



Report to:	Housing, Economy & Business Committee	Date:	23 June 2015
Report title:	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Sutton Local Plan)		
Report from:	Mary Morrissey – Strategic Director of Environment, Housing & Regeneration		
Ward/Areas affected:	Borough Wide		
Chair of Committee/Lead Member:	Cllr Jayne McCoy		
Author(s)/Contact Number(s):	Patrick Whitter, Strategic Planning 020 8770 6297		
Corporate Plan Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Open Council • A Green Council • A Fair Council 		
Open/Exempt:	Open		
Signed:		Date:	10 June 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 At the meeting in December 2014, the Housing Economy and Business Committee agreed to commission a new Local Plan to reflect the growth ambitions of the Council whilst also protecting the Borough's quality of life and to meet the statutory duty to prepare, monitor and review the Council's Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 As part of the process, the Council has a statutory requirement to prepare a 'Sustainability Appraisal' (SA) and 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA) at all stages of the Plan preparation in order to test its soundness against a range of environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.3 The first stage of this process involves the preparation and publication of an SA 'Scoping Report' to establish the sustainability framework against which the Council's emerging planning policies will be assessed and determine the overall scope of the appraisal. As part of this first stage the council is required to consult specific statutory consultation bodies on the Scoping Report for a period of 5-weeks. In addition the Scoping Report would be published on the Council website and will be available for public comment.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

- 2.1 To agree to publish the SA Scoping Report for consultation for a period of 5-weeks;
- 2.2 To agree to publish the SA Scoping Report on the Council website;
- 2.3 To delegate to the Executive Head of Economic Development, Planning and Sustainability in consultation with the Chair of the Housing, Economy and Business Committee, authority to make any minor alterations to the SA Scoping Report prior to consultation.

3. Background

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Statement (NPPF) makes clear that sustainability appraisal (SA) must be undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Plan. In addition, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations 2004 requires SEA to be undertaken on all plans or programmes likely to have 'significant environmental impacts'. The Council has therefore developed an integrated approach to SA which meets the requirements of the SEA Regulations at the same time.
- 3.2 The purpose of SA is to identify the key sustainability issues to be addressed by the Local Plan, develop policy options and report on the significant impacts of emerging preferred policy options and alternatives on the environmental, economic and social objectives of sustainable development.
- 3.3 The SA Scoping Report (Appendix A) addresses the initial stage of SA for Sutton's Local Plan. It seeks to define the scope of the appraisal in terms of the national, regional and local policy context, the local evidence base, the key sustainability issues and the basis for assessing the likely impacts of alternative options (the proposed SA Framework is included as Appendix B).
- 3.4 At the conclusion of the plan preparation process, the final SA Report will describe how the adopted plan has addressed the sustainability agenda and the choices that have been made between alternative policy options. This will be considered by the Inspector when determining the soundness of the Plan at Examination. The relationship between the SA and the Local Plan process is shown in Appendix C.

4. Issues

- 4.1 The SA Scoping Report consists of the following sections which reflect the key tasks set out in the Government's updated Planning Practice Guidance (Stage A, Tasks A1 to A5 on 'Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on the Scope').
- 4.2 Section 1 provides an Introduction to the SA Scoping Report in terms of the background to the appraisal, definitions of sustainable development, planning for sustainability, the purpose of the SA Scoping Report and consultation arrangements.
- 4.3 Section 2 sets out the Appraisal Methodology to be followed by the Council in undertaking SA as part of the preparation of Sutton's Local Plan, in terms of Government guidance, the main stages of SA and the key outputs of the appraisal process.
- 4.4 Section 3 identifies Other Relevant Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives which are likely to influence the options to be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan. These are covered at the international, national, regional and local levels. A more detailed scoping table is provided in the Appendix to the Scoping Report.
- 4.5 Section 4 describes the Environmental, Social and Economic Baseline for Sutton based on a range on the initial survey and evidence-gathering stage of LDF preparation and for the purpose of preparing Sutton's Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) 2013-14 published in March 2015. The key social, economic and environmental characteristics and trends likely to be



affected by the Local Plan are described in order to provide the basis for identifying sustainability issues/ problems and for predicting and monitoring effects

- 4.6 Section 5 identifies the Key Sustainability Issues and Problems facing the Borough.
- 4.7 Section 6 sets out the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework as the basis for predicting and monitoring the social, economic and environmental effects of the emerging Local Plan. This consists of 16 Core SA Objectives supported by a range of sub-objectives, indicators, targets and appraisal questions. An overview of the core sustainability objectives making up the Council's proposed SA Framework is provided as Appendix C.
- 4.8 Section 7 describes the Next Steps in undertaking SA in the preparation of Sutton's Local Plan.
- 4.9 The Council is required to inform, involve and consult the local community and all interested parties throughout the preparation of the Local Plan in line with Sutton's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (December 2014). In line with the SEA Regulations, the SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation on the Council's website for a period of 5 weeks from Tuesday 30 June to Monday 3 August 2015 with copies sent to the following statutory consultation bodies to seek their input on the proposed scope of the appraisal:
- Historic England;
 - Natural England; and
 - Environment Agency.
- 4.10 The SA Scoping Report will also be sent to a range of appropriate bodies and local stakeholders with environmental interests or responsibilities.
- 4.11 Feedback from the consultation exercise will inform the appraisal of Sutton's Local Plan 'Issues and Preferred Options, which will be published for public consultation in early 2016.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 No other options have been considered in terms of this report's principal recommendations to agree to publish the SA Scoping Report for consultation for a period of 5-weeks and to make the report available on the Council's website. This is because both the NPPF and the SEA Regulations 2004 require SA/SEA to be undertaken as part of the preparation of the Local Plan and that the initial Scoping Report should be made available to consultation bodies for a statutory period of 5 weeks.
- 5.2 However, it should be noted that Section 5 of the SA Scoping Report on 'Key Sustainability Issues and Problems' identifies a range of broad strategic options under each planning topic that will need to be explored in further detail as part of the process of developing Local Plan 'Preferred Options and Issues' for the next stage of public consultation in early 2016.

6. Impacts and Implications

Financial

- 6.1 Consultation costs can be met within the 2015-16 revenue budget for Strategic Planning.



Legal

- 6.2 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to carry out an SA of each of the proposals in a Local Plan during its preparation. A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is also required under the 2004 SEA Regulations. Furthermore, the SA Scoping Report indicates that subsequent stages of the appraisal process will address the need to undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) under the various Acts and Regulations forming the basis of anti-discrimination law in the UK, including the Equalities Act 2010, and an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ (Habitats Regulations Screening Report) in accordance with the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994

Integrated Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An Integrated Impact Assessment is attached to this report as Appendix D.

7. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix Letter	Title
A	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
B	Outline of Proposed SA Framework
C	Relationship between the SA and the Local Plan Process
D	Integrated Impact Assessment

Background Documents
Sutton Annual Monitoring Report 2013-14 (March 2015)
Borough Five-Year Housing Land Supply Assessment for 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019 (March 2015)
Borough Employment Land Review’ (Nathaniel Litchfield on behalf of LB Sutton, 2013)
Borough Fuel Poverty Strategy
Borough Housing Strategy
Draft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 1 Report (AECOM, April 2015)

Audit Trail		
Version	Final	Date: 10 June 2015
Consultation with other officers		
Officer	Comments Sought	Comments checked by
Finance	Yes	Christine Little
Legal	Yes	Allison Letts
Housing (Community Living)	Yes	Simon Latham
Construction & Property	Yes	Ade Adebayo
Economic Renewal and Business Development	Yes	Mandy Cherrington
Pupil Based Commissioning	Yes	Kieran Holliday
Parks	Yes	Mark Dalzell
Lead Local Flood Authority/ Highways	Yes	Davina Millership
Environmental Sustainability	Yes	Andrea Crump