



BOROUGH PLAN - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS SA REPORTS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

SA is an extremely powerful tool in the development and refinement of development plan document options. The assessment provides a means by which the relative merits of the individual options and associated sites and policies can be assessed. The appraisal process seeks to ascertain the environmental, social and economic effects of each option as well as the identification of mitigation or enhancement to be included in the Borough Plans. This assessment process is done in the context of the level of information that is currently available for each policy or site and so represents a desk based assessment. However, recommendations put forward at each stage have helped to refine and enhance the sustainability performance of the options.

This stage offers the opportunity to review the options set out in the Borough Plan Publication Draft in the context of the findings of the previous Sustainability Appraisals. A summary of the conclusions and recommendations from the previous SA Reports are set out below for reference. A full copy of each SA report is available on the Borough Council's web-site.

BOROUGH PLAN CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTION

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT - JUNE 2009

SUMMARY

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Core Strategy represents a significant opportunity to ensure that the delivery of the planned housing and employment growth is genuinely sustainable. It is considered that the performance of the Core Strategy and the sustainability of the preferred options can be further enhanced through the application of a range of mitigation measures and recommendations which should be incorporated into future stages of the Core Strategy. It is considered that addressing the issues and recommendations presented below and in this report will help ensure that the Borough's growth is accommodated in the most sustainable way. The proposed recommendations are summarised under key sustainable themes:

ECONOMIC FACTORS

- It is important that mechanisms are in place to ensure that employment growth keeps pace with housing growth so as to ensure that self-sufficiency and accessibility are not undermined.
- It is important that the Core Strategy is not prepared in isolation to the Coventry and Nuneaton Regeneration Scheme. Links between this existing regeneration strategy and the Core Strategy are unclear.
- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of policies which ensure a range of employment opportunities are delivered, catering for a variety of skill levels and age.
- Employment growth should be directed towards the most sustainable and accessible locations. Where greenfield, including Green Belt sites are necessary to meet RSS requirements, those identified are in the most sustainable locations in terms of access to services, amenities and public transport services.
- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of policies to ensure training and recruitment of local residents to ensure they are the ones who benefit from employment opportunities.
- Monitoring will be required to ensure that residential development is not at the expense of provision of employment land.
- Identification of measures to ensure the necessary variety of employment sites and opportunities for the existing local population.

- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of specific measures to encourage commercial, retail/leisure developments to incorporate landscaping, public open spaces and the use of porous hard surfacing.
- Inclusion of policies to encourage tourism.

SOCIAL FACTORS

- Attention should be taken to ensure that design and location of commercial uses do not impact on residential amenity.
- Ensure adoption of secured by design principles.
- The Core Strategy should include policies to facilitate educational achievement and local recruitment and training policies.
- The Core Strategy policies will need to encourage the provision of housing for the elderly and for people with special needs.

BIODIVERSITY

- The Core Strategy should include measures to protect the river corridors from development.
- Include policies to maximise open space e.g. roof gardens, terraces and consider promoting the re-use of existing roof space where practicable to enhance biodiversity.
- Habitat considerations should be linked to flood risk management, floodplain enhancement measures and open space.
- Developers should be encouraged from the outset to incorporate habitats and biodiversity into their developments.
- The Core Strategy should include reference and support to the design of new Green Infrastructure.

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

- The Core Strategy should require development to contribute towards the provision of leisure facilities and children and youth play space.
- The Core Strategy preferred options should include measures to improve the Borough's pedestrian and cycle networks.
- Inclusion of policy that aims to maximise leisure development located in accessible locations and is supported by existing transport infrastructure.
- It is considered that the Core Strategy should take every opportunity to promote access to facilities by public transport and by alternatives to the car, such as cycle routes and public rights of way.

SOIL

- Inclusion of policy to ensure soils which have an ecological function are stripped and re-used.

WATER

- Consideration should be given to include measures to reduce per capita water and water saving technology in layout and design of development. This should include consideration of rainwater harvesting techniques, grey water (water that has already been used in washbasins, showers, baths) recycling, water efficient appliances as part of the design and layout of buildings.
- Include initiatives to reduce run off (during construction and operation of development quarters), including green roofs, rain water usage and grey water recycling.
- Policies to ensure sustainable drainage solutions are integrated with development proposals (e.g. swales and basins, ponds, permeable surfaces, green roofs).

AIR

- Promotion of reduced car use by promoting car free and car reduced housing developments.
- Public transport hubs such as the new rail station at Bermuda should be promoted for thriving mixed use centres.



CLIMATIC FACTORS

- Include policies to ensure all new development within the Borough contributes towards achieving the aims of sustainable development.
- There is the opportunity to ensure that policies are in place that require all residential development to meet at least Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes. During the formal LDF review stages there is the opportunity to raise this to levels 4 and 5 over the plan period.
- Inclusion of policy support for sustainable design, demolition and construction techniques in all forms of development.
- Include policies requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy techniques.

MATERIAL ASSETS

- Clear guidelines on sustainable construction and materials should be provided either in the Core Strategy or in an individual SPD to ensure waste minimisation and materials recycling, re-use is integrated into both design and construction phases.
- Priority to be given to the re-use of existing land and buildings, where appropriate.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Inclusion of design measures and policies to ensure the integrity of the Borough's Conservation Areas, historic and listed structures.
- The Core Strategy should place a significant emphasis on the need for high quality sustainable design and construction.
- Design measures will be required to ensure that the character of Bulkington village is retained.

LANDSCAPE

- Where there is a contiguous boundary with existing development consideration should be given to the creation of a landscaped green buffer between existing and proposed development.
- Edge treatment will need to be a key consideration, ensuring the transition between urban areas and the countryside is clear.

BOROUGH PLAN PREFERRED OPTION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2013

SUMMARY

The Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan represents a significant opportunity to ensure that the delivery of the planned housing and employment growth is genuinely sustainable. It is considered that the Borough Plan offers the right balance of sustainable development but can be further enhanced through the application of a range of mitigation measures and recommendations which should be incorporated into future stages. The proposed recommendations are summarised under key sustainable themes:

ECONOMIC FACTORS

- It is important that the Borough Plan is not prepared in isolation to development options in adjoining authorities. The Localism Act 2011 confirms that the 'Duty to Cooperate' is a test of 'soundness' for emerging Local Plans. Links between adjoining authorities is currently unclear.
- Consideration should be given to the inclusion of policies to ensure training and recruitment of local residents to ensure they are the ones who benefit from employment opportunities.
- Inclusion of policies to encourage tourism.

SOCIAL FACTORS

- The Borough Plan should include policies to facilitate educational achievement and local recruitment and training policies.



BIODIVERSITY

- No recommendations

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

- Inclusion of policy that aims to maximise leisure development located in accessible locations and is supported by existing transport infrastructure.

SOIL/LAND QUALITY

- Inclusion of policy to ensure soils which have an ecological function are stripped and re-used.

WATER RESOURCES

- No recommendations

AIR QUALITY

No recommendations

CLIMATIC FACTORS

- Include policies requiring waste management and recycling to be considered in the design of development proposals.

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MATERIAL ASSETS

- No recommendations

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- No recommendations

LANDSCAPE

- Where there is a contiguous boundary with existing development consideration should be given to the creation of a landscaped green buffer between existing and proposed development.
- Edge treatment will need to be a key consideration, ensuring the transition between urban areas and the countryside is clear.

BOROUGH PLAN 'INTERIM' SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

AUGUST 2014

SUMMARY

The emerging Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan represents a significant opportunity to ensure that the delivery of the planned housing and employment growth is genuinely sustainable. The findings of this interim SA Report will contribute to determining the right balance of sustainable development in the Borough.

Based on this review a range of mitigation measures and recommendations have been identified that will assist in the Council's assessment of the proposed sites and development of future stages of the Borough Plan. The main conclusions and, where appropriate, proposed recommendations are summarised under key sustainable themes:

ECONOMIC FACTORS

- All the sites assessed score well against the economic objectives.
- None of the sites assessed are focusing within or adjacent to the urban areas of Nuneaton and Bedworth, which are the most sustainable locations in the Borough, but generally represent land in the vicinity of existing employment areas (Bermuda Park, Phoenix Park, Prologis Park), principal routes well served by public transport including land in the vicinity of the M6 junction.
- For more remote sites, new residential or employment development will need to be accompanied by highway improvements and ancillary retail, leisure and health facilities.

SOCIAL FACTORS

- Include policies in the Borough Plan to facilitate high quality design and a sense of place in order to ensure all new development makes a positive contribution to townscape quality and the wider public realm.
- Further information and assessment should be undertaken to establish the correlation between potential sites and crime or fear of crime.

BIODIVERSITY

- The majority of the sites assessed will result in the loss of existing habitat and features of biodiversity interest. However, the development of the sites offers the opportunity to create or enhance green infrastructure linkages and new biodiversity features (woodlands, water bodies etc) as part of an overall landscaping/biodiversity scheme for the Site.

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

- Housing and employment are both important determinants of health and the provision of good quality dwellings and new employment opportunities in the Borough are supported.
- The development sites for residential uses will exacerbate current inequalities or access to health care facilities/services and thus proposals to develop land for residential uses should be accompanied by contributions to new and enhanced health facilities.

SOIL/LAND QUALITY

- The majority of the sites assessed will lead to the loss of productive agricultural land and quality soils to development that cannot be mitigated the only exceptions are sites that represent previously developed land. New development should be directed to these areas in the first instance.

WATER RESOURCES

- Water efficiency is a key issue for the Borough Plan and significant housing and employment growth has the capacity to increase water demand, posing increased pressure on water resources, unless adequate mitigation is also brought forward.
- A number of the assessed sites contain land at Flood Risk, namely land falling within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b and will need to be the subject of a Flood Risk Assessment to assess building and access routes to areas of lowest flood risk within the boundary of the Site and identify whether site specific flood mitigation measures are required.
- The Borough Plan should include policies that incorporate water efficiency measures and SuDS within any detailed scheme for all sites. Mitigation measure will need to be installed prior to the commencement of development and will include the use of porous paving, green roofs and other sustainable urban drainage systems.

AIR QUALITY

- All the sites assessed in this interim SA are located in 'out of centre' locations and thus would tend to discourage a modal shift away from the car usage resulting in potential increases in traffic, congestion and accidents. In addition, these sites will not make efficient use of existing infrastructure, promote compact mixed use development or reduce the need to travel.

- Housing and employment sites that result in an increase in traffic flows, even bus routes, through the existing designated AQMAs results in a significant adverse effect on the air quality that cannot be mitigated. New development should, as far as possible, avoid increasing air quality emissions in these areas.

CLIMATIC FACTORS

- Include policies in the Borough Plan to encourage energy efficiency or bring forward decentralised energy facilities in suitable locations in order to ensure all new development makes an appropriate contribution to the energy needs of the Borough.

MATERIAL ASSETS

- Include policies in the Borough Plan to encourage waste minimisation and recycling/recovery of resources in order to ensure all new development makes an appropriate contribution to meeting this objective.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- The assessed sites generally avoid areas of cultural heritage and, thus offer a neutral effect on protecting and enhancing the Borough's townscape and heritage assets.
- Any proposals to develop sites in close proximity to Registered Parks and Gardens and/or listed buildings must ensure that the setting of the historic features are preserved and where possible enhanced.
- Include policies in the Borough Plan to prepare a heritage assessment for each site to ensure that features of historic interest are not present on or in the vicinity of the site.

LANDSCAPE

- All the assessed sites will result in some change to the local landscape. In each case, the development of the site will increase the level of built development in the local area but also offers the opportunity to recreate and connect existing landscape features or provide green infrastructure linkages as part of a wider scheme for the site.
- Include policies in the Borough Plan to ensure that the development of each site will result in landscape enhancements in the longer term.

BOROUGH PLAN SUBMISSION DOCUMENT - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2015

SUMMARY

The SA has considered each of the sites and policies in the Borough Plan – Submission Document against the agreed Sustainability Objectives agreed at Stage A of the SA process.

The assessment concludes that the Submission Document will generally results in a neutral to positive effect on the majority of the SA objectives, although some site allocations and policies have sustainable merits and drawbacks. In each case suitable mitigation or actions have been proposed that will, if implemented, result in the best sustainability score.

Subject to the implementation of the mitigation proposed the Borough Plan will not raise any significant adverse residual or cumulative effects. The main conclusions and, where appropriate, proposed mitigation are summarised under key sustainable themes:

ECONOMIC FACTORS

- All the sites assessed score well against the economic objectives.
- None of the allocated employment sites assessed are focusing within or adjacent to the urban areas of Nuneaton and Bedworth, which are the most sustainable locations in the Borough, but generally represent land in the vicinity of existing employment areas (Bermuda Park, Prologis Park), principal routes well served by public transport including land in the vicinity of the M6 junction (Phoenix Park).

SOCIAL FACTORS

- The policies in the Borough Plan will facilitate high quality design and a sense of place in order to ensure all new development makes a positive contribution to townscape quality and the wider public realm.

BIODIVERSITY

- The majority of the allocated sites will result in the loss of existing habitat and features of biodiversity interest. However, the development of the sites offers the opportunity to create or enhance green infrastructure linkages and new biodiversity features (woodlands, water bodies etc) as part of an overall landscaping/biodiversity scheme for the Site.
- The policies in the Borough Plan will protect and enhance existing biodiversity features and opportunities to incorporate 'green infrastructure' features in new development makes a positive contribution to the natural assets of the Borough.

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

- Housing and employment are both important determinants of health and the provision of good quality dwellings and new employment opportunities in the Borough are supported.
- The development sites for residential uses will exacerbate current inequalities or access to health care facilities/services and thus proposals to develop land for residential uses should be accompanied by contributions to new and enhanced health facilities.

SOIL/LAND QUALITY

- The allocated sites will lead to the loss of productive agricultural land and quality soils to development that cannot be mitigated. This represents a negative residual cumulative effect.

WATER RESOURCES

- Water efficiency is a key issue for the Borough Plan and significant housing and employment growth has the capacity to increase water demand, posing increased pressure on water resources, unless adequate mitigation is also brought forward.
- A number of the allocated sites contain land at Flood Risk, namely land falling within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b and will need to be the subject of a Flood Risk Assessment to assess building and access routes to areas of lowest flood risk within the boundary of the Site and identify whether site specific flood mitigation measures are required.

- The Borough Plan include policies that incorporate water efficiency measures and SuDS within any detailed scheme for all sites. Mitigation measure will need to be installed prior to the commencement of development and will include the use of porous paving, green roofs and other sustainable urban drainage systems.

AIR QUALITY

- All the allocated sites are located in 'out of centre' locations and thus would tend to discourage a modal shift away from the car usage resulting in potential increases in traffic, congestion and accidents. In addition, these sites will not make efficient use of existing infrastructure, promote compact mixed use development or reduce the need to travel.
- However as the allocated sites are located in close proximity to a public transport corridor, new development offers the opportunity to bring forward enhanced public transport or cycling measures in tandem with new development resulting in a neutral effect on this sustainability objective in the long term.
- None of the allocated sites will result in an increase in traffic flows through the existing designated AQMAs, therefore the proposals will not result in a significant residual adverse effect on the air quality of the Borough.

CLIMATIC FACTORS

- Policies are included in the Borough Plan to encourage energy efficiency or bring forward decentralised energy facilities in order to ensure all new development makes an appropriate contribution to the energy needs of the Borough.

MATERIAL ASSETS

- Policies in the Borough Plan will encourage waste minimisation and recycling/recovery of resources in order to ensure all new development makes an appropriate contribution to meeting this objective.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- All the allocated sites generally avoid areas of cultural heritage and, thus offer a neutral effect on protecting and enhancing the Borough's townscape and heritage assets.
- Any proposals to develop sites in close proximity to Registered Parks and Gardens and/or listed buildings must ensure that the setting of the historic features are preserved and where possible enhanced.
- Policies in the Borough Plan requires that new development proposals take full account of the characteristics and setting of the heritage asset to ensure that features of historic interest are protected and conserved. to prepare a heritage assessment for each site to ensure that features of historic interest are not present on or in the vicinity of the site.
- The implementation of the policy will therefore result in no significant or cumulative effect on cultural heritage coming forward as a result of the proposals in the Plan.

LANDSCAPE

- All the allocated sites will result in some change to the local landscape. In each case, the development of the site will increase the level of built development in the local area but also offers the opportunity to recreate and connect existing landscape features or provide green infrastructure linkages as part of a wider scheme for the site.
- Policies in the Borough Plan will ensure that the development of each site will result in landscape enhancements in the longer term.