

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (Approved March 2007)



For Energy & Development Supplementary Planning Document

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared to accompany the Energy & Development SPD. The SPD is a jointly prepared document by Daventry District Council (DDC) and South Northamptonshire Council (SNC). Should you require any further information about it, please contact: Karen Britton, Senior Planning Officer, Daventry District Council, Lodge Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 4FP. Tel: 01327 302581 E-mail: kbritton@daventrydc.gov.uk
- 1.2 A Scoping Report of the SA was prepared in August 2006. This highlighted a suggested Sustainability Framework and objectives, which provided a base line for further work, in order to prepare the SA (Consultation Draft) and the SPD (Consultation Draft). The Scoping Report was circulated to the SEA Consultation Bodies (Natural England, English Heritage, and The Environment Agency) as required by legislation. The responses to the Scoping Report are summarised in Appendix A.
- 1.3 A SA (Consultation Draft) (SACD) was then produced to accompany the SPD (Consultation Draft) in November 2006. Both documents were approved for public consultation by the Councils (by DDC's Planning Committee on 15 November 2006 and Strategy Group on 23 November 2006 and by SNC through delegated powers). Consultation took place on these documents for a period of 6 weeks until 12 January 2007. The consultation was in accordance with the Councils' Statements of Community Involvement. No responses were received to the SA (Consultation Draft). The final drafts of both documents returned to DDC's Strategy Group on 15 February 2007 with the Energy and Development document adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 at DDC's Full Council on 1 March 2007 and SNC on 27 March 2007, through delegated powers. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) was approved as an accompanying, but separate document.

2. The SPD Context

- 2.1 Both Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire Council consider the issues of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to be vital in contributing towards sustainable development and reducing our impact on the environment. Both Councils

have therefore prepared a joint SPD, which sets out information and guidance on how development can be more energy efficient and incorporate renewable energy.

2.2 This SPD aims to:

- provide practical guidance on how developments can be less energy intensive, reduce CO² emissions and reduce their impact on the environment
- provide practical advice on how energy saving measures can be incorporated into new developments
- provide practical advice on what renewable energy technologies are available, and how they can be incorporated into, and benefit new and existing developments

2.3 This SPD will form part of the Local Development Frameworks for both Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils. However, the SPD lies within a broader planning policy framework, which includes e.g Government guidance in PPS 22: Planning for Renewable Energy; the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands 8 (March 2005) and Draft East Midlands Regional Plan (Sept. 2006) and the Northamptonshire County Structure Plan (March 2001). It should be noted that the Daventry District Local Plan (Adopted June 1997) and the South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted October 1997) do not contain an energy policy. This SPD will therefore be attached to the saved policies of the Northamptonshire County Structure Plan namely GS5 and EN1, which are attached in Appendix B.

2.4 The table that appears later contains N/A i.e not applicable next to some objectives. This is because these particular issues are not the key focus of this SPD document and are not therefore considered relevant.

3. Introduction to Sustainability Appraisal

3.0 Local planning authorities must now comply with European Union Directive 2001/42/EC. This requires formal strategic environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. This applies to all local development documents. PPS 12: Local Development Frameworks (2004) also makes this a requirement.

3.1 Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local development documents to be prepared with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. A widely used definition of this was drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development (1987) as: “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

- 3.2 The Government has set out 5 principles in Securing the Future Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (DEFRA 2005) which are:
- Living within environmental limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Sustainable economy
 - Using sound science responsibly
 - Promoting good governance.
- 3.4 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic appraisal process aimed to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of planning strategies and policies to ensure that decisions are made in accord with sustainable development.
- 3.5 To assist in ensuring that SA meets the requirements of the SEA Directive, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has prepared “Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents” (November 2005).

4. Developing the SA Objectives and Appraisal Framework

- 4.0 The SA context and objectives must be set and a decision made on the scope of the appraisal process. The context has already been highlighted under Section 2. The identification of objectives forms the basis for the appraisal. It provides the starting point for ensuring that both the SA and sustainability issues are at the heart of and fully integrated into the SPD preparation. In order to facilitate legibility and ease of understanding and use, the sustainability objectives and criteria have been set out in the form of a matrix. An explanation of the methodology for formulating the Appraisal Framework is presented below.
- 4.1 The SEA topics, as identified in the SEA Directive, form the general basis for the contents of the matrix. These topics include: Biodiversity, Water & Soil, Population & Human Health, Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Social Inclusiveness and Economic Development.
- 4.2 The next step is to identify and develop the sustainability objectives that will underpin the SPD. The objectives for the SPD have been developed from work carried out by Jaquelin Fisher Associates Ltd, which has been revised by Environ UK Ltd, who have been working on a joint SEA/SA of the Core Strategy for Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council and South Northamptonshire Council. The full list of SEA/SA objectives are included in the matrix, however some will not be applicable to the SPD. Where this is the case N/A has been put into the matrix criteria section with a brief comment in italics. For information, SEA/SA is an iterative process, therefore the objectives may change in the future.

4.3 Following on from the identification of objectives, a range of associated criteria have been identified to provide further clarity in respect of future development directions as well as to assist in the appraisal process. The criteria provide a more specific elaboration of the individual objectives. They focus specifically on the items, which are of direct relevance to the SPD preparation. The results of the appraisal will be recorded using the compatibility key developed by Jaquelin Fisher Associate and revised by Environ UK Ltd.

	Strongly supports achievement of the objective
	Supports achievement of the objective
	No relationship
	Uncertain / Level of support unknown
	Conflicts with the achievement of the objective
	Strongly Conflicts with the achievement of the objective

Key to Colour Coding

✓	Compatible
-	Neutral
?	Uncertainty
X	Potential Conflict

Compatibility Key

- 4.4 It should be highlighted that the SA should not aim to repeat work already highlighted through other Local Development Framework plans. The aim of the SA will be to try and ensure that the SPD promotes development to be in a sustainable manner. Sustainability issues to be considered include social, environmental and economic aspects.

SA Framework – Objectives and Criteria

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA1	To protect and enhance designated wildlife sites and the qualifying habitats and species and increase biodiversity and variety of habitats within the area	Will the SPD protect and enhance priority habitats and species within the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan	✓	The SPD highlights the importance of trees in the CO ² process and refers to the requirement to protect and enhance trees.
		Is there potential for energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes to have negative impacts on these and if so can these be mitigated against?	✓	The SPD highlights that if this is the case, mitigation will be required.
		Will the SPD increase biodiversity/habitats - in particular provide a net gain in Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species?	✓	The SPD highlights the requirement to provide a net gain in NBAP.
SA2	Provide opportunities for people to increase awareness and appreciation of the ecological resource	Will people's awareness/appreciation of the ecological resource be increased via this SPD?	✓	The SPD in particular highlights the importance of trees.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA3	Maintain or enhance air quality across the area and supports a transport network which minimises detrimental impacts on air quality	Does the SPD maintain/enhance air quality in the area?	✓	The SPD aims to improve air quality through the promotion of renewable energy.
SA4	To minimise energy usage and to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources whilst limiting risk to people and properties from the effects of climate change	Does the SPD direct development to follow the energy hierarchy and contribute to reducing CO ² emissions and help control climate change?	✓	The SPD sets out the hierarchy of use and how it relates to broader emission and climate change issues.
		Does the SPD promote design for more extreme climatic events?	✓	The SPD promotes ways to reduce climate change and highlights ways to minimise the risk of buildings overheating
		Will the SPD reduce CO ² emissions by 60% by 2050	✓	The SPD contains specific targets, which aim towards achieving this.
SA5	To develop a more sustainable pattern of water supply, whilst managing existing resources and maintaining and improving the quality of ground and surface water	Will the SPD incorporate measures to ensure that water supply is more sustainable and existing resources are managed?	-	Whilst in the main, this is not felt strongly applicable to this document, it does promote the use of hydro.
		Are measures in place to maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface water?	-	Whilst in the main, this is not felt strongly applicable to this document, it does refer briefly to this in the planning section

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA6	Ensure that new development is not located within the areas of high (or unacceptable) flood risk	Does the SPD highlight that any new development should not be located in flood risk areas and should not increase high flood risk	✓	The SPD highlights this.
SA7	To ensure appropriate land use in relation to soil and geology functionality and improve efficiency in land use through optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings	Does the SPD ensure development is compatible with soil/geology?	✓	The SPD highlights this.
		Does the SPD promote use of previously developed land/buildings?	✓	The SPD highlights this
		Does the SPD promote the best use of land to achieve the energy hierarchy through promoting guidance on the location, density of development and energy efficient site layouts?"	✓	The SPD provides guidance on this.
SA8	To minimise waste, increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials and reduce the volume of waste disposed of to landfill	Does the SPD promote design and layout, which facilitates and promotes reduction, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste?	✓	The SPD highlights the potential of landfill gas as energy.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
		Does the development include specific measures to minimise energy and reduce the amount of waste produced in construction?	✓	The SPD makes reference to this.
SA9	To preserve, enhance and increase awareness of the historic and cultural environmental and archaeological assets	Does the SPD promote development, which enhances and respects the character and setting of historic, cultural and archaeological assets?	✓	The SPD refers to this.
SA10	To protect and enhance the diversity of natural and built environments of the area	Does the SPD help identify and reinforce the distinctive quality/local context and character of the existing landscape/townscape?	✓	The SPD refers to local context/character
SA11	To provide a strategic network of Green Infrastructure across the area	Does the SPD contain guidance on how green infrastructure can assist in adapting to climate change?	✓	The SPD highlights the importance of trees in climate change.

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA12	To promote and enhance human health & amenity through access to safe, clean, pleasant environments, facilities and education	Does the SPD include measures which will improve human health and amenity ?	✓	The SPD promotes better energy use and renewable energy, which will lead to improved air quality.
SA13	To improve community safety, reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime	Does the SPD contain guidance on designs, which reduce opportunities and the potential fear of crime?	✓	The issue of lighting is mentioned.
SA14	To provide adequate educational facilities and opportunities for everyone to acquire appropriate skills and knowledge to support the business base of the area and to play a full part in society.	N/A This is not applicable to this SPD	N/A	N/A

Objective Number	Objective	Criteria	Appraisal Score	Appraisal Comments
SA15	To promote and support the development and growth of social capital within the area and to make local facilities, services and amenities readily accessible for everyone including those most in need.	Are renewable energy and energy efficiency facilities, services and amenities readily accessible to everyone, including those most in need?	✓	The SPD highlights what is available and where to go for advice/grants.
SA16	To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	Does the SPD improve opportunities for enterprise and innovation?	✓	The SPD by promoting renewable energy offers this opportunity.
SA17	To create high quality employment opportunities	N/A This is not applicable to this SPD	N/A	N/A
SA18	To protect, promote and enhance the built environment, infrastructure, equipment, and other assets to provide the necessary infrastructure and facilities for residents and businesses within the area	Does the SPD provide for the necessary infrastructure and facilities?	✓	The SPD promotes this.
		Does the SPD promote and enhance the built environment through energy efficient and renewable energy designs?	✓	This is the purpose of the SPD.

5. **Prediction of the effects**

Assessing the sustainability effects

It is necessary to determine any significant effects of the SPD. This includes an assessment of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the geographical area.

The main social, environmental and economic issues identified are as follows:

Social

The SPD provides a positive social effect. The SPD will for example help to reverse fuel poverty by providing advice on ways to reduce fuel bills.

Economic

The SPD provides for potential new local employment opportunities through promoting renewable energy technology.

Environmental

The SPD will result in a higher quality environment, for example improved air quality.

The SPD will be monitored in the following way:

- The SPD will be monitored on an annual basis as part of the Annual Monitoring Report for both authorities' Local Development Frameworks;
- The process of the control of development through planning applications will assist with monitoring, along with the submission of Energy Efficiency Statements;

APPENDIX A Responses to Scoping Report

Please note that the Countryside Agency and English Nature have joined together and have submitted 1 response under their new name “Natural England”.

Organisation	Comments Received	Response to Comments
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Supportive of SPD.</p> <p>SA1 – suggest new wording instead of “qualifying habitats and species” use “and priority habitats and species within the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan”.</p> <p>SA4 – should be re-worded to follow hierarchy of reduce, use more efficiently, renewable, fossil fuel – support 2nd criteria suggest change for 1st criteria to “Does the SPD direct development to follow the energy hierarchy and contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and help control climate change”</p>	<p>Comment welcomed</p> <p>Support comment – Include in SA</p> <p>Support comment – Include in SA</p>

	<p>SA6 – re-word criteria question to “Does the SPD highlight that any new development should not be located in flood risk areas and should not increase high flood risk”.</p> <p>SA7 – additional criteria “Does the SPD promote the best use of land to achieve the energy hierarchy through promoting guidance on the location, density of development and energy efficient site layouts?”</p> <p>SA11 – criteria question could be “Does the SPD contain guidance on how green infrastructure can assist in adapting to climate change?”</p> <p>SA15 – support this and assume picks up on promotion of CHP etc.</p> <p>Suggest useful to have an objective that specifically addresses climate change. “To reduce CO2 emissions</p>	<p>Support comment – Include in SA</p> <p>Support comment – Include in SA</p> <p>Support comment – Include in SA</p> <p>Confirm this</p> <p>Support comment – Include in SA</p>
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	<p>by 60% by 2050".</p> <p>Note: footer text on part of the document incorrect title.</p>	Point noted and error corrected.
English Heritage	<p>No comments re- content. However, suggest seek advice from Conservation Officers re- SA9 re- impact on buildings or settings.</p>	Point noted. Conservation Officers consulted during preparation of SPD.
The Environment Agency	None received	None required

Northamptonshire County Structure Plan (March 2001) – Relevant Policies

Design

Policy GS5

In order to promote high quality design and sustainable development, all proposals will have regard to the following considerations:

- *The visual appearance of the development in the context of the defining characteristics of the local area;*
- *The need to encourage mixed-use development and the relationships of different land-use with each other;*
- *The need for measures for planning out crime; and*
- *The need for conservation of energy, resources and the natural environment, and for developments and designs which give priority to means of transport other than the private car.*

3.16 The design and form of development is equally as important as its scale and location. Good, well-thought out development can improve the quality of life by providing an attractive, efficient and safe environment in which to live. Acceptance of new development can also be greater in a particular locality if its design and form is of a higher quality. It is therefore important that there is a positive and consistent approach to ensuring good design throughout the County, by having a strategic framework of design principles for inclusion in more detailed policies in local plans.

3.17 Development will have to be set in the context of the defining characteristics of the local area, including the landscape, local buildings, interests of acknowledged importance, and local building traditions and materials. In certain areas, which are of particular importance or of distinctive quality, development should be required to be of the highest quality.

- 3.18 Development proposals should also have regard to their context by locating new uses with existing uses in a way that they complement each other. To create vibrancy and vitality and foster community interaction, development that incorporates a mixture of land uses will be encouraged, and will be essential in some instances. The relationship of buildings to points of access, both vehicular and pedestrian, and to parking will require specific consideration.
- 3.19 Promotion of community safety and of 'designing out crime' should be key elements of design. Local variations exist in the degree of risk so priority should be given to understanding the local context and achieving a balance between security and other issues.
- 3.20 Good design can reduce the need to use basic and often non-renewable resources, such as land, minerals, water and energy. Development should, through innovative and high quality design, address the need to conserve energy and other resources. This will include the use of recycled materials and the incorporation of alternative heating sources, such as solar energy and combined heat and power schemes. New development should incorporate sustainable drainage systems and other best practice techniques to minimise the risks of surface and ground water contamination and surface water run-off, to reduce water use and also to collect and re-use grey water.
- 3.21 In order to support design policies, local plans may make reference to supplementary design guidance including local design guides, village design statements and site-specific development briefs for major development. Specific guidance will be prepared to ensure that high quality designs are achieved in higher density developments. Conditions, obligations and other powers may also be used to ensure that high quality development takes place.
- 3.22 A design forum will also be established to advise on design policies and their implementation and to promote good practice. This forum will include the County Council, the Borough and District Councils and other partners with a role to play in securing good design.

Renewable Energy

Policy EN1

In view of the general environmental benefits associated with the harnessing of renewable energy sources, provision will be made for the development of renewable energy schemes, provided that it can be shown that such development would not harm interests of acknowledged importance. When assessing proposals for renewable energy schemes, and in recognition that certain renewable energy resources can only be harnessed where the resource occurs, particular regard will be had to the following issues:

- ***The immediate and wider impacts of the proposed development on the environment and local amenity;***
- ***The measures that will be taken, both in and after construction, to minimise the impact of the development on the environment and local amenity; and***
- ***The local and wider benefits that the proposal will bring.***

18.2 New and renewable energy sources can potentially make a significant and sustainable contribution to energy needs. Sites suitable for the development of renewable energy resources will often, however, be in the rural areas and will have an impact on the local environment.

18.3 This Policy encourages renewable energy schemes and sets out criteria against which proposals will be assessed. Local planning authorities will be expected to adopt a positive approach, having regard to the wider benefits of renewable energy schemes, when preparing local plans and deciding planning applications. Appropriate measures will be taken to minimise the impact of development on the environment and local amenity.