

Introduction

This Executive Summary accompanies the Full Technical Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Development Strategy Final Proposals. It provides a concise overview of the process, outputs and recommendations of the main report, and aims to increase the accessibility of Sustainability Appraisal to a non-technical audience.

The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) aims to promote sustainable development through the integration of economic, environmental and social considerations into the preparation of Development Plans Documents (DPD's). A key function of the Sustainability Appraisal is to illustrate the benefits and risks of different policy options, to enable a transparent decision making process.

Background

The preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Development Strategy Initial Proposals has involved the following stages:

- The production of a Scoping Report, which sets out the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Local Development Framework
- The production of this Sustainability Appraisal Report.

In the Scoping Report a Sustainability Appraisal Framework was developed and this framework has been used to appraise the sustainability of the Development Strategy. As part of the framework, 19 Sustainability Objectives were identified, covering a range of aspects across environmental, economic and social issues.

Headline Findings

The Strategy has now developed to a point where proposals are performing very strongly against the Council's Sustainability Objectives. Revision and refinement of policies has been conducted in line with previous SA recommendations, external representations and development of the evidence base. In addition, findings from a Panel Workshop (including key stakeholders and held in July) were also available to inform the development of the Final Proposals. Where possible, as many of the Workshop findings have been incorporated into the Strategy prior to the consultation, and will continue to be considered up to submission to the Secretary of State.

The appraisal process has identified areas where the Development Strategy is performing strongly with regard to the Council's Sustainability Objectives, as well as areas of uncertainty, and areas for improvement. These headlines consolidate the key findings from the matrices and the Panel Workshop held in July:

Strengths

- Policies in the Strategy are providing a sensitive balance across social, environmental and economic objectives.

Uncertainties

- The Strategy cannot address all of the Council's SA Objectives and priorities through every policy. Where spatial policies cannot address an issue, the appraisal process has highlighted where potential conflicts might be addressed. Two cases in point are noise and air pollution. The refined draft of the Strategy now includes measures to manage noise and air pollution on a spatial scale. However, in addition to this policy intervention, the Development Management DPD will also address such issues on a planning application level, on a case-by-case basis.

Negative effects

- Now that the Strategy has been through several stages of refinement, negative effects of policies have been largely minimised or mitigated against as far as is possible. However the appraisal has highlighted that Policy 2.1 (I) could be enhanced in order to satisfy the Council's SA Objectives.

Recommendations

Overall, the SA concluded that the general impact of the Development Strategy on the 19 Sustainability Objectives is likely to be very positive. Policies have now reached a high level of refinement and are performing strongly against the council's environmental, economic and social objectives. However there are still several detailed changes that could compound the robustness of the policies, and address any uncertainties which still remain. The general recommendations from previous reports are now removed, with only specific recommendations listed. This reflects the fact that SA findings are themselves now of a more specific focus, with the majority of general issues raised in the previous SA report addressed through the latest draft of the document.

Proposal	Suggested Changes
1.1	There is opportunity to make reference to the reclaiming of Brownfield sites, particularly with regard to the A40 Corridor.
1.2	Consider revising the policy regarding Gypsies and Travellers in light of the commentary provided by this SA and during the Panel Workshop Session. (Lack of evidence base for decision making and no reference to consultation/engagement).
2.1	Continue to consider ways in which the environment and economic growth can have a synergistic relationship.
2.2	No change.
2.3	There is potential to elaborate on policy detail in order to incorporate workshop findings.
2.4	No change.
2.5	Build further references to film and media cultural heritage of this area, and how it could be promoted.
2.6	Provide greater detail within the policy where this is feasible. Otherwise, ensure that adequate

	master planning incorporates the full breadth of the Councils Sustainability Objectives and fulfils the holistic regeneration potential of the site.
2.7	Minor change: Re-word policy (e) to correct typing error.
2.8	No change.
2.9	No change.
3.1	No change. The policy attempts to mitigate potential issues. Where these issues cannot be addressed at the spatial scale of policy making, the emerging Development Management Document shall be utilised, to ensure that future planning applications are dealt with appropriately, on a case-by-case basis.
3.2	No change in terms of elaborated reference to the canal, as this is addressed through policies in Chapter 5.
3.3	No change with regard to travel plans will be dealt with through separate regimes and strategies. The policy could specify what green industry might constitute and how the Council could actually facilitate this growth. E.g. as part of the 'Ealing in London' campaign. There is the Opportunity to make this locally distinctive and to expand upon the generic context set out in the London Plan.
3.4	No change. The policy already recognises the need for a quality environment and proposes significant open space improvements.
3.5	Where this is possible, consider adding greater certainty to the policy, to ensure the SA Objectives will be met.
3.6	No change, the policy already incorporates the concerns raised in the workshop.
3.7	There is no reference to mixed-use development in centres, part of the 'Urban Renaissance' and 'Sustainable Communities' Agenda. This could be brought within the policy.

3.8	In order to ensure SA Objectives are met, further detail could be added to the policy. Further clarity could be provided regarding the regeneration of municipal housing estates. The Policy could detail interaction with the Green Corridor.
4.1	Further reference could be made specifically to the environment
4.2	There is still the potential to expand upon the detail within this policy, in order to satisfy the broadest range of SA Objectives.
4.3	There is still the potential to expand upon the detail within this policy, in order to satisfy the broadest range of SA Objectives and incorporate fully the workshop findings.
4.4	No change.
5.1	Funding will be an important issue in developing and maintaining positive uses of Green Belt. Alternative funding streams and revenues should be explored in the future to ensure that if traditional funding is threatened, that the quality of leisure, recreation and other uses is not jeopardised.
5.2	Within the Strategy, or elsewhere within the Local Development Framework, options for alternative funding streams should be explored for the maintenance, enhancement and creation of open land. In the current economic context, with increased budgetary pressures, it must be ensured that the vitality and viability of open space networks are not compromised by loss of traditional funding streams.
5.3	In order to compound the positive elements within this policy, a refined wording could include reference to habitats and biodiversity.
5.4	As more information becomes available, the policy could provide greater spatial detail and incorporate further the findings of the Boroughs Open Space Strategy.

5.5	The workshop findings could still be brought forward more clearly, with the economic benefits of green space emphasised within policy. The links to positive health, quality of life and tranquillity could also be drawn.
5.6	No change.
5.7	Add spatial detail.
6.1	In order to meet the established Sustainability Objectives, the Borough could build greater aspirations around the development of renewable energy infrastructure. As a London Borough there are perhaps more significant opportunities than in any other part of the Country. Reference could be made to tackling reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy, as has been done in a number of European Cities such as Freiburg in Germany, which has been developed as a pioneer in the use of renewable energy. Make specific reference to sustainable transport infrastructure as a strategic priority over the private car
6.2	As a spatial document, this policy could provide greater detail regarding the distribution and spread of social infrastructure (i.e. locating at the most sustainable locations; this is likely to be existing local centres for a large majority of services, where this is appropriate and feasible). Reference could be made to the Development Sites DPD, which will indicate where some of these uses might locate. It would also be expected that the policy would make reference to the partners and stakeholders that the Council would be working with to deliver the policy. The policy should also make reference to the funding streams that might deliver these elements
6.3	Biodiversity, habitat networks and landscape character are at the heart of Green Infrastructure; these should be recognised explicitly within the policy. Positive impacts on health should also be recognised within the policy.
6.4	N/A

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