

Appendix 3

Sustainability Appraisal

1. Background and Methodology

- 1.1 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, a Sustainability Appraisal must be undertaken for each Local Development Document, including Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development by examining how the policies and proposals of the SPD contribute to the aim of sustainable development. By identifying any issues at an early stage it is possible to amend the guidance to ensure that it is as sustainable as possible.
- 1.2 The sustainability appraisal methodology currently used by Wolverhampton City Council accords with advice contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. The procedure is based on the approach taken to Sustainability Appraisal of the adopted UDP. The three defined strategic criteria or “assets” are:
- Environment
 - People and Society
 - Economic Well Being
- 1.3 Within the UDP sustainability appraisal there are a total of 22 objectives: 12 under the environmental heading; 6 under the people and society heading; and 4 under the economic wellbeing heading. These have been supplemented by revised objectives identified through sustainability appraisal of the Black Country Core Strategy. The objectives have been used to create a matrix for purposes of the appraisal (see Table A below).

2 Options

- 2.1 This appraisal tests two options against the set of sustainability objectives, to determine whether the SPD will contribute positively to delivering sustainable communities within the City.

Option 1: The Local Plan Policies and national guidance provides the main basis for decisions on air quality in Wolverhampton

Option 2: An SPD on Air Quality is adopted to add value to the existing policies at local and national level.

3 Results

Option 1

- 3.1 Option 1 relates to the Core Strategy Policies and supporting text. These policies were subject to a sustainability appraisal through the Core Strategy adoption process. Table 1 is a sustainability appraisal matrix for the combined effect of all policies as set out in the UDP, revised following the Core Strategy.
- 3.2 The benefits of policies on developing sustainable communities are social economic, and environmental. The principal benefits are likely to be in terms of clarifying Black Country Core Strategy policy in light of the more recent LETCP Good Practice Air Quality Planning Guidance (AQPG) produced in 2014 as part of the West Midlands Low Emissions Towns & Cities Programme (LETCP).

Option 2

- 3.4 The detailed proposals set out in this SPD have also been considered against each of the criteria listed in the matrix.
- 3.5 The overall effects are the same as for Option 1. However, because of the added clarity and evidential support provided by the SPD, it should be more possible to mitigate air pollution and secure air quality improvements than would otherwise have been the case.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The Black Country Air Quality SPD will create no change in the overall effects on criteria produced by the Core Strategy and UDP policies relating to sustainability. The effects of these policies were positive in all respects.

Table 1

Sustainability Appraisal Matrix for Draft Black Country Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Sustainable Development Aim	Impact of SPD						Comments	Indicator used
	--	-	0		+	+		
1. ENVIRONMENT								
Make optimum use of land			✓				No direct effect	Not applicable.
Reduce traffic congestion and promote sustainable modes of transport into and throughout the City.					✓		Through facilitating green travel plans and encouraging use of electric vehicles	Reduction of traffic flows and increase in electric vehicle use.
Protect and enhance the quality of the built environment			✓				No direct effect	Not applicable.
Protect and enhance the historic environment			✓				No direct effect	Not applicable.
Minimise air, water, soil light and noise pollution levels and create good quality air, water and soils.						✓	Enhance application of Black Country Core Strategy ENV7: Air Quality, to maximise mitigation of air pollution and delivery of air quality improvements.	Monitoring of air pollution.
Protect and enhance water quality and encourage water conservation			✓				No direct effect	Not applicable.
Protect flood plains and water courses			✓				No direct effect	Not applicable.

Value, maintain, restore and re-create biodiversity.			✓			No direct effect	Not applicable.
Maximise the efficient use of minerals			✓			No direct effect	Not applicable.
Reduce waste and maximise opportunities for recycling and waste management.			✓			No direct effect	Not applicable
Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change. (Adapting to expected climatic effects)			✓			No direct effect	Not applicable
Minimise the City's contribution to climate change. (Mitigating against expected climatic effects)					✓	Through facilitating green travel plans and encouraging use of electric vehicles	Reduction of traffic flows and increase in electric vehicle use.

2. PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

To safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being					✓	Improvements in air quality will have a positive effect on public health	Monitoring of air pollution.
Enhance education opportunities for all			✓			No effect	Not applicable
Encourage the provision of environmentally sound, affordable housing for all.			✓			No effect	Not applicable
Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities.			✓			No effect	Not applicable
Maintain and improve safety, perception of safety and community well-being.			✓			No effect	Not applicable

ECONOMIC WELLBEING							
Supporting and growing local economy by fostering an advanced manufacturing sector with a competitive services sector			✓			No effect.	Not applicable
Support a stable and growing regional economy and regeneration initiatives			✓			No effect.	Not applicable
Encourage sustainable industries					✓	Increasing availability of electric vehicle charging points	Electric vehicle use
Enhance social inclusion and develop a more equitable balance of prosperity across the city			✓			No effect.	Not applicable
To reduce poverty, crime and social deprivation, and secure economic inclusion. (Equality)			✓			No direct effect although better air quality can improve health.	No indicator