

Committee:	Planning Policy Working Group	Date:	10 January 2019
Title:	Local Plan – Updated Sustainability Appraisal		
Report Author:	Stephen Miles, Planning Policy Team Leader, 346	Item for decision:	No

Summary

1. An updated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the regulation 19 Local Plan has been produced.

Recommendations

2. That Planning Policy Working Group considers the updated Sustainability Appraisal before it is published for a representation period.

Financial Implications

3. The costs associated with the updated SA can be met from the Local Plan forecasted spend for 2018/19. Officers considered not updating the SA or updating it with a 'light touch', in light of the findings of the SA review, however officers are of the view that more significant updating is appropriate.

Background Papers

4. The [SA review](#) published in November.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The updated SA will be published for a representation period.
Community Safety	N/a
Equalities	N/a
Health and Safety	N/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The SA is a legal requirement of producing a Local Plan, and the SA will be tested at examination.
Sustainability	The SA compares the strategy in the Local Plan to reasonable alternatives and assesses these against sustainability objectives.

Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	N/a

Situation

6. In November a review into the SA was published, this identified a number of concerns with the SA of the Regulation 19 Local Plan, as well as identifying three options for addressing these concerns. At the PPWG in November officers explained that consultants had been commissioned to undertake a more fundamental update of the SA.
7. The Council has now received the updated SA, this document indicates that the strategy in the draft Local Plan is the most appropriate to deliver its objectives, when considered against reasonable alternatives.
8. This means that the updated SA will be published for a period of representations, from 14 January for six weeks. In the meantime the Local Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State along with the supporting information (including the updated SA).
9. The representations to the updated SA received during the period commencing 14 January will be submitted to the Secretary of State following the close of the representation period.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The SA supporting the Local Plan is not considered adequate by the Planning Inspector	2 – The SA conducted by Place Services for the North Essex Authorities was found to be inadequate	3 – Depending on the view of the Inspector, the SA would need to be reviewed, resulting in a delay to the examination	Officers commissioned an independent SA, which identified that the council had selected the most appropriate strategy

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.