



Telford & Wrekin

C O U N C I L

Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Sustainability Statement

December 2007

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and
Programmes Regulations 2004

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This statement has been produced in accordance with Regulation 16 of Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633 Environmental Protection The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

As part of the procedures of Adoption of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, the Regulations require a statement explaining how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Document, how the environmental report has been taken into account, how the opinions of consultees have been taken into account, the reasons for the choosing the Adopted Strategy in light of reasonable alternatives considered and finally, how the significant environmental effects of implementing the Strategy will be monitored.

Sustainability Appraisal

The environmental assessment of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document was undertaken using the systematic and iterative appraisal process known as Sustainability Appraisal. The environmental report subsequently produced was known as the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The Sustainability Appraisal process is prescribed by national Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks, September 2004, and supplemented by the guidance contained in the document "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents", November 2005. The Sustainability Appraisal process incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC.

Environmental sustainability considerations

The Core Strategy DPD addresses the key spatial development issues for the Borough and provides a robust strategic planning policy framework of how the Borough will develop physically over the 10 years to 2016.

Arising from the Borough's key spatial development issues, its Long Term Development Vision, and Spatial Development Objectives, the Core Strategy Development Plan Document's main environmental sustainability issues include the rate of housing growth, the need to balance housing growth with jobs and services, high car use, the need to protect the natural environment and cultural heritage.

Consultation

As reported in the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Consultation Statement, the three key environmental bodies; the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England (formerly English Nature and Countryside Agency) were consulted at each stage in the production of the Core Strategy Development

Plan Document and throughout the development of the Sustainability Appraisal framework and appraisal process.

Comments from all three bodies, other organisations and individual members of the public have fed into the development of the Core Strategy Preferred Options, the Submission Document, and the Adopted Core Strategy.

Integration of environmental sustainability considerations

National Planning Policy Statement 12 and accompanying guidance on the Sustainability Appraisal process have ensured the timely contribution of Sustainability Appraisal into the development of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document. This has been achieved by the Sustainability Appraisal providing independent assessment of the sustainability of the proposed Strategy and policy options.

Early consultation on the spatial development issues and options for the Core Strategy was undertaken in the summer of 2004. Five workshop events were held across the Borough involving a wide range of individuals, organisations, Council members, Parish Councillors, developers and stakeholders. A wide range of environmental sustainability issues were raised, discussed, considered and incorporated into the Core Strategy at this stage.

Appraisal work on the Core Strategy Preferred Options Report was conducted in summer 2005 and a Sustainability Appraisal Report detailing this work published in September 2005 alongside the Preferred Options Report. Sustainability Appraisal work during the preparation of the Submission Core Strategy commenced in January 2006 and continued through to submission in October 2006.

The recommendations arising from the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document that have been incorporated into the Document are contained within the final Sustainability Appraisal Report.

The Adopted Core Strategy

A number of different strategy and policy options were considered at each stage in the preparation of the Development Plan Document – Issues and Options, Preferred Options and Submission. At each stage, the results of the Sustainability Appraisal helped inform the decisions on the options to be included in the Submission Document. The Sustainability Appraisal Report has been referred to by the Independent Examination Inspector in her Report recommending that the Core Strategy be found sound.

Monitoring

The measures for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, and the progress being made towards the sustainability objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal are detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Monitoring arrangements for the Sustainability Appraisal have been reviewed following receipt of the Examination Inspectors Report and no changes are proposed.

The Annual Monitoring Report will continue to be the vehicle by which the monitoring of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives will be made. Changes to the baseline data in the Annual Monitoring Report will identify any unforeseen effects and facilitate a response to adverse effects.