



Winchester District Development Framework



Winchester District Local Plan Part 1: Joint Core Strategy



Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):



Adoption Statement



March 2013



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**Winchester City Council & South Downs National Park Authority
Local Plan Part 1(LPP1) Joint Core Strategy
Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA): Adoption Statement**

Contents:

This Statement

Introduction

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the LPP1: Joint Core Strategy

How the Sustainability/Environmental Report has been taken into account

SA Scoping & Joint Core Strategy Issues & Options

Choices for the Joint Core Strategy & Preferred Options

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

Reasons for choosing the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy as adopted

**Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/
environmental effects of the implementation of the LPP1**

This Statement

- 1 This Sustainability/Environmental Statement for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) of the Local Plan Part 1 Joint Core Strategy for Winchester City Council & the South Downs National Park Authority has been prepared in accordance with the following requirements:
 - Regulation 36 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004
 - Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004
 - Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012
- 2 It explains how sustainability considerations have been incorporated into the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy; how the SA has been taken into account; how the results of consultation have been taken into account; the reasons for choosing the adopted LPP1, in the light of other alternatives considered; and how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy will be monitored.

Introduction

- 3 Winchester City adopted the Local Plan Part 1- Joint Core Strategy on 20 March 2013 & the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) also adopted the Plan on 19 March 2013. The LPP1 - Joint Core Strategy covers Winchester District including the area that now lies in the South Downs National Park. The area covered by the SDNP will have its own Local Plan in due course, which will then supersede the part of this Plan covering the National Park.

- 4 The Local Plan Part 1 is the long term strategic plan for development within Winchester District, and includes the strategic vision, objectives and the key policies needed to achieve sustainable development in Winchester District to 2031. It identifies the amount of development, broad locations for change, growth and protection, including allocating strategic sites. Local Plan Part 1 does not allocate smaller sites or set development management policies as these will be agreed through Local Plan Part 2.
- 5 To get to this stage of the Local Plan, a considerable amount of work and consultation has been carried out, including; Frontloading; Issues and Options; Preferred Option; Blueprint; Plans4Places; and Pre-Submission. The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2012 and was subject to Examination by an independent Inspector with public hearings during October/November 2012. The Planning Inspector's final report in February 2013 concluded that the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy is sound, subject to some modifications, which do not alter the main thrust of the Plan's policies or proposals. For the purpose of this statement that complies with planning and environmental assessment regulations, the integrated appraisal will be referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the LPP1: Joint Core Strategy

- 6 Throughout the plan-making process, SA (incorporating SEA) has been carried out as an iterative and ongoing process to inform decision making for the developing Plan. The SA was undertaken in accordance with government guidance^{1 2} for a staged approach that integrates appraisal to consider the effects of the emerging LPP1 on socio-economic as well as environmental factors. Independent specialist consultants were appointed to carry out the SA. They worked closely with the plan-making team in an iterative way such that the findings and recommendations from the SA were integrated into the developing stages of the Plan.
- 7 The first stage of the SA was to scope the issues for sustainability within the Winchester District and SDNPA area. Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed; baseline information regarding the character of the area and its likely evolution were collated & analysed; sustainability problems, issues & opportunities were identified; and a framework of 15 objectives for sustainable development with proposed methods for the SA were produced within a SA Scoping Report. In 2007, this Scoping Report was subject to public consultation and the SA framework was refined as a result of the responses received. The

¹SEA Guidance

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf

² PAS Plan-making Manual

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=109798>

framework established the basis against which the emerging LPP1 Joint Core Strategy would be appraised for sustainability.

- 8 Issues & Options for the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy were developed during early 2008 and subject to SA. The Issues & Options document considered the strategic spatial direction for housing, employment and associated infrastructure through a number of options for strategic locations in Winchester Town, the Market Towns, and the Rural Areas. It also considered themes for strategic policy including options for a settlement hierarchy, affordable housing, Partnership for Urban South Hampshire, climate change, health & inclusivity, transport, a high quality environment, infrastructure and implementation. The SA Report was published at the same time as the Issues & Options planning document and it set out how the SA had informed the plan-making, including SA of the alternative options for strategic direction.
- 9 As a result of consultation, the Preferred Option for the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy was developed. The strategic location for development in Winchester Town, and the South Hampshire Urban Area were refined and subject to SA, as was the development strategy for the Market Towns and the Rural Areas. Core Strategy Policies were further developed to guide development and these were subject to SA. The findings and recommendations of the SA were incorporated into the Preferred Options document. Both documents were subject to public consultation in April 2009.
- 10 Plan making during 2010-2011 also reflected developments with the Winchester District Community Strategy³ and significant changes to the planning system, including the emerging Localism Act⁴, the intended revocation⁵ of regional strategies including the South East Plan, therefore enabling the development of more locally derived housing targets. As a result of this, further consultation, including the Blueprint process⁶ and publication of Plans for Places, the Preferred Option for the Joint Core Strategy was updated and refined into the formal stage of Pre-Submission. Significant changes to the emerging LPP1 Joint Core Strategy arising from these matters were subject to SA. The findings and recommendations of the SA were incorporated into the Pre-Submission document. Both documents were subject to public consultation in January 2012.
- 11 Further refinements were made a result of the consultation; any significant changes were subject to SA and the findings incorporated into the Submission LPP1 Joint Core Strategy that was submitted to the Secretary of State in June 2012. Through examination, the Planning Inspector found the SA to be adequate and that the LPP1 could be adopted with minor modifications that do not need any further SA.

³ <http://www.wdsp.co.uk/community-strategy/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/localism-act-2011-overview>

⁵ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1631904.pdf>

⁶ Winchester City Council/South Downs National Park Authority (June 2011) Plans for Places after Blueprint <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/plans4places>

How the Sustainability/Environmental Report has been taken into account

- 12 **SA Scoping Report & Joint Core Strategy Issues & Options:** The SA Scoping Report established the baseline, the key sustainability issues, the policy framework for the SA and set the context for the SA - all of which informed the early draft of issues and possible options to resolve the issues through a JCS for the area.
- 13 **Choices for the Joint Core Strategy & Preferred Options:** The subsequent stages of the SA were undertaken at the same time as the equivalent stages of the plan-making process so that the findings and recommendations of the SA could be integrated at each stage. The choices regarding spatial strategic locations and themes for strategic policies were subject to SA using the framework of 15 SA objectives. Mitigation for negative effects identified was suggested through changes to policy wording to strengthen sustainable development. An SA Report was published at the same time as the Preferred Options and it recorded the findings of the SA and the way in which it had influenced the choices available to the plan-making.
- 14 **Pre-Submission & Submission LPP1 Joint Core Strategy:** As SA had been incorporated into the plan-making process at an early stage, only minor changes were carried out at these late stages of plan-making. Again, the findings of the SA and the way in which it had influenced to the plan-making were set out in the SA Reports.

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

- 15 At each stage of the consultations from SA scoping through to Submission of the LPP1 JCS and its accompanying SA Report, the SA set out the responses received and the way in which the SA took them into account in a separate appendix. This included the initial formal scoping consultation with the environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. In addition a stakeholder workshop was held at scoping.

Reasons for choosing the LPP1 Joint Core Strategy as adopted

- 16 The SA examined and appraised the vision and strategic objectives; it appraised the allocations for housing, employment and associated infrastructure – some 15 policies to guide the strategic development for Winchester Town, South Hampshire Urban Area and the Market Towns and the Rural Areas ; and it appraised some 21 themed policies to protect and enhance the assets of the area. The potential positive sustainability effects of the proposed development, and the mitigation of potential negative effects, are dependent upon the implementation of the core strategic policies as adopted. The plan-making and the SA processes established that the adopted LPP1 was the most sustainable approach for implementing the development need that had been locally-derived for the Plan period.

Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the LPP1

- 17 The LPP1 Joint Core Strategy will be subject to an ongoing programme of monitoring as part of the Councils' Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR). This includes a broad range of indicators and targets set out in Appendix D to the LPP1 that incorporates the needs of the JCS and the SA. This will demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategic policies in the LPP1 JCS and enable any unforeseen effects arising from its implementation to be identified. Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the predicted effects of the SA were accurate; and this information will be considered in the next round of plan-making and the accompanying SA. Monitoring Reports for the LPP1 JCS will be available for review on the Councils' websites.

For further information please refer to the Councils' websites:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-1/>

