

Sustainability Appraisal of Haringey's Local Plans

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Background
Sustainability Appraisal Explained
Interim SA Report

Part 1: What is the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal?

Introduction
What is the Local Plan seeking to achieve
What is the sustainability context
What is the sustainability baseline
What are the key issues and objectives that should be a focus

Part 2: What has plan-making / Sustainability Appraisal involved up to this point?

Introduction
Consideration of reasonable alternatives

Part 3: What are the Sustainability Appraisal findings at this stage?

Introduction
Methodology
Crime
Education
Health
Housing
Community cohesion
Accessibility
Economic growth
Skills and training
Economic inclusion
Town centres
Biodiversity
Townscape and cultural heritage
Open space
Water resources
Soil and land quality
Flood risk and climate change
Air quality
Noise
Energy and carbon
Waste management

Sustainable transport
Conclusions and recommendations

Part 4: What are the next steps (including monitoring)?

Introduction
Plan finalisation
Monitoring

Appendices

BACKGROUND

The London Borough of Haringey is to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the emerging Local Plans, including Site Allocations, Development Management Policies, Tottenham Area Action Plan, as well as the Partial Review of Haringey's Strategic Policies. Once adopted, the Local Plans will form part of Haringey's statutory Development Plan.

SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, in terms of sustainability issues (including 'equalities' and 'health' issues¹, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising the positives. SA of the AAP is a legal requirement.

SA EXPLAINED

It is a requirement that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.²

In-line with the Regulations, a report (which we call **the SA Report**) must be published for consultation alongside the draft plan that 'identifies, describes and evaluates' the likely significant effects of implementing 'the plan, and reasonable alternatives'. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.

The Regulations prescribe the information that must be contained within the SA Report. Essentially, **the SA Report must answer the following four questions:**

1. What's the scope of the SA?
 - The scope must be established subsequent to a review of the sustainability context and baseline, and consultation with designated agencies.
2. What has Plan-making / SA involved up to this point?
 - Preparation of the draft plan must have been informed by at least one earlier plan-making / SA iteration at which point 'reasonable alternatives' are appraised.
3. What are the SA findings at this stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
4. What happens next (including monitoring)?

THE INTERIM SA REPORT

At the current stage of plan-making the Council is not consulting on a complete draft plan. Rather, the Council is consulting on 'preferred options'. This Interim SA Report is produced with the intention of informing the consultation and subsequent preparation of the draft ('proposed submission') version of the plan.

Structure of the Interim Report

Despite this being an 'Interim SA Report' (i.e. a document that does not need to provide the information legally required of the SA Report) it is nonetheless helpful to structure the report according to the four questions listed above.

¹ As part of this SA process, explicit consideration is being given to 'equalities' and 'health' issues, and as such this SA process can be said to be integrating Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA). More on the SA scope – i.e. the scope of issues that are a focus of SA – is explained in 'Part 1' of this Report.

² Directive 2001/42/EC