

# APPENDIX 2

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL



# APPENDIX 2. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the Sustainability Appraisal process that has been undertaken to support the production of a Supplementary Planning Document relating to Conservation Areas.

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL?

Sustainability Appraisal is a process through which the sustainability of a plan under preparation is assessed. The Planning and Compulsory Act (2004) requires local planning authorities to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of their LDF process. This is to compel local planning authorities to work towards achieving sustainable development thus enabling residents to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising quality of life for future generations. Sustainability Appraisal addresses social and economic issues but also takes into consideration environmental issues.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) it is a requirement that plans (setting a framework for future development consent and likely to have significant environmental effects) are subject to environmental assessment. Local planning authorities are required to carry out an environmental assessment of their LDF under these regulations.

## SCOPING REPORT

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council commissioned White Young Green to carry out a Scoping Report in April and May 2005. This identifies the baseline information and Sustainability Appraisal objectives and will underpin the Local Development Framework. The methodology for preparing the Scoping Report is set out in the document and is available on request.

Key stakeholders played an active part in the preparation of the Scoping Report and a Scoping workshop was held to seek the involvement of stakeholders. The Scoping Report was completed in June 2005.

This Sustainability Appraisal framework will be used to appraise the Supplementary Planning Document.

## BACKGROUND

The key objective in undertaking Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that any significant effects arising from adoption of the SPD are (at least in principle) acceptable to the Borough Council and other stakeholders. Undertaking Sustainability Appraisal allows for the social, economic and environmental acceptability of the strategic options to be determined and thus taken into account in the decision making process.

The overall objective of the Conservation Areas SPD is to assist in the implementation of Landscape Proposals 1, 3 and 9 of the adopted Oadby and Wigston Local Plan. The objectives of the SPD are:

- To assess and define opportunities and threats within the Conservation Areas; and
- To provide policy guidance to ensure that the character and appearance of the Conservation Area will be maintained through the effective management of change

and that those opportunities to enhance the character and appearance are maximised.

In particular, the Conservation Areas SPD provides guidance on the issues that development control officers will take into account in determining planning applications. These include:

- Demolition;
- Alterations and extensions;
- Works to Listed Buildings;
- Works to Significant Local Buildings;
- Proposals affecting the setting of Conservation areas; and
- Specific Conservation Area guidance.

By undertaking the Sustainability Appraisal of this SPD using the guidance in the document 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities.' ODPM, 2005, the Borough Council has complied with the SEA directive and regulations.

## **SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, BASELINE AND CONTEXT**

### **RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**

5.1 The following strategies, plans and programmes are considered relevant to the Conservation Areas SPD:

#### **National Level**

- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment

#### **Regional Level**

- Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8)

#### **County Level**

- Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure Plan

#### **Local Level**

- Oadby and Wigston Local Plan
- Landscape Character Assessment (March 2005)
- All Saints Conservation Area Appraisal
- London Road and Saint Peters Church Conservation Area Appraisal
- Midland Cottages Conservation Area Appraisal
- North Memorial Homes and Framework Knitters Conservation Area Appraisal
- Oadby Court Conservation Area Appraisal
- Oadby Hill Top and Meadowcourt Conservation Area Appraisal
- South Wigston Conservation Area Appraisal
- Spa Lane Conservation Area Appraisal
- The Lanes Conservation Area Appraisal

### **BASELINE INFORMATION**

A wide range of baseline information was taken into account when preparing the Scoping Report and sustainability issues were identified: The relevant issues are as follows:

- The need to protect other areas of urban open space

- The need to preserve sites of archaeological and cultural heritage interest

## SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OBJECTIVES

An analysis of the relevant plans and programmes and the baseline data has led to the development of 22 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. Of these, two have some relevance to the SPD as outlined in the table 1. For each objective table 1 also indicates the effect that the SPD will have in terms of economic, social and environmental factors.

**Table 1: Relevance and effects of the SPD to the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives**

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Relevance to SPD	Economic Effects	Social Effects	Environmental Effects
To provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural and leisure activities.	The Conservation Area SPD will inform people of the special considerations which need to be taken to preserve and enhance local heritage.	None	Provides greater awareness of local heritage and retains a valuable learning resource for future generations.	Encourages the preservation and enhancement of areas of special architectural or historic interest.
To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets.	The Conservation Area SPD will assist in the preservation and enhancement of local areas of special architectural or historic interest for future generations.	None	Provides greater awareness of local heritage and retains a valuable learning resource for future generations.	Encourages local distinctiveness which is fundamental within conservation areas. It will contribute positively to the preservation and/or enhancement of conservation areas.

## ASSESSING THE COMPATIBILITY OF THE CONSERVATION AREAS SPD

Table 2 assesses the compatibility of the objectives of the Conservation Areas SPD with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

**Table 2: Compatibility Matrix**

		Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	
SPD Objectives		To provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural and leisure activities.	To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation sites, historic parks and other cultural assets.
	To assess and define opportunities and threats within the Conservation Areas	-	✓
	To provide policy guidance to ensure that the character and appearance of the Conservation Area will be maintained through the effective	✓	✓ ✓

	management of change and that those opportunities to enhance the character and appearance are maximised		
	Comments	The SPD objectives contribute towards greater awareness and understanding of conservation area issues.	The SPD objectives contribute towards the preservation and enhancement of locally important areas of historical and cultural importance.

### **Key**

- ✓✓ Highly Compatible
- ✓ Compatible
- Neutral
- ✗ Incompatible
- ✗✗ Highly Incompatible (significant environmental effect)

In general, the table shows that the majority of objectives are either compatible or neutral (i.e. they do not have a positive or negative effect).

In summary, the compatibility matrix shows that the Conservation Area SPD contributes positively to the sustainability of the Borough.

### **MITIGATING ADVERSE EFFECTS AND MAXIMISING BENEFICIAL EFFECTS**

The compatibility matrix indicates that there are no significant environmental effects that are likely to occur as a result of implementing this SPD. Application of the SPD will through the development control process will ensure that beneficial effects are maximised.

### **DEVELOPING PROPOSALS FOR MONITORING**

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report establishes indicators that will be used to monitor the Sustainability Appraisal objectives that relate to this particular SPD and the direction in which the target should be moving (table 3). It should be noted that the SPD is of a technical nature whilst the indicators are more strategic. In addition, since no significant environmental effects have been identified through the Sustainability Appraisal process it is not intended to put any specific monitoring mechanisms in place for the Conservation Areas SPD.

**Table 3: Objectives, targets and indicators**

<b>Sustainability Appraisal Objective</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Indicator Source</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Target Source</b>
To provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural and leisure activities.	Number of people accessing the Borough Council's Conservation Area web pages	Website statistics	Increase	OWBC
	Stimulate interest in the historic environment.	?	Increase	English Heritage in the East Midlands
To preserve and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, conservation	Reviewing quality of new development.	Internal assessment	Increase	OWBC
	Number of Listed Buildings at Risk	Leicestershire County Council	Reduce	

sites, historic parks and other cultural assets.				
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