requirement of the EU Directive known as the SEA Directive.

INTRODUCTION

Bracknell Forest Council is preparing a collection of planning documents which will guide development in the Borough, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will advise on how and where housing, shops, offices, industry, transport and leisure facilities are located over the next 20 years.

The provision of new development brings with it a need for supporting infrastructure to maintain a good quality of life, such as educational facilities, transport and open space. The Sustainable Resource Management Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is one of the documents within the LDF which sets out how these infrastructure needs will be provided.

As required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been carried out of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD to make sure that social, environmental and economic issues are taken into account at every stage of the plan-making process. The requirements for SA also incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, therefore the SA incorporates SEA.

This document summarises the SA of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD in non-technical terms. The full SA (incorporating SEA) entitled 'Bracknell Forest Borough Sustainable Resource Management SPD: Final Sustainability Appraisal Report' (October 2008) is available at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

SCOPING

A scoping stage is required as part of the SA which involves setting the context for the appraisal by considering current baseline information and relevant plans and programmes, including identifying key sustainability issues and problems, and outlining the SA framework which will be used to carry out the appraisal.

The SA framework consists of 24 sustainability objectives which were produced to consider relevant local issues. These objectives cover a range of social, environmental and economic issues, for example: protecting and enhancing human health, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, ensuring high and stable levels of employment and addressing the causes of climate change.

The scoping stage covering the whole of the LDF was set out in an SA Scoping Report entitled 'Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework' (April 2006). Much of the information within the LDF SA Scoping Report is relevant to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD and therefore could also be used to inform this SA, but in order to provide more detailed scope specific to sustainable resource management, an additional Scoping Report was produced and consulted

upon – ‘Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report: Sustainable Resource Management Supplementary Planning Document’ (July 2007).

The SA Scoping Report of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD considered which of the SA objectives were applicable to the SPD. These were as follows:

Bracknell Forest Council Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the SPD?
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Yes
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	Yes
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Yes
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	No
5. To raise educational achievement levels	No
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	Yes
7. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	No
8. To provide accessible essential services and facilities	No
9. To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	No
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	Yes
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible	Yes
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	Yes
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough’s biodiversity	Yes
14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough’s characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Yes
15. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	No
16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	Yes
17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	Yes
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough’s water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	Yes
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	Yes
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	Yes
21. To ensure high and stable levels of employment	No
22. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	No
23. To encourage ‘smart’ economic growth	No
24. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find work	No

REFINING OPTIONS AND PREDICTING EFFECTS

There are many topics which could be considered within the Sustainable Resource Management SPD. During the evolution of the SPD, a variety of options were presented for inclusion in the draft document. These options were tested using the Sustainability Appraisal framework set out in the Sustainable Resource Management SPD SA Scoping Report, and the topics put forward for inclusion were considered appropriate.

EVALUATION OF IMPACTS

Once the topics for inclusion in the draft SPD had been finalised, their likely significant effects were evaluated by testing potential outcomes of implementing the plan against the SA objectives. This evaluation addressed the cumulative and synergistic effects of implementing the plan as a whole, and where necessary considered measures to mitigate against adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects to further improve the sustainability of the plan where necessary.

Results of the Appraisal

The evaluation against the SA objectives showed that overall, the document is predicted to have a positive effect on the SA objectives. A summary of the predicted impacts of the SPD on some of the Borough Council's SA objectives is provided below. At the scoping stage, some of the SA objectives were scoped out as not being relevant to this SPD, therefore summaries are only provided for the relevant SA objectives.

SA Objective	Impact of the SPD on this SA Objective
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: short to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>Ensuring that developments incorporate energy and water efficiency as well as renewable energy technologies, will ensure that people live in sustainably constructed homes with cheaper utility costs as a whole. There may however be cost implications for developers, which could impact on the affordability of housing and the provision of other facilities or infrastructure. However, these initial costs are usually levelled out during the lifetime of the development, due to the savings from reduced energy costs.</p>
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The promotion of SUDS and flood resilient building within the SPD will help reduce the risk of flooding.</p>
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough</p>

	<p>Short/med/long term: short to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent There will be a positive effect on health and general well being within the Borough by ensuring a reduction in air, noise, water and light pollution.</p>
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	<p>Impact: neutral There are no measures within the SPD aimed at specifically reducing and preventing crime and the fear of crime within the Borough, but nothing within the Sustainable Resource Management SPD is considered likely to lead to a significant negative effect.</p>
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: possible Spatial scale: across the Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent Encouraging the use of previously developed land and the remediation of contaminated land will help to encourage urban renaissance.</p>
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD promotes practices which are likely to result in a reduction in air pollution, thus enhancing air quality. These practices include: energy efficiency technologies; measures which promote a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill etc. These practices generally result in the reduction of emissions, thereby promoting air quality.</p>
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD devotes a specific topic to climate change. This sets out measures which could ensure adaptability to climate change impacts e.g. the provision of urban green space, passive ventilation, shading, cool pavement materials and the orientation of buildings and streets. It also includes a range of measures which would reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. Therefore it has been concluded that the effects of the SPD on this SA objective are likely to be positive.</p>
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD also devotes a specific topic to biodiversity. The SPD encourages building designs to provide suitable habitats which support a wide</p>

	range of species which would help to promote and enhance biodiversity within the Borough.
14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>Minimising the damage to natural resources from light pollution will help to protect the Borough's characteristic countryside. Excessive lighting on rural roads, village streets and in other areas of the countryside can lead to skyglow which shuts out the splendor of the night sky and can spoil daytime views. The SPD encourages the incorporation of measures which ensure that light pollution will be minimised throughout the development.</p> <p>Renewable energy schemes are proposed within the SPD. It is important that such schemes be designed in such a way to ensure that there are no detrimental impacts to environmental features such as listed buildings or countryside character.</p>
16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The SPD is devoted to principles which encourage sustainable resource use through the design and construction of buildings. The SPD is therefore likely to have a positive impact on this SA objective.</p>
17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The SPD considers both the provision of recycling facilities and the management of construction and demolition waste on site. The incorporation of these measures will generally result in the minimisation of waste and promote the principles of the waste hierarchy.</p>
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The promotion of energy efficiency measures will encourage the use of energy efficient appliances i.e. spray and low flow taps, power showers etc. The incorporation of SUDS will also aid in improving water quality by removing pollutants from diffuse sources and preventing watercourse pollution during construction and use.</p>
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely</p>

	<p>Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD encourages the remediation of contaminated land and the application of pollution prevention measures during construction which will help to have a positive effect on this SA objective.</p>
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent Energy efficient measures and the use of renewable energy sources are encouraged throughout the SPD. These include natural ventilation and day lighting, energy efficient appliances, use of materials with high thermal mass etc.</p>

MITIGATION

Overall, the Sustainable Resource Management DPD aims to provide mitigation for other policies within the Core Strategy DPD, and the results of the SA of the SPD are positive. As a result, no mitigation measures are thought to be necessary for this SPD.

CONSULTATION

Consultation on the draft SA Report for the Sustainable Resource Management SPD closed in January 2008. No consultation comments were received on the draft Sustainability Appraisal. The Final SA Report is subject to consultation by the statutory environmental consultees and any other relevant organisations, and is available at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

MONITORING

The success and effectiveness of the SPD will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data according to identified indicators as set out in the LDF Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Report. As the Sustainable Resource Management DPD, by its very nature, covers a very wide range of sustainability impacts, the monitoring framework will also be very broad.

FUTURE STAGES

The table below lists the various outputs of the SA and shows what stages have been completed and when.

SA Output	Stage	Date
Scoping Report	Completed	August 2007
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report Consultation	Completed	November 2007
Make changes as a result of consultation	Completed	January-April 2008
Adoption of SPD and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed	October 2008

Publish adopted SPD and Sustainability Statement	Completed	October 2008
Monitoring of SPD	To be carried out	Ongoing

As can be seen from the table above, all stages of the SA have been completed apart from the monitoring, which will take place over time to assess the effects of implementing the SPD. If negative effects are discovered, mitigation measures will be necessary.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan be replaced by a Local Development Framework (LDF). This is essentially a collection of documents (Local Development Documents) containing policies and proposals to guide future development in the Borough.

The SA will play an important part in demonstrating if a Local Development Document is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainability objectives. The results of the sustainability appraisal will contribute to the reasoned justification of policies. (*Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (page 24, summary box)*).

This report records the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process, incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of one of the Local Development Documents making up the LDF - the Bracknell Forest Sustainable Resource Management Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This Final Sustainability Appraisal Report is a key output of the appraisal process and shows how the legal requirements of the SEA Regulations have been met. Hereafter where SA is referred to, this also includes the requirements of SEA.

This document will:

- Set the context for the SA;
- Describe the SA process;
- Provide a detailed methodology of the appraisal process and how this was used to compare and appraise the social, economic and environmental effects of each of the proposed options;
- Provide the results of the appraisal.

The SA has been conducted in line with government guidance: 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' (ODPM, 2005), the 'Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM, 2005), and additional guidance targeted specifically towards climate change and biodiversity.

The overall aims of this SA are to:

- Ensure that sustainable development is considered in the writing of the SPD at all stages of its evolution;
- Provide a high level of environmental protection but to balance environmental considerations with economic and social considerations in the plan's preparation;
- Consult on the SA process at various stages to allow the public and stakeholders to input into its production.

1.2 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development first moved into mainstream policy making and legislation after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, having emerged as a key issue in 1987, highlighted by Brundtland. Following the Rio Earth Summit, the UK government produced 'A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK' (1999), which

described the main themes of sustainable development. These were highlighted as being:

- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- The prudent use of natural resources.

Subsequently, in March 2005 a new UK framework for sustainable development 'Securing the Future' was launched which took account of new policies since 1999, and highlighted the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. Five principles of sustainable development are identified in 'Securing the Future':

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

A Council officer and member working group drafted a local definition of sustainable development which has been adopted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council:

"Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore sustainability is acting to create harmony between a developed economy and the environment".

For ease of use the themes of sustainability are typically categorised under the 3 general headings of social, economic and environmental. However, in reality many of the issues overlap and do not fall distinctly into one of these categories.

To ensure that the concept of sustainable development is integrated into all land-use plans they are subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which requires that economic, environmental and social matters are taken into account in a balanced manner. This process will include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which is designed to provide a strategic level of environmental protection. This integration will ensure that future development meets the needs of people living and working in an area, whilst at the same time ensuring that it is sited in such a way that the environment is protected.

1.3 The Local Development Framework

As previously mentioned, the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan is gradually being replaced by the Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework (LDF). This is a collection of documents containing policies and proposals to guide future development in the Borough.

The Core Strategy was the first document of the LDF to be taken forward. This sets out the long-term vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of Bracknell Forest and provides a framework for promoting and controlling development. The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) also provides a strategic direction to the LDF preparation process and is an umbrella document informing the preparation of the other documents. Therefore, any Supplementary Planning Documents such as the

Sustainable Resource Management SPD must be in conformity with the Core Strategy. Bracknell Forest Borough Council's Core Strategy was adopted in February 2008.

1.4 Sustainable Resource Management SPD

1.4.1 Purpose of the SPD

The primary purpose of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD is to provide guidance to ensure new development delivers the Core Strategy objectives and policies, in addition to national, regional and local sustainable resource management, energy and climate change targets. Its purpose is to provide guidance for the development industry, the Council and the public on how new developments should be constructed in a sustainable way to meet and where possible exceed current best practice standards.

The SPD relates to the impacts on sustainable resource use arising from both individual buildings and the layout and design of whole developments. The SPD indicates that sustainable resource management should be considered at all stages of development from site selection through to demolition of the development.

1.4.2 Status of the SPD

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the Borough's spatial framework for development covering the period from 2006-2026. The overarching document within the LDF is the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), which outlines policies that will take the whole of the LDF forwards. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) expand on or provide further guidance on policies in DPDs. SPDs are not part of the statutory development plan, but are part of the Local Development Framework and are subject to consultation and sustainability appraisal. They are also a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The SPD publishes the Council's preferred approach to Sustainable Resource Management within the Borough. It also provides interpretation of policies within the Core Strategy DPD and is consistent with other emerging policy.

1.4.3 Content of the SPD

The SPD covers the following sustainability topics:

1. Sustainable Design

- Energy efficiency;
- Renewable energy;
- Water efficiency;
- Flooding;
- Microclimate;
- Designing for waste and recycling;
- Biodiversity.

2. Sustainable Construction

- Materials;
- Site waste management
- Pollution:
 - Light;
 - Noise;

- Air;
- Land contamination;
- Water / groundwater.

1.4.4. SPD objectives

The objectives of the SPD are based upon the objectives of the Core Strategy DPD (February 2008), to ensure consistency within the LDF. The Core Strategy Spatial Objectives F, I, K and L are directly relevant as set out below.

F	To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough
I	To maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to mitigate the effects of new development on the natural and historic environment
K	To promote the sustainable use and disposal of resources
L	To mitigate against and adapt to climate change

1.5 Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) are a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) are required by European Directive EC/2001/42, which was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004). Recent guidance (ODPM, 2005), has recommended that these processes be merged to allow for a single joint appraisal to be carried out, covering the requirements of both SA and SEA. Therefore where SA is referred to, this also covers the requirements of SEA.

The work on this appraisal has run simultaneously to the development of the SPD from its commencement, so sustainable development has become ingrained into the plan-making process. The SA has helped to improve the document as it has been developed, and has helped to produce sustainable policies on the ground. By involving stakeholders and experts along the way, this has also ensured that a fully integrated appraisal has been carried out.

The stages of a Sustainability Appraisal for an SPD are as follows:

SPD Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence gathering

SA STAGE A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline, deciding on the scope

- A1 Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives.
- A2 Collect baseline information.
- A3 Identify key sustainability issues and problems.
- A4 Develop the SA Framework (including objectives, indicators and targets).
- A5 Consult on the scope of the SA.

Output: Scoping Report

SPD Stage 2: Production – Prepare draft SPD

SA STAGE B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- Task B1 Test the SPD objectives against the SA framework
- Task B2 Develop the SPD options
- Task B3 Predict the effects of the draft SPD

Task B4 Evaluate the effects of the draft SPD	
Task B5 Consider ways to mitigate adverse effects and maximise beneficial effects	
Task B6 Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD	
SA STAGE C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Task C1 Prepare the SA Report	Output: Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report
SA STAGE D: Consulting on the draft SPD and SA Report	
Task D1 Public participation on the SA Report and the draft SPD	
Task D2 Assess significant changes	
SPD Stage 3: ADOPTION	
Task D3 Make decisions and provide information	
	Output: Final Sustainability Appraisal Report, and Sustainability Statement
SA STAGE E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD	
E1 Monitor the significant effects of the plan	
E2 Respond to adverse effects	
	Output: Information in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

1.5.1 Links to higher-tier SA

ODPM guidance (2005) states that the many different forms of Local Development Document, reflecting different scales and levels of detail, necessitate a relatively flexible approach to SA to ensure it is relevant and appropriate. In most cases the SA of SPDs will draw extensively on appraisals undertaken at a higher level (e.g. Core Strategy DPD SA) and the need for new work may be limited.

The LDF SA Scoping Report (April 2006) has been used to help inform this SA of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD. The SA Scoping Report specific to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD (July 2007) merely adds to the information in the LDF SA Scoping Report, rather than duplicating the information. Both Scoping Reports are available on the Council's website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

For the higher-tier Core Strategy DPD, the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (Bracknell Forest Borough Council, October 2006) predicts and evaluates the effects arising from submission policies CS10: Sustainable Resources and CS12: Renewable Energy. These policies have informed the production of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

The adopted policy wording is:

POLICY CS10 – SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Development proposals will be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement demonstrating how current best practice in the sustainable use of natural resources has been incorporated.

POLICY CS12 – RENEWABLE ENERGY

Development proposals for five or more net additional dwellings, or for 500 square metres (GEA) or more of floorspace for other development, will be accompanied by an energy demand assessment demonstrating how (potential) carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by at least 10% and will provide at least 20% of their energy requirements from on-site renewable energy generation.

Development proposals for less than five net additional dwellings, or for less than 500 square metres (GEA) of floor area for other development, will provide at least 10% of their energy requirements from on-site renewable energy generation.

The results of the assessment of the SA of policies CS10 and CS12 has been reproduced in **Appendix 1** of this report. In summary, the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal concluded that requiring a sustainable approach to building has predominantly positive impacts. It will decrease energy consumption with secondary positive impacts on air quality and climate change. Water resource efficiency will be improved and accessible sites which score highly in the EcoHomes (BREEAM) assessment will be preferred. EcoHomes 'Very Good' standard has been shown to produce a 32% reduction in CO₂, a 39% saving in water use, and a 25% reduction in waste to landfill compared to current building regulations (WWF).

The Core Strategy SA also concluded that maximising energy efficiency and requiring developments to provide a proportion of renewable energy on-site will have positive impacts on air quality, climate change and associated knock-on impacts of climate change, such as flooding. There is also the potential for employment opportunities to expand into an area of new technology. There may however be cost implications for developers, which could impact on the affordability of housing and the provision of other facilities or infrastructure. In addition, it is important that renewable energy schemes should not be to the detriment of environmental features such as listed buildings, countryside character or biodiversity.

1.6 Appraisal Methodology and Limitations

1.6.1 Methodology

The Sustainable Resource Management SPD has been drawn up by one officer in the Planning and Transport Policy section at Bracknell Forest Borough Council, while the SA is being carried out by another Officer. This means that although the two reports have been produced simultaneously, the assessment maintains a degree of independence from the policy formation.

The table below shows who carried out the different stages of the SA and when, and notes any comments/problems encountered.

Stage	Who carried this out	When	Comments / problems encountered
Stage A: Develop SA framework and methodology, including objectives, indicators, targets and trends	Environmental Policy Officer using input from consultants, previous consultation and regional and national guidance.	May 2006 (revised LDF Generic Scoping) & July 2007 (SRM Scoping Report)	
Stage B: Development of options	Senior Environmental Policy Officer using input from regional and national guidance and other government publications which focus on sustainable design	July 2007- October 2007	The SPD has clear parameters set out by higher tier guidance and by the Draft Core Strategy, so realistic options were straightforward to

Stage	Who carried this out	When	Comments / problems encountered
	and construction		choose.
Stage B: Strategic assessment of options	Environmental Policy Officer with other officers providing specialist advice.	October – November 2007	There is some uncertainty around predictions at this strategic level and an amount of specialist judgement has been made. The element of subjectivity was minimised by using baseline data.
Stage B: Predicting and evaluating the effects	Environmental Policy Officer	October – November 2007	
Stage B: Appraisal of significant changes	Environmental Policy Officer	January-June 2008	
Stage C: Production of SA Report	Environmental Policy Officer	August-October 2008	

1.6.2 Limitations

Appraisal of policies is rarely straightforward and the outcome may include considerable levels of uncertainty. The following levels of uncertainty must be taken into account when looking at the results:

- Scientific uncertainties - variability in data and collection measures will always exist to a greater or lesser degree;
- Natural variability - there is often considerable natural variability in sustainability issues, for example the weather and people's actions;
- Lack of precision - environmental, social and economic issues can be difficult to quantify or measure with a high degree of accuracy;
- Uncertainty about exact implementation - with a 'broad-brush' strategy it is difficult to assess to a high degree of detail.

Research and professional judgement will help to reduce uncertainty but cannot completely eliminate it, as one person's view can be different from another's. Where there is no prospect of resolving such uncertainty in the immediate future, and if there are significant chances of damage to the environment, a precautionary approach has been taken in this appraisal. This is a standpoint which maintains there should be no delay in taking action to correct a threat of serious or irreversible damage to the environment merely because there is a lack of scientific certainty.

1.6.3 Consultation

Consultation on the scope of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD SA formally closed on 6th August 2007. There was further consultation on the draft SA Report and SPD, between 7th December 2007 and 11th January 2008. This final Sustainability Appraisal Report is to be subject to consultation as per the previous documents, and will be for a minimum of five weeks.

1.7 Quality Assurance

In order to demonstrate compliance with the SEA Directive, a quality assurance checklist has been produced which can be found in **Appendix 2** of this document. This highlights how all the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met in this SA.

SECTION 2: SCOPING

STAGE A - SETTING THE CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISHING THE BASELINE AND DECIDING ON THE SCOPE

2.1 Task A1: Identify relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives

Aim: Identify and review other relevant policies, plans, programmes, and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the SPD.

This task requires that the SA be set in the context of national, regional and local objectives. Therefore a comprehensive review of all relevant policies, plans and programmes (PPPs) was carried out as part of the SA Scoping process. This ensured that the SA objectives were not in conflict with the objectives of relevant PPPs and also highlights areas of potential conflict which may need to be addressed.

The LDF Scoping Report (2006) was used to inform the scoping stage of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD SA, and includes a wide-ranging review of the plans, policies and programmes which are likely to impact on the plans within the Local Development Framework, including SPDs. In addition to this, the Sustainable Resource Management SPD SA Scoping Report (2007) examined any additional documents specifically relevant to the production of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

Since the Revised LDF Scoping Report was produced various relevant documents have emerged which will impact specifically on this plan and the associated SA. These are set out below (as was set out in the Sustainable Resource Management SPD SA Scoping Report):

Guidance	Relation to SPD
Building a Greener Future: Towards Zero Carbon Development. Consultation. DCLG, December 2006.	Sets out how planning, building regulations and the Code for Sustainable Homes can drive change and innovation and deliver improvements to the environment.
Planning and Climate Change Supplement to PPS1. DCLG, December 2006	Sets out how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences.
Code for Sustainable Homes. DCLG, December 2006	<p>Sets standard for key elements of design and construction which affect the sustainability of a new home. It is currently a voluntary standard for sustainable homes for home designers and builders as a guide to development, and for home-buyers to assist in their choice of home.</p> <p>The standard is to be used as a benchmark in the production of the SPD.</p>

This guidance has informed the production of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD and will be specifically tested through SA objectives: 2, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 (for more information see section 2.4.1).

2.2 Task A2: Collecting Baseline Information

Aim: Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information and produce a characterisation of the SPD area.

Baseline data provides the basis for prediction and monitoring of environmental, social, and economic effects. This SA takes account of known existing and predicted future pressures on resources and it is envisaged that consultees may be able to assist with providing additional information on potential pressures and future trends.

A comprehensive amount of baseline data, including a large number of indicators, is presented in the LDF Scoping Report (2006). The SPD scoping exercise identified that this level of detail was sufficient for the Sustainable Resource Management SPD and therefore no additional baseline data has been collected to inform the production of the plan.

2.2.1 Data Limitations

- Indicators are quantified information which help explain how things are changing over time. However, they do not explain why particular trends are occurring or the secondary effects of any changes.
- The indicators have been chosen to monitor particular objectives and refine the broader issues into a measurable figure. Therefore this measurement is often only a small component of meeting the objective so may simplify the issues and interactions.
- There are many gaps in the data collected as not all information is available at a local level for recent time periods.
- Much of the data is collected or collated by external bodies, therefore Bracknell Forest Council has little control over the temporal and spatial scope of the data and whether collection methods may change in the future which would restrict reliable comparisons.

It is important to recognise these limitations. Focusing solely on quantified indicators as a measure of progress can lead to misrepresentation and the distortion of trends. Therefore, qualitative information is also needed, and expert judgements are required in some circumstances.

2.3 Task A3: Identifying Sustainability Issues and Problems

Aim: Identify key sustainability issues for the SA to address.

The LDF SA Scoping Report provides information on the significant sustainability issues within Bracknell Forest, informed by the section on baseline information. The scoping exercise for this SPD identified that there are no additional issues which need to be considered to inform the production of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

The following list of key sustainability issues for Bracknell Forest have been selected from the LDF SA Scoping Report as the most relevant issues to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD:

- **Protecting the landscape character of the Borough** – the open space and ‘green’ environment is viewed as a major strength of the Borough and one that should be protected;
- **Biodiversity and conservation issues, especially key species and habitats** – around a third of the Borough has been designated as having international, national or local wildlife value;
- **Reduction of waste and increase in re-use / recycling / recovery** – although recycling levels are currently good, future targets are stringent;
- **Reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation** – necessary to reduce the impacts of new development on climate change and provide better fuel security;
- **Water usage and quality** – the amount of water used by households has increased over the past decade and precipitation is declining. River quality is not as good as in other areas.

2.4 Task A4: Developing the SA Framework

Aim: Develop the SA framework, consisting of the sustainability objectives, indicators and targets.

2.4.1 Sustainability Objectives Methodology

The methodology for deriving the Bracknell Forest SA objectives is described below, as taken from the LDF Core Strategy SA Scoping Report (2006). The purpose of these objectives is to:

- State the direction and scope of the SA/SEA;
- Give structure to the appraisal;
- Help identify relevant indicators.

The starting point for identifying a set of draft objectives specific to Bracknell Forest were the objectives considered by the South East England Regional Assembly and partners in the Integrated Regional Development Framework 2004 (IRF). The South East Plan also uses the IRF objectives, so this ensures consistency with this higher tier plan.

The IRF objectives were then refined by examination of other relevant policy documents at the European, regional and local level. In particular this included the SEA Directive, objectives produced by Joint Strategic Planning Committee, the Council’s Medium Term Objectives and other Bracknell Forest Council strategies. They were subsequently refined further following consultation on the LDF SA Scoping Report and comments from the four statutory agencies with environmental responsibility at that time (which has since been reduced to three).

2.4.2 The SA Framework

The SA Framework mainly consists of a number of SA objectives against which the SPD is then appraised. Twenty-four sustainability objectives were identified in the LDF SA Scoping Report to consider relevant local issues, covering a range of social, environmental and economic topics. Not all of these objectives are considered to be relevant to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD. The table below lists all the SA objectives and indicates which are considered to be relevant to the SPD, and which are not.

Bracknell Forest Council Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the SPD?
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Yes
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	Yes
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Yes
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	No
5. To raise educational achievement levels	No
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	Yes
7. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	No
8. To provide accessible essential services and facilities	No
9. To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	No
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	Yes
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible	Yes
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	Yes
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	Yes
14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Yes
15. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	No
16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	Yes
17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	Yes
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	Yes
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	Yes
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	Yes
21. To ensure high and stable levels of employment	No
22. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	No
23. To encourage 'smart' economic growth	No
24. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find work	No

As can be seen from the table above, many of the LDF SA objectives are relevant to this SPD, and have therefore been used in the appraisal process. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework detailed in the LDF Scoping Report for the relevant objectives is directly applicable and is reproduced overleaf, excluding those SA objectives not considered relevant to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

SA / SEA Topic	Draft indicators	Specific targets where relevant and current trends
Population and human health	1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	
	Number of housing completions	Meet the housing completion targets in RPG9: Bracknell Forest: 1,950 [2001/06]. Annual completions appear to be below target.
	The supply of affordable housing both in numbers and as a proportion of total housing stock	Increase the supply of affordable housing both in numbers and as a proportion of total housing stock.
	Average property price compared with average earnings	Increase the supply of affordable housing both in numbers and as a proportion of total housing stock.
	Households on the Housing Register	Reduce number of households in housing need on Housing Register. These have been up 14% in the South East since 1999.
	Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings	Reduce the percentage of unfit / non-decent homes. Eliminate them in the public sector [2010]. Meet the Decent Homes Standard.
Climatic factors	2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	
	Properties at risk of flooding	Prevent inappropriate development in the 'at risk' of flooding areas.
	New development with sustainable drainage installed	All new development applications, where reasonable and feasible, to include sustainable drainage systems which use appropriate techniques to mimic the natural site.
Population and human health	3. To protect and enhance human health and well-being	
	Death rates from circulatory disease, cancer, accidents and suicide	Over the long term, to reduce death rates from these diseases appreciably. Current trend shows a reduction in death rates.
	Life expectancy	Improve the life expectancy. The current trend is improving.
Population and human health	6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	
	Fear of Crime	Reduce the perception of crime. Figures show 34.8% of residents feel very safe or fairly safe walking alone at night, and 87.5% feel very safe or fairly safe walking alone in the day.

	Level of domestic burglaries, violent offences and vehicle crimes	Vehicle crime: reduce by 30% [1998/99 - 2004]; Domestic burglary: reduce by 25% [1998/99 - 2005]; Robbery: reduce by 14% [1999/2000 - 2005]
Cultural heritage and landscape	10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs.	
	Development on previously developed land (PDL)	The target is to develop 60% of all forms of development on previously used land by 2008. The current trend shows an increasing amount built on PDL
	Derelict land and empty properties	Reduce the number of empty properties by redevelopment or bringing them back into use.
	Extent to which development proposals are informed by tools to promote good design, e.g. design guidance and masterplans.	Several of the larger developments are currently guided by masterplans. Continue this trend.
Air	11.To maintain air quality and improve where possible	
	Background levels of main air quality pollutants and forecasts	Ensure pollutants stay within targets set in the National Air Quality Strategy (see baseline data for targets specific to pollutant). In particular nitrogen oxides are currently above target in some areas of the Borough, so this is a priority to reduce. 'Some areas of concern within the Borough, however additional monitoring ongoing at the receptor'.
	Number of designated Air Quality Management Areas.	Currently none. Target is to maintain this.
	Days when air pollution is moderate or high	Establish air quality action plans in areas which are unlikely to meet national air quality standards
Climatic factors	12.To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	
	Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land use and waste management	To help to contribute towards the UK target of 20% below 1990 level by 2010; Regional target reduce by 60% by 2050
	Flood risk management measures and mitigation are incorporated into new developments	All new development manages residual risk, taking account the impacts of climate change.
Biodiversity, fauna and flora	13.To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	

	Achieve local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives and the extent of key habitats for which BAP's have been established.	Maintain the condition and extent of all key habitats currently at favourable status; restore / re-create key habitats so these reach favourable status; monitor and conserve key BAP species
	Population of wild birds.	Current data is not quantified but provides a snapshot in time. The target is to show a sustained increase in the H13 regional wild bird population index and reverse the declines in the farmland and woodland species by 2010.
	Populations of other representative species (mammals, insects, plants)	
	Condition of designated sites (SSSIs, WHS, SPA) and reasons behind the assessment of this condition.	Ensure no further loss, damage or deterioration of SSSIs; 2010: 95% of SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition. A substantial proportion of unfavourable sites in Bracknell Forest are recovering.
Cultural heritage and landscape	14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas.	
	Buildings of Grade I and II* at risk of decay	Remove 40% of the entries on the 1999 'at risk' list [2006]. This has remained the same for several years.
	Maintain the character of key areas identified in the landscape character assessment and consider use of the anticipated BVPI on conservation area appraisals.	In early 2005 data will be collected on conservation areas within the Borough. This information can be fed into the monitoring system.
Material Assets	16. To sustainably use and re-use both renewable and non-renewable resources	
	Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standards	
	Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard	
Water and soil	17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then recycling, composting or energy recovery	
	Percentage of the total tonnage of all types of waste that has been recycled, composted or used to recover heat, power and other energy sources.	% increasing over the past 10 years. Targets to: Recycle: 14.6% [actual 2004] 16.5% [2005] 17% [2006] Compost: 5.8% [actual 2004] 8.3% [2005] 10% [2006];

	Minimise household waste produced	Kilograms of household rubbish per head of population. Actual 494.5 [2003/4], target 493.
	Tonnage of household waste landfilled	Tonnage decreasing over the past 10 years. Target to reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfill.
Water and soil	18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	
	Chemical and biological river water quality	91% of river length to comply with EA River Quality Objectives [2005]. Meet the EU Water Framework Directive requirements of achieving a 'Good Ecological Status' for water courses
	Incidents of major and significant water pollution	Achieve 12% reduction in Category 1 and 2 incidents from all sectors [2007]
	Per capita consumption of water	Stabilise at current levels
Water and soil	19. To maintain and improve soil quality	
	Agricultural land quality	Discourage development on quality agricultural land.
	Remediate (through site allocation and the planning process) land contaminated by past uses, which may present a risk to human health and the environment.	Remediate land affected by contamination to a 'suitable for use' state
Climatic factors	20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	
	Household energy use per capita	The HECA returns show a reduction in household energy use.
	Installed capacity for energy production from renewable sources	Regional targets: 2010: 620MW (5.5%); 2016: 895MW (8%); 2026: 1750MW (16%); Sub-regional targets: (Thames Valley and Surrey) 202MW [2010] 271MW [2016]

2.5 Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

The LDF Scoping Report has been used to inform the scoping stage of the Sustainable Resource Management SA. The LDF Scoping Report was consulted upon when it was produced in 2006. A separate scoping report specific to the Sustainable Resource Management has also been consulted upon; consultation was carried out on this in July 2007.

SECTION 3: METHODOLOGY

STAGE B - DEVELOPING AND REFINING OPTIONS AND ASSESSING EFFECTS

3.1 Task B1: Testing the SPD Objectives against the SA Framework

In order to ensure that the principles of sustainability are adequately enshrined within the SPD, it is important for the SPD objectives to be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. The aim of this process is to help refine the SPD objectives where necessary, and identify potential areas of conflict which need to be addressed.

The SPD objectives are drawn from the relevant objectives of the Core Strategy DPD (adopted February 2008), to ensure consistency with the LDF. Core Strategy Spatial Objectives F, I, K and L are directly relevant to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD as set out below. The SPD focuses on these objectives and provides additional detail supplementary to the Core Strategy.

F	To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough
I	To maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to mitigate the effects of new development on the natural and historic environment
K	To promote the sustainable use and disposal of resources
L	To mitigate against and adapt to climate change

A compatibility matrix of the SPD objectives against the SA objectives relevant to the SPD is shown in the table below.

SA Objectives	SPD Objectives			
	F	I	K	L
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.	√		√	√
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment.	√	√		√
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing.	√	√		√
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime.	√			
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs.	√	√	√	√
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible.	√	√	√	√
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts.	√	√	√	√
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity.	√	√	√	√
14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas.		√	√	√
16. To sustainable use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources.	√	√	√	√

17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery.	√		√	
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management.	√	√	√	
19. To maintain and improve soil quality.	√	√	√	
20. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.	√		√	√

The table above shows that the objectives of the SPD are in general, consistent with the SA objectives.

3.2 Task B2: Developing the SPD Options

The SEA Directive requires the assessment to consider 'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme' and 'give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with'.

The Sustainable Resource Management SPD covers a variety of topics which have been identified by an Environmental Policy Officer within the Planning and Transport Policy section at the Council, as they are considered realistic ways of meeting the requirements set out in national and regional guidance on sustainable resource management.

For the purposes of the options appraisal, the options have been considered to be the inclusion or exclusion of particular topics within the document, for example climate change, waste recycling etc.

3.3 Tasks B3 & B4: Predicting and evaluating the effects of the SPD

The purpose of this task is to predict and assess the effects of the options being considered in the SPD process by assessing and highlighting the sustainability implications of each, and suggesting recommendations for improvement. The results of the appraisal have informed the evolution of the SPD.

The methodology used to carry out the Sustainability Appraisal is similar to the approach suggested in Figure 30 of the ODPM SA guidance (November 2005), and is summarised in the table below.

SA Objective	Impact of the SPD on this SA Objective
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Impact: Likelihood: Spatial scale: Short, medium, long term: Temporary/Permanent:
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	Impact: Likelihood: Spatial scale: Short, medium, long term: Temporary/Permanent:
	Etc.

The assessment involves predicting and evaluating the effects of each option against the SA objectives considered to be relevant to the SPD. Each option is appraised by looking at the effects on the current baseline or its contribution towards meeting any

targets or statutory requirements, over and above the 'no plan' option. This 'no plan' option makes the assumption that the Sustainable Resource Management SPD is not in place, but that other plans and legislation are in place.

In describing these changes, consideration is given to: potential positive or negative impacts; the likelihood of occurrence of these impacts; the geographical scale; the time period over which they might occur; and the permanence of the impacts. This information is used to assess the significance of the impacts on each of the SA objectives. In some cases, where data is not available to predict the effects, professional judgement has been used to predict the effects; therefore the assessment is to some extent subjective.

Where significant positive or negative effects have been predicted, these have been described, accompanied by an explanation and justification of the reasoning behind it.

3.3.1 Assumptions

- It is assumed that data and information from external agencies is correct;
- Each of the options is tested using the assumption that only one option is being implemented, but in reality there will be a package of measures with interactions between them;
- Where relevant the appraisal will consider legislation and government policy as priority.

3.4 Task B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects of implementing the SPD

Where negative effects are identified during the appraisal, or positive effects could be increased, mitigation measures are suggested to improve the SPD. This has already taken place during previous stages of the SA process, and the SPD has been improved as it has evolved, therefore there are no changes thought to be necessary at this final stage. However, some mitigation measures may be necessary where negative impacts are unavoidable.

3.5 Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD

As part of SA, a monitoring programme is required to be put forward to monitor the effects of the SPD on the SA objectives over time once the SPD is in place. Monitoring is already in place for the Core Strategy of the LDF, and includes the topics relevant to this SPD, therefore no additional monitoring is proposed specific to this SPD.

SECTION 4: RESULTS OF THE APPRAISAL

4.1 Introduction

In this section the results of the final SA are provided following the methodology set out in the previous section. Firstly the options appraisal is described, then the full assessment of the SPD is given, including a commentary explaining the reasoning behind the scores.

4.2 Options Appraisal

For the options appraisal various topics were considered for inclusion in the SPD. These topics were as follows:

1. Sustainable Design

- Energy efficiency;
- Renewable energy;
- Water efficiency;
- Flooding;
- Microclimate;
- Designing for waste and recycling;
- Biodiversity.

2. Sustainable Construction

- Materials;
- Site waste management
- Pollution:
 - Light;
 - Noise;
 - Air;
 - Land contamination;
 - Water / groundwater.

Having considered the inclusion of these topics against the SA objectives, it was considered that these topics were suitable, and compatible with the SA objectives, therefore these were taken forward and developed into the SPD. Additional topics were not thought to be necessary, and indeed some other topics such as transport and access are or will be already covered in other documents of the LDF.

4.3 SA of the SPD

Having decided upon the options for the SPD, more detail could then be added. The topics and the information supporting them have been reviewed and the results are shown in the table below. In predicting the effects of the various topics included in the SPD, topics were assessed individually, assuming that each topic would be implemented in isolation. In reality a range of topics have been included in the SPD, and will complement each other, and work synergistically together.

SA Objective	Impact of the SPD on this SA Objective
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity	Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough

<p>to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	<p>Short/med/long term: short to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent Ensuring that developments incorporate energy and water efficiency as well as renewable energy technologies, will ensure that people live in sustainably constructed homes with cheaper utility costs as a whole. There may however be cost implications for developers, which could impact on the affordability of housing and the provision of other facilities or infrastructure. However, these initial costs are usually levelled out during the lifetime of the development, due to the savings from reduced energy costs.</p>
<p>2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The promotion of SUDS and flood resilient building within the SPD will help reduce the risk of flooding.</p>
<p>3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: short to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent There will be a positive effect on health and general well being within the Borough by ensuring a reduction in air, noise, water and light pollution.</p>
<p>6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime</p>	<p>Impact: neutral There are no measures within the SPD aimed at specifically reducing and preventing crime and the fear of crime within the Borough, but nothing within the Sustainable Resource Management SPD is considered likely to lead to a significant negative effect.</p>
<p>10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: possible Spatial scale: across the Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent Encouraging the use of previously developed land and the remediation of contaminated land will help to encourage urban renaissance.</p>
<p>11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD promotes practices which are likely to result in a reduction in air pollution, thus enhancing air quality. These practices include: energy efficiency technologies; measures which promote a reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill etc. These practices generally result in the reduction of emissions, thereby promoting air quality.</p>

<p>12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD devotes a specific topic to climate change. This sets out measures which could ensure adaptability to climate change impacts e.g. the provision of urban green space, passive ventilation, shading, cool pavement materials and the orientation of buildings and streets. It also includes a range of measures which would reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions. Therefore it has been concluded that the effects of the SPD on this SA objective are likely to be positive.</p>
<p>13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD also devotes a specific topic to biodiversity. The SPD encourages building designs to provide suitable habitats which support a wide range of species which would help to promote and enhance biodiversity within the Borough.</p>
<p>14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent Minimising the damage to natural resources from light pollution will help to protect the Borough's characteristic countryside. Excessive lighting on rural roads, village streets and in other areas of the countryside can lead to skyglow which shuts out the splendor of the night sky and can spoil daytime views. The SPD encourages the incorporation of measures which ensure that light pollution will be minimised throughout the development. Renewable energy schemes are proposed within the SPD. It is important that such schemes be designed in such a way to ensure that there are no detrimental impacts to environmental features such as listed buildings or countryside character.</p>
<p>16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent The SPD is devoted to principles which encourage sustainable resource use through the design and construction of buildings. The SPD is therefore likely to have a positive impact on this SA objective.</p>
<p>17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising</p>	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely</p>

waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	<p>Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The SPD considers both the provision of recycling facilities and the management of construction and demolition waste on site. The incorporation of these measures will generally result in the minimisation of waste and promote the principles of the waste hierarchy.</p>
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The promotion of energy efficiency measures will encourage the use of energy efficient appliances i.e. spray and low flow taps, power showers etc. The incorporation of SUDS will also aid in improving water quality by removing pollutants from diffuse sources and preventing watercourse pollution during construction and use.</p>
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>The SPD encourages the remediation of contaminated land and the application of pollution prevention measures during construction which will help to have a positive effect on this SA objective.</p>
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium-long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>Energy efficient measures and the use of renewable energy sources are encouraged throughout the SPD. These include natural ventilation and day lighting, energy efficient appliances, use of materials with high thermal mass etc.</p>

As can be seen from the table above, the results of the assessment are mainly positive and no adverse effects have been identified.

SA also requires the evaluation of the cumulative and synergistic effects of the SPD. It is not thought that there will be any negative cumulative or synergistic effects of the SPD on the SA objectives.

Although the effects of the SPD overall are thought to be positive, there may be some negative effects which are unavoidable, but which do not require the SPD to be changed. For example, the SPD may have cost implications for developers, which could impact on the affordability of housing and the provision of other facilities or infrastructure. However, these initial costs are usually levelled out during the lifetime of the development, due to the savings from reduced energy costs. Also, it is important

that renewable energy schemes are not to the detriment of environmental features such as listed buildings, countryside character or biodiversity.

4.4 Mitigation

In the context of Sustainability Appraisal, mitigation refers to any approach which is aimed at avoiding, preventing, reducing or compensating for significant adverse impacts on the SA objectives. In addition, the concept of mitigation covers broader issues such as the enhancement of positive effects where relevant. Mitigation should be put forward using a hierarchical approach, with the emphasis being on the avoidance of adverse effects as an initial approach. Where this is not suitable, methods to reduce the scale or importance of the effect should be examined.

The mitigation measures can cover a range of approaches including:

- Alterations to the overall approach taken by the SPD;
- Changes to the specific options and suggestion of new options;
- Technical measures required during the implementation stage of schemes;
- Requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) at the project level.

Overall, the Sustainable Resource Management SPD aims to provide mitigation for other policies within the Core Strategy DPD, and the results of the SA of the SPD are positive. As a result, no mitigation measures are thought to be necessary for this SPD.

4.5 Monitoring

The success and effectiveness of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data. As the Sustainable Resource Management SPD, by its very nature, covers a very wide range of sustainability impacts, the monitoring framework will also be very broad.

Monitoring of baseline data is already set out as part of the Annual Monitoring Report, covering a wide range of issues. As a result, specific indicators are not duplicated here, but can be found in the Annual Monitoring Report. Relevant indicators include:

- Number of unfit homes per 1,000 dwellings;
- Properties at risk of flooding;
- Percentage of houses in fuel poverty;
- Development on previously developed land;
- Emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, transport and land use and waste management;
- Household energy use per capita;
- Percentage of new build and retrofit homes meeting EcoHomes Very Good standard
- Percentage of new build commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good standard;
- Percentage of the total tonnage of all types of waste that has been recycled, composted, used to recover heat, power and other energy sources, and landfilled;
- Background levels of main air quality pollutants and forecasts;
- Biological river water quality;
- Chemical river water quality;
- Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of Environment Agency on either flood defence grounds or water quality;

- Number of planning permissions granted with SUDS installed;
- Change in priority habitats and species and condition of SSSIs.

SECTION 5: CONSULTATION AND FUTURE STAGES

5.1 Introduction

A key component of the SA process is consultation with stakeholders. The consultation throughout this appraisal process is in accordance with:

- Article 6 of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC.
- Regulations set out in the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- Regulation 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
- The Bracknell Forest Statement of Community Involvement.

5.2 Scoping Report Consultation

The first stage of consultation (Task A5) – consultation on the SA Scoping Report of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD was carried out in August 2007, and this included consultation with the four (now three) statutory environmental consultees. These were: the Environment Agency, English Heritage, the Countryside Agency and English Nature. The Countryside Agency and English Nature have since been merged to form Natural England. Other appropriate consultees were also contacted in accordance with the SA guidance and Planning Policy Statement 12.

The consultation sought to:

- Ensure the SA was comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during the later stages of full public consultation and examination;
- Advise on the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives;
- Advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues;
- Advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data.

No comments on the SA Scoping Report of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD were received.

5.3 Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report Consultation

Prior to this document, a draft SA Report was prepared. This document was subject to consultation with both the statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage, and Natural England) and the public. Full details of the methods of consultation can be found in the Bracknell Forest Statement of Community Involvement.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Regulation 12[6]) define certain timescales for consultation. In line with this, the consultees were given a period of 5 weeks to respond to the consultation, which ended in January 2008.

The following questions were posed to guide the consultees in responding:

1. Do you have any comments on the appraisal methodology and results produced?

2. In your view, should any other options have been appraised?
3. Are there any sustainability effects which you feel have not been appropriately identified?
4. Do you have any other comments on this initial Sustainability Appraisal?

No comments were received on the draft SA of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD, therefore no changes were made as a result of consultation.

5.4 Future Stages of Sustainability Appraisal

The table below lists the various outputs of the SA and shows what stages have been completed and when.

SA Output	Stage	Date
Scoping Report	Completed	August 2007
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report Consultation	Completed	November 2007
Make changes as a result of consultation	Completed	January-April 2008
Adoption of SPD and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed – this Report	October 2008
Publish adopted SPD and Sustainability Statement	Completed	October 2008
Monitoring of SPD	To be carried out	Ongoing

As can be seen from the table above, this report is the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. The adopted SPD also includes a sustainability statement, which details how the SA has been taken account of during the evolution of the SPD (this is also available in **Appendix 3** of this document. Monitoring of the SPD will take place as part of the monitoring of the whole LDF.

SECTION 6: REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY

6.1 References

Bracknell Forest Borough Council (April 2006) **LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**. Available at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Bracknell Forest Borough Council (July 2007) **Sustainable Resource Management SPD Scoping Report**. Available at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Bracknell Forest Borough Council (April 2005) **Statement of Community Involvement**. Available at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Countryside Council for Wales; English Nature; Environment Agency; UK Climate Change Programme, CAG, Levett-Therival; Environmental Change Institute. (May 2004). **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Climate Change: Guidance for Practitioners**. Available at: www.sea-info.net

Countryside Council for Wales; English Nature; RSPB; Environment Agency; Levett-Therival; South West Ecological Surveys; Oxford Brookes University (June 2004). **Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners**. Available at: www.rspb.org.uk

Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2004 no. 1633). Available at: www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2004/20041633.htm

European Commission (2001) **Directive 2001/42/EC** "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". Available at: <http://europa.eu.int/>

ODPM (September 2005). **A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive**. Available at: www.odpm.gov.uk

ODPM (November 2005) **Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks Consultation Paper**. Available at: www.odpm.gov.uk

6.2 Glossary

Affordable Housing - Housing to meet the needs of those whose income makes it difficult to obtain accommodation on the open market.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) - Local Authorities in the UK have a duty to carry out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. This involves measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years. If a Local Authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area. The Local Authority will then put together a plan to improve the air quality – a Local Air Quality Action Plan.

Baseline information – information or data gathered at a point in time which is used to describe the present conditions and the state of an area and monitor future changes against. Gathered to describe the conditions that exist before an action is taken.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) - Translates the targets in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan into action on the ground

Biodiversity -The variability among living organisms from all sources, including land-based and aquatic ecosystems, and the ecosystems of which they are part. These include diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Building Research Establishment Assessment Method (BREEAM) - Used to review and improve the environmental performance of buildings. From March 2003, all Government new build projects should achieve excellent BREEAM ratings and all refurbishment projects 'Very Good' ratings.

Climate Change – A change in climate attributable directly or indirectly to human activity such as the burning of fossil fuels which alters the composition of the atmosphere and causes changes in weather patterns on a large scale.

Conservation Area - An area given statutory protection under the Planning Acts, in order to preserve and enhance its unique character. Conservation areas very often contain listed buildings.

Core Strategy - Sets out the Council's long-term vision and strategy to be applied in promoting and controlling development throughout its area.

Cumulative impacts – These arise where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect.

Development - "The carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations, in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land". (Section 55, Town and Country Planning Act 1990)

Development Plan Document (DPD) - A document which is subject to external examination and therefore carries full statutory weight for determining planning applications. DPDs are a series of documents which set out the Borough's policies relating to the development and use of land in its administrative area.

Environmental Report - Required by the SEA Directive, a document which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme. Greenfield site – land which has not been previously developed which is usually currently used for agriculture or just left to nature.

Greenhouse Gases – Gases that trap the heat of the sun in the Earth's atmosphere, producing the greenhouse effect. The two major greenhouse gases are water vapour and carbon dioxide. Other greenhouse gases include methane, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide.

Indicator - A measure of variables over time often used to measure achievement of objectives.

Life Cycle Approach – Assesses the impacts of a product or operation on the environment throughout its life i.e. from production and manufacture, operational and maintenance, through to final demolition/disposal.

Listed Building – A building of special or architectural interest that is included on a statutory list. A listed building in England is assigned a grade of I, II* or II. Can

also include structures other than buildings, such as walls, bridges and telephone boxes.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – The overall folder of documents (Local Development Documents) setting out the planning strategy and policies for the area. This is a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) which introduced significant changes to the plan making process at all levels.

Local Development Document (LDD) - Any document making up the LDF.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - A three year project plan which outlines every Local Development Document that the Council intends to produce over the next three years along with timetables for their preparation. The LDS will also outline which current Local Plan Policies are to be saved until 2007. The Local Development Scheme will be reviewed annually.

Local Plan - A Local Plan sets out planning policies and allocations of land for development. It sets out where different types of development, from housing to shops and offices, could be built during the plan period and areas where development will be resisted. As a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) Local Plans are gradually being superseded by Local Development Frameworks.

Mitigation – An approach which is aimed at avoiding, preventing, reducing or compensating for significant adverse impacts.

Objective - A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change. Plan - a set of coordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of a policy.

Policy - The inspiration and guidance for action, setting a framework for subsequent plans and programmes.

Previously Developed Land (PDL) - Land which has been previously developed, excluding mineral workings, agricultural and forestry buildings or other temporary uses.

Programme - A proposed set of linked projects or a series of similar or related projects proposed within a particular area.

Regulation 25 – A prescribed stage in the process of producing Local Development Documents.

Scoping -The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a sustainability appraisal (SA).

The South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) - A representative body, comprising 111 members including elected councillors, nominated by the region's local authorities. There are also regional representatives chosen by town and parish councils, voluntary sector, environmental groups, business and economic partnerships, education and cultural networks and faith communities.

Smart Growth - Economic growth that does not require the importing of extra labour or the use of extra land. This is achieved by such means as: encouraging more of

the existing population to become economically active; increasing the skill base of the workforce; the use of technology to improve productivity; and out-sourcing jobs that do not have to be based in the area.

South East Plan (SEP) – The SEP is the Regional Spatial Strategy for this region and, once adopted, will replace existing regional guidance set out in Regional Planning Guidance Note 9 (RPG9). It is produced by SEERA and sets out a spatial framework of strategic policies that will promote an integrated, co-ordinated and more sustainable approach to development in the region up to 2026.

Statement of Community Involvement – A document setting out the Borough Council's standards to be achieved in involving the local community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all local development documents and planning applications.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Internationally used term to describe high-level environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes required by the EU SEA Directive.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) - Guidance which provides additional information to explain further policies and proposals within the Local Development Framework to assist in the preparation of planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) - The assessment of the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective, which fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainable Construction – The use of design and construction methods and materials that are resource efficient and that will not compromise the health or well-being of the environment or the building occupants, builders, the general public or future generations.

Sustainable Development - Term given to development that is environmentally responsible; the most common definition is from the Brundtland Commission (1987) – “Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) - A sequence of management practices and control structures designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable fashion than some conventional techniques.

Target – A detailed objective which can be monitored.

Appendix 1 – SA of Core Strategy Policies CS10 and 12 (Taken from the SA Report of the Core Strategy)

POLICY CS10 – SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES

Development proposals will be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement demonstrating how current best practice in the sustainable use of natural resources has been incorporated.

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
1 Meet Local Housing Needs	The number of households rose by 21.55% between 1991 and 2001. House prices are increasing and 40% of residents earn less than the national average, making affordability an issue. Annual housing completions are below target. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population). 6% of homes considered to be overcrowded. 2% are considered to be unfit. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population). 6% of homes considered to be overcrowded. 2% are considered to be unfit. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population).	++i	Potentially positive as will give homeowners energy and cost saving alternatives. Possibly higher build costs which may make homes less affordable.	++i	++i	++i	Standard requirement should equalise costs.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Borough-wide Short/Med/Long term: Long Term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
2 Reduce Flooding	There is not a large amount of the Borough in a flood risk area. Increasing tarmac areas can increase the risk of localised flooding if the porosity of the land is decreased	+	Potential cumulative effect over time to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, thus reducing flooding.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide/Global. Short/Med/Long term: Incidents of flooding to increase over time. Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: The assumption is that	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
								this will only play a very small part in reducing climate change but local level policies	
3 Health	The health of the Borough is generally good, considerably higher than the national average.	+	Well designed homes with better materials can last longer and are thus a more sustainable use of materials.	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
4 Social Exclusion	Bracknell Forest is ranked 318th least deprived out of 352 authorities in the Indices Multiple Deprivation	+	Potentially positive as will give homeowners energy and cost saving alternatives.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Can reduce deprivation by providing cost saving alternatives.	
5 Raise Education Levels	There appears to be no significant trend in educational achievement. 3 secondary schools are experiencing overcrowding	0/+	Can encourage environmental education. This is especially true if renewable energy is prominent in schools.	0/+	0/+	0/+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Possible Spatial scale: Local Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None.	
6 Crime	Although not directly comparable, local crime rates are at a lower rate than national rates. There is no obvious trends in the Fear of Crime data	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
7 Create distinctive communities	80.6% of all respondents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. There are 6 distinctive parishes within the Borough, with distinct settlements.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
8 Provide accessible services	Ensuring easier access to a greater choice of services and facilities, by ensuring proximity to housing, will reduce vehicle mileage and the exclusion of those without access to a car.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
9	The Borough has a high level of	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None	None suggested.	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects				Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med	Long			
Provide access to leisure, culture	open space, from its new town legacy and the Council seeks 4.3 hectares per 1000 residents for new development – this is one of the highest in the country.						suggested.		
10 Efficiency in land use	Target is to develop 60% of all forms of development on previously developed land. Locally the % is above target and increasing.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
11 Maintain air quality	There are no AQMA in the Borough and levels of all pollutants are within targets with the exception of two sites that nitrogen dioxide.	+	The policy seeks to promote energy efficiency and materials from sustainable sources and is thus positive towards reducing emissions.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None.	
12 Climate Change	To help meet the UK targets for renewable energy. To continue to increase the SAP rating for households – this was 50 in 2002/3 compared to a national average of 52.	+	The policy seeks to promote energy efficiency and materials from sustainable sources and is thus positive towards reducing emissions.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Global Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Wide area – this policy just providing local input into a global issue. Policy contributes by reducing energy wastage and thus fossil fuel emissions.	
13 Protect biodiversity	Over 20% of the Borough is protected by local designations for wildlife and 15% of the Borough is designated as SSSIs. There are 2 Natura 2000 sites in the Borough (an SPA and a cSAC). The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan identified 24 species of importance which have been singled out for species action plans.	+	Implicit in that only sustainable resources will be used.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Cross cutting to other areas as resources may be brought in from further afield.	
14 Protect landscape	The Borough has 10 Grade I and II* listed buildings, 12 scheduled ancient monuments, 5 parks and	+	Implicit in that only sustainable resources will be	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
and heritage	gardens of special historic interest, 4 conservation areas and several areas of high importance for landscape character.		used.					Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Cross cutting to other areas as resources may be brought in from further afield.	
15 Improve accessibility	Car ownership in the Borough is high, with 85% of households owning 1 or more cars (double the national average).	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
16 Sustainably use resources	Recycling rates have increased over the last 10 years. Targets to recycle 14.6% (actual 2004), 16.5% (2005), 17% (2006). Composting targets 5.8% (actual 2004), 8.3% (2005), and 10% (2006).	++	Very positive relationship.	++	++	++	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Cross cutting to other areas as resources may be brought in from further afield.	
17 Sustainably manage waste	Recycling rates have increased over the last 10 years. Targets to recycle 14.6% (actual 2004), 16.5% (2005), 17% (2006). Composting targets 5.8% (actual 2004), 8.3% (2005), and 10% (2006).	+	Renewable energy that utilises recycling methods could be incorporated (e.g. biomass).	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Cross cutting to other areas as waste is a regional issue.	
18 Sustainably manage water	91% of river length complies with EA River Quality Objectives (2005). Meet the EU Water Framework Directive requirements of achieving a 'Good Ecological Status' for water courses. Water consumption.	+	Will help safeguard water quality and conserve water usage.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Water is a strategic resource so savings in the Borough will be reflected in the region.	
19 Protect soil quality	The ALC identified is no grade 1 farmland within the Borough. The scale and distribution of contaminated land is currently being assessed.	+	Will help safeguard soil quality (this could be through using wood from sustainable forests for example).	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
20 Sustainably manage energy	SAP rating for households was 50 – 2002/03 compared to a national average of 52.	+	Very positive relationship.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Regional Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent.	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
								Assumptions: None	
21 Support employment growth	The Borough has traditionally enjoyed high employment growth. There is high employment mainly in the services, particularly the technology industries. There are also lower skilled jobs, particularly in warehousing and logistics.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
22 Support economic growth	The Borough is economically competitive within the region, predominantly in the Business Services sector (32%).	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
23 Support smart growth	Smart growth describes economic growth that does not require the extra use of land or labour. Bracknell Forest is moving towards this as GVA is showing an increasing trend whilst floor-space is not increasing at as high a rate	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
24 Support skills and training	Despite high employment levels, businesses are suffering a shortage of people with suitable skills to recruit. Deficient areas are: ICT, Business Development and Management.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	

POLICY CS12 – RENEWABLE ENERGY

Development proposals for five or more net additional dwellings, or for 500 square metres (GEA) or more of floorspace for other development, will be accompanied by an energy demand assessment demonstrating how (potential) carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced by at least 10% and will provide at least 20 per cent of their energy requirements from on-site renewable energy generation.

Development proposals for less than five net additional dwellings, or for less than 500 square metres (GEA) of floor area for other development, will provide at least 10 per cent of their energy requirements from on-site renewable energy generation.

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
1 Meet Local Housing Needs	The number of households rose by 21.55% between 1991 and 2001. House prices are increasing and 40% of residents earn less than the national average, making affordability an issue. Annual housing completions are below target. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population). 6% of homes considered to be overcrowded. 2% are considered to be unfit. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population). 6% of homes considered to be overcrowded. 2% are considered to be unfit. Housing waiting list is currently over 4000 households (or 10% of Borough population).	++i	Potentially positive as will give homeowners energy and cost saving alternatives. Possibly higher build costs which may make homes less affordable.	++i	++i	++i	Standard requirement should equalise costs.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local. (as opposed to Boroughwide for larger scale generation.) Short/Med/Long term: Long term – especially important given the switch to renewable energy. Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Greater generation of renewable energy in the future.	
2 Reduce Flooding	There is not a large amount of the Borough in a flood risk area. Increasing tarmac areas can increase the risk of localised flooding if the porosity of the land is decreased	+	Potential cumulative effect over time to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions, thus reducing flooding.	+?	+?	+?	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide. Short/Med/Long term: Long term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: Greater possibility	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects			Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment	
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med				Long
								of flooding in the future due to climate change.	
3 Health	The health of the Borough is generally good, considerably higher than the national average.	+	Ensuring environmental considerations are taken into account can reduce health effects associated with renewable energy generation (such as noise and odour).	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
4 Social Exclusion	Bracknell Forest is ranked 318th least deprived out of 352 authorities in the Indices Multiple Deprivation	+	Potentially positive as will give homeowners energy and cost saving alternatives.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local. Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: May help to keep generate more affordable electricity.	
5 Raise Education Levels	There appears to be no significant trend in educational achievement. 3 secondary schools are experiencing overcrowding	0/+	Can encourage environmental education. This is especially true if renewable energy is prominent in schools.	0/+	0/+	0/+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide. Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None.	
6 Crime	Although not directly comparable, local crime rates are at a lower rate than national rates. There is no obvious trends in the Fear of Crime data	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
7 Create distinctive communities	80.6% of all respondents are satisfied with their local area as a place to live. There are 6 distinctive parishes within the Borough, with distinct settlements.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
8 Provide	Ensuring easier access to a greater choice of services and facilities, by	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects				Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med	Long			
accessible services	ensuring proximity to housing, will reduce vehicle mileage and the exclusion of those without access to a car.								
9 Provide access to leisure, culture	The Borough has a high level of open space, from its new town legacy and the Council seeks 4.3 hectares per 1000 residents for new development – this is one of the highest in the country.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
10 Efficiency in land use	Target is to develop 60% of all forms of development on previously developed land. Locally the % is above target and increasing.	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested	
11 Maintain air quality	There are no AQMA in the Borough and levels of all pollutants are within targets with the exception of two sites that nitrogen dioxide.	+	The policy seeks to promote renewable energy generation and is thus positive towards reducing emissions.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
12 Climate Change	To help meet the UK targets for renewable energy. To continue to increase the SAP rating for households – this was 50 in 2002/3 compared to a national average of 52.	+	The policy seeks to promote renewable energy generation and is thus positive towards reducing emissions.	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Short/Med/Long term: Long Term Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
13 Protect biodiversity	Over 20% of the Borough is protected by local designations for wildlife and 15% of the Borough is designated as SSSIs. There are 2 Natura 2000 sites in the Borough (an SPA and a cSAC). The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan identified 24 species of importance which have been singled out for species action plans.	+	On site renewable energy will protect biodiversity.	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
14 Protect	The Borough has 10 Grade I and II* listed buildings, 12 scheduled	+	On site renewable energy will help	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects				Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med	Long			
landscape and heritage	ancient monuments, 5 parks and gardens of special historic interest, 4 conservation areas and several areas of high importance for landscape character.		protect landscape (especially as electricity can be sourced off the grid – and will not need to be carried by electricity transmission lines).					Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
15 Improve accessibility	Car ownership in the Borough is high, with 85% of households owning 1 or more cars (double the national average).	0	None suggested.	0	0	0	None suggested.	None suggested.	
16 Sustainably use resources	Recycling rates have increased over the last 10 years. Targets to recycle 14.6% (actual 2004), 16.5% (2005), 17% (2006). Composting targets 5.8% (actual 2004), 8.3% (2005), and 10% (2006).	+	Sustainably reusing energy resources therefore positive.	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Boroughwide – regional Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
17 Sustainably manage waste	Recycling rates have increased over the last 10 years. Targets to recycle 14.6% (actual 2004), 16.5% (2005), 17% (2006). Composting targets 5.8% (actual 2004), 8.3% (2005), and 10% (2006).	+	Renewable energy that utilises recycling methods could be incorporated (e.g. biomass).	+	+	+	None suggested.	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Boroughwide – regional Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
18 Sustainably manage water	91% of river length complies with EA River Quality Objectives (2005). Meet the EU Water Framework Directive requirements of achieving a 'Good Ecological Status' for water courses. Water consumption.	+	Will help prevent contamination from non-renewable sources.	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Boroughwide – regional Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
19 Protect soil quality	The ALC identified is no grade 1 farmland within the Borough. The scale and distribution of contaminated land is currently being assessed.	+	Will help prevent contamination from non-renewable sources.	+	+	+	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	

SA objective	Summary baseline – indicators, targets and trends	Impact	Predicted Effects				Mitigation	Cumulative and/or synergistic implications	Justification for assessment
			Nature of effect	Assessment of effect					
				Short	Med	Long			
20 Sustainably manage energy	SAP rating for households was 50 – 2002/03 compared to a national average of 52.	++	Very positive relationship.	++	++	++	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local – Boroughwide – regional Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
21 Support employment growth	The Borough has traditionally enjoyed high employment growth. There is high employment mainly in the services, particularly the technology industries. There are also lower skilled jobs, particularly in warehousing and logistics.	+?	Diversification into this expanding industry could increase employment opportunities.	+?	+?	+?	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Likely Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
22 Support economic growth	The Borough is economically competitive within the region, predominantly in the Business Services sector (32%).	+?	Diversification into this expanding industry could increase employment opportunities.	+?	+?	+?	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Unsure Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	
23 Support smart growth	Smart growth describes economic growth that does not require the extra use of land or labour. Bracknell Forest is moving towards this as GVA is showing an increasing trend whilst floor-space is not increasing at as high a rate	0	Neutral effect.	0	0	0	None suggested	None suggested	
24 Support skills and training	Despite high employment levels, businesses are suffering a shortage of people with suitable skills to recruit. Deficient areas are: ICT, Business Development and Management.	+?	Diversification into this expanding industry could increase employment opportunities.	+?	+?	+?	None suggested	Likelihood/ Certainty: Unsure Spatial scale: Local/ Boroughwide Short/Med/Long term: Long Temporary/permanent: Permanent. Assumptions: None	

Appendix 2 – Quality Assurance Checklist and Links to SEA Directive

The following table is taken from the ODPM guidance, 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks' (November 2005). It is designed to:

- Help identify whether the requirements of the SEA Directive are met;
- Highlight any problems with, or omissions from, the SA Report;
- Show how effectively the plan has integrated sustainability considerations;
- Illustrate that the technical and procedural steps of the appraisal have been covered.

Quality Assurance Test	Completed / Location
Objectives and context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Completed – section 1.4
Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Completed – section 2
SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Completed – section 2.4
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Completed – section 2
Conflicts that exist between SA objectives, between SA and plan objectives, and between SA and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Completed – section 3.1
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.	Completed – section 2.5
The appraisal focuses on significant issues.	Completed
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Completed – section 3.3
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	Completed – section 4.2
Options	

Realistic options are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Completed – section 4.2
Alternatives include ‘do nothing’ and/or ‘business as usual’ scenarios wherever relevant.	Completed
The sustainability effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Completed – section 4.2
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Completed
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	Completed – section 4.2
Baseline information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	Completed – section 2, and LDF SA Scoping Report
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.	Completed – section 2, and LDF SA Scoping Report
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Completed – section 2, and LDF SA Scoping Report
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant effects	
Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects are identified, including those listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant.	Completed – section 4
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Completed
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	Completed
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Completed
Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	Completed
Methods used to appraise the effects are described.	Completed

Mitigation measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	Not applicable
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	Not applicable
The SA Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	Completed
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	Completed – section 6.2
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Completed – LDF SA Scoping Report
Explains the methodology used.	Completed – section 3
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Completed – section 5
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Completed – LDF SA Scoping Report
Contains a non-technical summary.	Completed
Consultation	
The SA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Completed – section 5
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	Completed – section 5
Decision-making and information on the decision	
The SA report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	Completed
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	Completed – appendix 3
Reasons are given for choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	Completed

Monitoring measures	
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the appraisal.	Completed – section 4.5 and the LDF SA Scoping Report
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SA.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect).	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD

Appendix 3 – Sustainability Statement

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Sustainability Appraisals are a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and Strategic Environmental Assessments are required by European Directive EC/2001/42 (SEA Directive), which was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004). Government guidance has merged this process to allow for a single joint appraisal to be carried out which is referred to as a Sustainability Appraisal.

The SEA Directive requires local planning authorities to carry out formal strategic environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The SEA process ensures that opportunities for public involvement are provided and that the significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are assessed, mitigated against and monitored.

The objective of an SEA is *“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans.....with a view to promoting sustainable development”*.

A Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process, which broadens the requirements of the SEA Directive to include both social and economic considerations. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies in a local development document from the outset of the preparation process. This will ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

How does this relate to the Sustainable Resource Management SPD?

The formal preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) began on 20th July 2004, therefore according to the requirements of the SEA Directive this plan falls within the timescale of those requiring an SEA. Government planning policy also requires that local planning authorities undertake Sustainability Appraisals throughout the preparation process of an SPD (PPS12, 2004).

Purpose of the Sustainability Statement

The Town and Country Planning Regulations (2004) requires local planning authorities to prepare a statement summarising how sustainability issues have been integrated into the SPD, how the sustainability appraisal and consultation has been taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the document as adopted in light of the other reasonable alternatives. In addition full details of the SA process are set out in the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report published alongside the SPD.

This document is a Sustainability Statement which provides summary information on the decision-making process, the public's involvement and how the recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal have been taken into account in the adopted Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

Methodology

The LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is the parent Scoping Report for all planning documents produced by the Council; which sets out common elements to the scope and level of detail for the SA Reports for the documents in the Local Development Framework. In August 2007, the Borough Council produced an SA Scoping report for the Sustainable Resource Management SPD which was sent to the statutory organisations with environmental responsibility and other social and economic consultees for consultation. No responses were received on the Sustainable Resource Management SA Scoping Report.

The next stage involved developing and refining plan options as well as predicting and evaluating their effects. The options appraisal considered which topics could be included in the SPD. An assessment of the draft SPD followed, which was carried out in the context of other policy guidance, indicators, targets and baseline data identified during the scoping process. This evaluation addressed the cumulative and synergistic effects of implementing the plan as a whole, in addition to suggesting measures to maximise beneficial effects to further improve the sustainability of the plan.

The results from this process were then documented in the draft Sustainability Appraisal Report in November 2007. This was sent out for consultation, however at this stage there were no responses. The SPD has since evolved, taking into account the comments in the draft SA Report (November 2007). The final SA Report, published with the final Sustainable Resource Management SPD (October 2008) provides the results of the SA of the finalised SPD.

The final stage in the SA process will involve monitoring the effects of the SPD, which will be an ongoing process, and will be undertaken for all documents making up the LDF.

The full process and recommendations is explained in more detail in the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report (October 2008) which can be downloaded at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk or is available on request from the Senior Environmental Policy Officer, Bracknell Forest Borough Council: rachel.scott@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, 01344 351608.

The SA has been carried out by an Environmental Policy Officer within the Council, enabling a close and continuous working relationship between the plan-makers and the Environmental Policy Officer throughout the whole process. This meant that although both the SPD and the SA were produced simultaneously, the SA maintained a degree of independence from the policy formation. It also ensured relevant suggestions and recommendations were integrated at an early stage.

Summary of Sustainability Impacts

In order to appropriately assess the sustainability impacts of the proposed Sustainable Resource Management SPD, the SPD was evaluated against each of the relevant SA objectives. This process highlighted interactions, synergies and cumulative effects resulting from implementation of the Sustainable Resource management SPD as a whole. A full version is included in the Final SA Report of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD.

The results of the appraisal of the final SPD are that overall, the Sustainable Resource Management SPD is considered likely to have a positive effect on sustainability.

Cumulatively, the SPD is thought to contribute positively to almost all aspects of sustainability.

Overall, the Sustainable Resource Management DPD aims to provide mitigation for other policies within the Core Strategy DPD, therefore it is considered to be an inherently sustainable document. As a result, no mitigation measures have been proposed.

Public Involvement

A key component of the SA process is consultation with stakeholders. The consultation throughout this appraisal process has been in accordance with relevant regulations, government guidance and the Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

There have been two consultation stages so far associated with the SA process to gain consensus on sustainability issues and provide the opportunity for the public and other specialists to input into the process. Firstly, the SA Scoping Report (August 2007) which set out the methodology for and the extent of the assessment. Secondly, the Draft SA Report (November 2007) which set out the significant impacts arising from various options within the Sustainable Resource Management SPD along with any mitigation measures and future monitoring. There were no comments received at either stage.

The final SA Report published with the Sustainable Resource Management SPD (October 2008) will also be consulted upon for a minimum of five weeks, and will include the statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage, Natural England) as well as the general public.

What difference has the process made?

The SA process has enabled the incorporation of environmental, social and economic considerations into the strategic decision-making process. This has been possible by commencing the SA early in the plan-making process and assessing the sustainability implications of the Sustainable Resource Management SPD, using several iterations, before the plan was finalised and adopted.

The SA process has dealt with impacts which are not considered at the project level, such as cumulative and synergistic impacts of multiple projects. It has also been able to look at larger-scale impacts, such as climate change and water quality in a more effective and co-ordinated manner.

Having carried out the SA process in the iterative manner in which it is to be undertaken, this has resulted in an SPD which is considered to have no negative impacts on any of the relevant SA objectives, and therefore the production of an SPD which follows the principles of sustainable development.

Future Stages

The final Sustainability Appraisal Report has been published alongside the Sustainable Resource Management SPD, and is available at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

As part of the SA process, the success and effectiveness of the SPD will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data according to the identified indicators. The process will be carried out for all documents making up the LDF.