

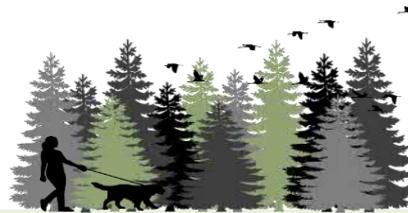
Sustainability Appraisal Report Summary

When Local Plans are being prepared it is a legal requirement that they must be informed by a Sustainability Appraisal (which also includes Strategic Environmental Assessment). Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to sustainable development. The role of a Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. It can also identify any adverse effects from the plan and any actions which could be taken to mitigate these. We are also including issues relating to health and equalities impacts to ensure an integrated approach.



In order to undertake Sustainability Appraisal we must first decide on the scope of the issues which it needs to cover; the Scoping stage. A Scoping Report was consulted on as part of our Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) in July-August 2018.

The Scoping Report identified key environmental, social and economic issues for the District and set out the 'SA framework', which comprises specific sustainability objectives e.g. minimising pollution, meeting housing and economic needs, protecting landscapes. This framework is then used to undertake the next stages of assessment. We are now consulting on this next stage, which is the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the Local Plan (Issues and Options) document. The report provides an assessment of the sustainability of the Local Plan vision, the objectives, the suggested different policy options and potential development site options. The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal will help inform the next stage of the Local Plan where we will need to decide on the most appropriate options to take forward e.g. what should our policies cover and where should new developments go.



The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Process

Stage A: Scoping - setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope:

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.

A2: Collecting baseline information to inform an assessment of policies and sites.

A3: Identifying key sustainability issues and problems and their likely evolution.

A4: Developing the SA framework for appraisal of the Local Plan and proposed method for carrying out the SA

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options for the Local Plan and the SA report

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan



Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Summary

This is a document which sets out what infrastructure may be required to support development in the District over the next 15 years, such as schools, public transport and leisure facilities. It has been partially updated to reflect changes since the last version (2014) and will need to be updated further as the Local Plan Review progresses. It has been updated following discussions to date with infrastructure providers such as Staffordshire County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. It identifies key

projects with potential timescales, costs and the responsible agency for delivering the projects. As we are at an early stage in the Local Plan process, where the amount and location of new development is yet to be fully decided, there will be a need to keep this document under review and for further infrastructure needs to be identified. We would welcome your views on what further updates may be required. It is recognised that the Council will be reliant on a range of infrastructure providers to actually deliver the required infrastructure on the ground.



Local Plan Updated Evidence Base

The Local Plan will be supported by a range of updated evidence base documents. As part of this consultation the Council has published the following documents:

- Economic Development Needs Assessment (an assessment of what employment land may be required in the District to support economic growth).
- Housing Needs Assessment (an assessment of the District's affordable housing needs and the needs of specific groups within the District e.g. housing for the elderly, adapted housing, private rented housing).
- Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation Assessment (an assessment of the amount of new accommodation required to meet these specific needs).

These documents are finalised; however we would welcome views on how the findings should be addressed within future Local Plan policy.

