

Committee: Local Plan Leadership Group

Date:

Title: Sustainability Appraisal update

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Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress regarding the Sustainability Appraisal process, which runs parallel to plan-making activities.

Recommendations

2. That the Group notes the current progress and next steps for the Sustainability Appraisal process.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (to follow)

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The next steps for the Sustainability Appraisal process include consultation with statutory consultation bodies on the Scoping Report. The report will also be made available for public comment.
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A

Sustainability	The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development.
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

Situation

6. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a mechanism for considering and communicating the impacts of an emerging plan and potential alternatives, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts. Through this approach, the SA for the new Local Plan seeks to maximise the plan's contribution to sustainable development.
7. SA is a legal requirement for Local Plans, primarily addressing the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). However, it also widens the scope of assessment beyond environmental issues to further consider social and economic issues. In so doing, the SA on the new Local Plan will also seek to fulfil the requirements and duties for Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA).
8. The Planning Practice Guidance summarises the parallel SA and plan-making processes using the flowchart in Appendix A.
9. The Council appointed AECOM as consultants to undertake all SA work, involving regular liaison with Council officers. A draft Scoping Report has now been completed in connection with Stage A on the flowchart.
10. The next step will be a consultation with statutory consultation bodies. Officers and the consultants intend to widen this to a public consultation, acknowledging that others may wish to comment. This will be supported by AECOM's new digital reporting platform, which should make the content much easier for both specialists and non-specialists to understand and comment on.

Risk Analysis

11.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
N/A	[Click here]	[Click here]	[Click here]

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.

Appendix A

Planning Practice Guidance flowchart

