



Winchester District Development Framework



Winchester District Local Plan Part 2: Development Management & Allocations



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



SA Adoption Statement



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**Winchester City Council
Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2) Development Management & Site Allocations
Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment
(SEA): SA Adoption Statement**

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This SA Adoption Statement

1 This Sustainability/Environmental Statement for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Local Plan Part 2: Development Management & Site Allocations (LPP2) for Winchester City Council 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

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).

2 The SA process comprises a number of stages that are designed to comply with the requirements of the SEA Regulations and as guided through Government Planning Practice¹. This SA Adoption Statement satisfies the requirements for post adoption (Stage E) and demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations as follows:

- (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;*
- (b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;*

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

(c) how opinions expressed in response to— (i) the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account;
(d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;
(e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
(f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

Development of the LPP2

- 3 Winchester City Council adopted the Local Plan Part 1 (LPP1) - Joint Core Strategy on 20 March 2013. LPP1 is the overarching strategic Local Plan to 2031 for development within Winchester District, and includes the strategic vision, objectives, key policies, broad locations for change, including allocating strategic sites. LPP2 builds upon LPP1 by setting development management policies and includes allocation of smaller (non-strategic) sites. LPP2 however, only applies to that part of the Winchester District that lies outside the South Downs National Park.
- 4 Considerable work and consultation has been undertaken since 2013 to prepare LPP2. The LPP1 had established various development requirements for the larger settlements in the District and the City Council worked closely with communities² to identify their development needs in more detail. Various studies were undertaken to provide the evidence base to inform decision-making, including housing & employment needs, transport and accessibility assessments, open space and recreational studies, landscape sensitivity, historic environment, and assessments of site options.
- 5 The Draft LPP2 was published for consultation in 2014, further developed taking into account comments received, and the Publication (Pre-Submission) LPP2 was available for consultation at the end of 2015 with submission of LPP2 to the Secretary of State in March 2016. LPP2 was subject to independent Examination with public Hearings during July 2016. Draft Modifications to the Plan arising from discussions at the Examination were subject to public consultation at the end of 2016. The Planning Inspector's Final Report³ in January 2017 concluded that the LPP2 is sound, subject to series of Main Modifications, including some minor changes to the Draft Modifications, and could be Adopted.

² <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-2/background-work-with-parishes-on-lpp2/>

³ <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan-part-2/lpp2-2017-inspector-39-s-report/>

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the LPP2; How the Sustainability/Environmental Report has been taken into account

- 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^{4 5} for a staged approach that integrates appraisal to consider the effects of the emerging LPP2 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 update the scoping of the assessment for the area and this is explained in Section 3 of the SA Report⁶ (September 2014). Relevant plans/programmes were updated; baseline information regarding the character of the area and its likely evolution was collated & analysed; sustainability problems, issues & opportunities were checked; and the SA framework of 15 objectives for sustainable development that had been used to appraise the LPP1 was refined to make it more suitable for assessing the non-strategic site options in LPP2. The SA framework forms the basis against which the emerging LPP2 would be appraised for sustainability.
- 8 The draft Site Allocation and Development Management Polices were tested through SA. Initial SAs were undertaken of the potential site options for each of the larger settlements – Bishops Waltham, Colden Common, Denmead, Kings Worthy, New Alresford, Swanmore, Waltham Chase, Wickham and Winchester Town. The SA tested options and also provided comparative sustainability effects by site option and by the likely effects on settlements. Mitigation possibilities for any significant negative effects were suggested for plan-making a detailed in Section 4 of the SA Report (September 2014).
- 9 The SA also tested the likely effects of the implementation of the LPP2 as a whole. The findings and recommendations of the SA informed plan-making and were integrated into the further development of the Plan - and as set out in the SA Report (September 2014) that accompanied the Draft LPP2 on public consultation during October – November 2014.
- 10 Comments received from the consultation were taken into account and informed the development of the Publication (Pre-Submission) Plan during 2015. The changes to the LPP2 were subject to SA and the findings updated and published in the SA Report (September 2015) that accompanied the Pre-Submission LPP2 on public consultation during October and November 2015.

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

⁵ <http://www.pas.gov.uk/guidance>

⁶ <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/sustainability-appraisals/sustainability-appraisal-submission/>

Proposed Modifications to the LPP2 were developed arising from discussions at the Examination and these were also tested through SA. Some matters were raised on the SA at Examination and an SA Addendum Report was published to explain responses and report the refreshed SA. Throughout, the appraisals have been proportionate and appropriate to the stages of plan-making. Thus environmental and sustainability considerations have been integrated and the SA Reports taken into account throughout the plan-making process.

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

- 11 Consultation is an important aspect of SA and there was statutory and public consultation at each key stage of the plan preparation and the SA as follows:

Plan Stage/ Documents Consultation	SA Documents Consultation
Early preparation of the LPP2 2013-14	Updating the SA Scoping 2013-14
Evidence gathering and events with Parishes & communities	Updating the baseline information; Plans/Programmes Review; Sustainability Issues; refining the SA Framework
Draft LPP2 Public consultation 24 October to December 2014	Draft SA Report (September 2014) Public consultation 24 October to December 2014
Development Management Policies & Proposed Site Allocations for Settlements	Each draft Policy was subject to SA according to sustainability themes that address inter-relationships. Site options were assessed & significant effects identified; mitigation measures were suggested for negative effects for options & taking into account any cumulative effects on the settlements.
Publication (Pre-Submission) LPP2 November 2015	Publication (Pre-Submission) SA Report November 2015
Considers comments received from consultation Public consultation November to December 2015	Addresses the changes to the draft Plan arising from consultation; responds to comments on the SA Public consultation November to December 2015
Submission to Secretary of State March 2016	Submission to Secretary of State March 2016 As part of evidence supporting the LPP2
Examination Hearings May – July 2016	Examination Hearings May – July 2016
Council and SA consultants produced evidence and took part in the Examination process in relation to the SA.	
Proposed Modifications to LPP2	SA Addendum Report (September 2016)
Public consultation 28 October	Explains matters raised during Examination

Plan Stage/ Documents Consultation	SA Documents Consultation
to 12 December 2016	Hearings; screens the Proposed Modifications arising from Examination; reports the refreshed SA. Public consultation 28 October to 12 December 2016
Inspector's Final Report January 2017	
LPP2 Adopted April 2017	SA Adoption Statement (March 2017)
	This document

- 12 At each stage of the consultations on the draft LPP2 through to Submission and Examination of the LPP2 and its accompanying SA Report, representations made on the SA were considered. All SA representations were collated together with responses addressing the concerns of consultees and recorded in a technical appendix to the SA Report. This included the formal consultation with the statutory environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. Thus the SA and consultation responses have been considered in an iterative and ongoing way throughout the plan-making process and in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
- 13 During the Examination Hearings some matters were raised on the SA and a number of Proposed Modifications to LPP2 were identified as a result of discussions. An SA Addendum Report (September 2016) was prepared and subject to public consultation with the Proposed Modifications to the LPP2 later in 2016. This explained the responses to the SA matters raised and reported the refreshed SA that considered the implication of the Modifications for the SA findings. This further demonstrates the positive approach taken to considering consultee concerns throughout the SA process.

Reasons for choosing the LPP2 as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives

- 14 At each stage of the preparation of the LPP2 reasonable alternatives were identified, considered and tested through the SA process. The findings of the SA, together with the reasons for selecting or rejecting the options in plan-making were reported in the SA Reports and were subject to public consultation (and as set out in the table above).
- 15 The SEA Regulations requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the plan and "*reasonable alternatives*" taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan; and the reasons for selecting alternatives should be outlined in the Report. Extant SA/SEA guidance advises

that the term "*reasonable alternative*" should be taken to mean "*realistic and relevant*" i.e. deliverable and within the timescale of the plan

- 16 The LPP2 has to be in conformity with LPP1 and therefore there were limits to the possible alternatives, particularly with regard to options for Development Management Policies. However, the SA did investigate in detail the reasonable alternatives for non-strategic site allocations and this informed the decision-making for the plan.
- 17 Overall, the reasons for choosing the LPP2 as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, included that the adopted LPP2 progresses the vision, objectives and strategy for development planning in the Winchester District area with the most benefits and the least negative effects for sustainable development.

Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability & environmental effects of the implementation of the LPP2

- 18 The SEA Regulations require that the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan should be monitored with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Local Planning Authorities are required to produce Monitoring Reports⁷ on the progress of Local Plans. Government Guidance on SA/SEA advises a pragmatic approach with shared monitoring for the SA/SEA and the Plan. The Winchester Monitoring Framework includes a wide range of indicators that also relate to the SA Framework. It is considered that these indicators will be sufficient to identify any unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage, and also provide information on the predicted effects from the SA. Monitoring of LPP2 will be incorporated into the Council's Annual Monitoring Report available to view on the Council's website.

For further information, please refer to the Council's website:

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/>

⁷ <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/annual-monitoring-report-amr/>