

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	Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough 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.
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	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.
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	<p>Impact: positive Likelihood: likely Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: short to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>Spatial scale: whole Borough Short/med/long term: medium to long term Temporary/permanent: permanent</p> <p>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>
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.</p>

	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.
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	Impact: positive Likelihood: likely 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.
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	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.

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.