

Sustainability Appraisal

Non-Technical Summary

Draft Development Management Document

May 2012

1 Introduction

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1.1 Background

- 1.1** Government legislation requires the Council to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Plan documents. The main role of the SA is to ensure that the planning policies being developed by the Council, in this case the Development Management Document, achieve the optimal balance of positive social, environmental and economic outcomes for Enfield.
- 1.2** The Development Management Document (DMD) is a Local Plan document that provides the detailed policies against which applications to development management will be assessed. The DMD is a subsidiary document to the Core Strategy which was adopted in November 2010.

1.2 What is Sustainability Appraisal?

- 1.3** The SA report investigates the likely significant impacts on the borough in terms of the contribution towards sustainability that might arise from the implementation of the policies contained in the draft DMD.
- 1.4** SA involves a making value judgements about the functioning and appearance of the environment. It is the Council's task to find a balance of the sometimes conflicting values placed on the quality of the natural environment, the health of the economy and strong communities.
- 1.5** The Council is required under European Directive to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of new plans. Government guidance considers it appropriate to combine the SEA with the SA in a single approach. The Council's SA report therefore integrates both SA and SEA and is referred to as "Sustainability Appraisal".

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.6** The findings of SA should be reflected in the adopted DMD to help ensure that it maximises its contribution to future sustainability. The SA process incorporates the requirements of European legislation, which requires that development plans undergo a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.4 How to Comment

- 1.7** Consultation on this Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report is being undertaken at the same time as the consultation on the Draft Development Management Document (DMD). Representations can be made from 8th May 2012 until 3rd August 2012.
- 1.8** Comments on the the Draft SA Report and the Draft DMD can be sent to:

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Table 1.1

Details can be found on the Enfield Council website by visiting: www.enfield.gov.uk/

- 1.9** Please be aware that comments made on the SA Report and the Draft DMD document cannot be treated as confidential and will be made for public inspection.

1.5 Next Steps

- 1.10** The SA will undergo public consultation in parallel with the Draft DMD. Comments received during public consultation will be assessed and the DMD and SA updated.
- 1.11** The submission DMD will be published for a further 6 weeks later in 2012 and submitted for examination in early 2013. It is anticipated that the DMD will be adopted in towards the end of 2013

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2 Likely Significant Effects

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2.1 Social, Environmental and Economic Effects

- 2.1** There are a number of key areas of sustainability under which the Draft DMD policies were assessed. These are outlined below with a summary of the sustainability implications of the DMD policies.

Population

- 2.2** Population growth will be a driver of change in the borough over the time period of the DMD, but controlling population is not an element within DMD policies

Human Health

- 2.3** A range of policies address health lifestyles and wellbeing, supporting provision for sports and outdoor activities. The pollution control policies will help to reduce the level of pollutants, preventing the population suffering for the associated health effect, for example asthma brought on by air pollutants. The provision on healthcare facilities is covered by policies on community facilities.

Economy

- 2.4** Designated industrial areas, and employment floorspace outside of these areas, is protected by DMD policies. Premises for small businesses encouraged. The retail function of Enfield Town and the district centres are given protection from an over-concentration of non-retail uses, while retail proposals will be given priority in town centre areas ahead of out-of-town locations. Design policies seek to improve the appearance and function of development proposals for business uses.

Employment and Skills

- 2.5** The policies which protect locations for industrial uses and town centre uses also protect employment on these sites. It is necessary to raise skill levels in the borough, and education facilities are encouraged and protected by the policies on community facilities.

Transport

- 2.6** A range of policies encourage and require proposals to include provisions that will increase the use of sustainable forms of transport and reduce traffic generation and congestion. This includes siting of facilities close to the users, or public transport, green links for pedestrian and cyclists, and developments to have appropriate regard to traffic arrangements.

Crime and Safety

- 2.7** The design requirements of the DMD will help to create public and private spaces that discourage crime and help people to feel safer.

Housing

- 2.8** Housing is a strong focus of the DMD, with policies seeking a mix of housing provision and affordable housing that is in line with social sustainability. Policies address the condition of the housing stock and there are policies on building on garden land and flat conversions.

Cultural Heritage

- 2.9** There are policies on preserving and enhancing heritage assets and the context of these heritage assets, including a policy on tall buildings.

Climate

2 Likely Significant Effects

- 2.10** Sustainability with regard to climate change is embedded in policies throughout the DMD. Energy efficiency measures in buildings are contained in a range of specific and more general policies. Policies to protect and increase green spaces and links, reduce water usage and address flooding will help adaptation to climate change through reducing the impact of higher temperatures, greater rainfall and more periods of drought.

Air

- 2.11** A combination of a policy on air quality and policies that promote more sustainable forms of transport will support a reduction in air pollution.

Soil

- 2.12** Most protection to soil is afforded by the policies on protecting the green belt and agricultural land. Developments in the borough that benefit social and economic sustainability may cause some damage to soils. The policy on contaminated land makes provision for remediation that could lead to some improvements in soil quality in small areas of the borough.

Water

- 2.13** The policies address water quality, water conservation and reducing and responding to flood risk. All of these areas are important for adapting to climate change.

Biodiversity

- 2.14** Habitats are protected and promoted by DMD policies, with some policies relating directly to conservation and biodiversity, while others on green belt and green spaces also have a beneficial effect on biodiversity.

Landscape and Townscape

- 2.15** There are a range of policies on design and that seek to preserve and create a high quality urban environment. Policies on the green belt, landscaping and open spaces will help to preserve Enfield's green landscapes.

Waste

- 2.16** Policies require development proposals to make provision for the storage of waste. A specific policy on waste during the construction process requires minimum percentages of waste to be diverted from landfill.

2.2 Avoiding Adverse Effects

- 2.17** A few sustainability issues have been identified, however these are relatively minor and some have already been reflected in updates to the draft DMD. A SA was carried out on the Core Strategy, and as a subsidiary document to the Core Strategy, it is not surprising that the DMD policies are already broadly sustainable.

2.3 Monitoring of Significant Effects

- 2.18** The Council is already monitoring the impact of the Core Strategy policies. It will also be necessary to monitor the impact of the DMD policies once the document is adopted by the Council. A monitoring framework will be prepared and published following adoption of the DMD.

3 Impact of the SA Process

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- 3.1** The SA includes a table showing the influence on the SA process. A number of amendments to the DMD have been made.
- 3.2** The SA process has ensured a thorough review of the DMD policies in terms of social, economic and environmental sustainability, both complying with the statutory requirements of the planning process and providing a reassurance that planning decisions within the borough will be made within a sustainable framework.

3 Impact of the SA Process