

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE DESIGNING FOR ACCESSIBILITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – ADOPTION STATEMENT

Bracknell Forest Borough Council carried out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) alongside the production of the Designing for Accessibility SPD to ensure that the considerations of sustainable development and environmental protection were integrated into the plan-making process, influencing all stages of the plan's development.

Initially, a SA Scoping Report was produced, which was sent out to consultation with the four statutory organisations with environmental responsibility. Their comments helped develop the assessment methodology, set a baseline and identify key environmental issues specific to the Borough.

Proposals in the Designing for Accessibility SPD were assessed using the methodology agreed in the Scoping Report. This assessment predicted any positive and negative sustainability effects of the plan, and suggested measures to mitigate against any adverse effects.

The SA concluded that the overall theme of the SPD is to improve accessibility and to ensure high-quality design is incorporated into each development. The appraisal was therefore predominantly positive for the social aspects of the assessment with little or no impact on the environmental and economic aspects of sustainability.

The areas where a positive effect was identified were:

- Meeting local housing needs by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home.
- Social exclusion.
- Accessible essential services, culture, leisure and recreation.
- Protecting and enhancing the Borough's historic environment.
- Travel choice and accessibility.

The statutory consultees did not provide additional comments on the appraisal, therefore no further changes were made following the submission document. The full findings of the Sustainability Appraisal process can be found in the consultation document available on request.