

**East Hampshire District
Local Plan: Housing and Employment
Allocations**

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
Incorporating
Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA):**

Adoption Statement

April 2016

East Hampshire District Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations

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

Contents:

This Statement	2
Introduction	2
How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations	3
How the Sustainability/Environmental Report has been taken into account	4
○ SA Scoping Report	
○ Draft Submission and Proposed Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations	
○ Minor Modifications to the Proposed Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations	
○ Examination	
○ Schedule of Main Modifications and Schedule of Minor Modifications	
How the results of consultation have been taken into account	5
Reasons for choosing the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations as adopted	5
Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations.	5

This Statement

1. This Sustainability/Environmental Statement for the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) of the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations has been prepared in accordance with the following requirements:
 - The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
 - The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012
 - Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004
 - Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012
2. It explains how sustainability considerations have been incorporated into the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations; how the SA has been taken into account; how the results of consultation have been taken into account; the reasons for choosing the adopted Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations, in the light of other alternatives considered; and how the significant sustainability effects of implementing the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations will be monitored.

Introduction

3. The East Hampshire District Council adopted the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations on 7 April 2016. The Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations is the second part in a suite of development plan documents and follows on from the adopted Joint Core Strategy. The Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations only covers the area of East Hampshire outside of the South Downs National Park (SDNP). This is because the Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority for the SDNP and is producing a separate Local Plan for the whole of the SDNP.
4. The Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations primary purpose is to identify specific sites to meet the individual housing and employment targets set out in policies CP3 and CP10 of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), and to set out guidance for the development of these sites.
5. To get to this stage of the Local Plan, a considerable amount of work and consultation has been carried out, including: a Draft Plan, Proposed Submission, Minor Modifications and Proposed Main and Further Minor Modifications of the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations. The Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on 9 July 2015 and was subject to Examination by an independent Inspector in October 2015. Further Proposed Modifications including main and minor were then published in November 2015 for further consultation.

6. The Planning Inspector's final report received on 15 February 2016 concluded that the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the District, providing a number of modifications are made to the Plan. These Main Modifications had all been subject to the iterative sustainability appraisal process.

How environmental & sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations

7. 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 guidance¹ for a staged approach that integrates appraisal to consider the effects of the emerging Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations 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.
8. The first stage of the SA was to scope the issues for sustainability within the East Hampshire area outside the SDNP. Relevant plans and programmes were reviewed; baseline information regarding the character of the area and its likely evolution were collated and analysed; sustainability problems; issues and opportunities were identified; and a framework of 21 sustainability objectives for the SA were produced within a SA Scoping Report. In May 2014, this Scoping Report was subject to consultation with the key bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England formerly English Heritage) and neighbouring authorities. This resulted in the SA framework being refined as a result of responses received; this also resulted in additional SA objectives. The framework established the basis against which the emerging Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations would be appraised for sustainability.
9. The Draft Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations was developed during 2014 and subject to SA. The Draft Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations allocated sites for housing and employment following a thorough assessment of reasonable alternative options in settlements identified in policies CP3

¹ The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 established a requirement for a process of Sustainability Appraisal to be carried out alongside plan-making. The centrality of SA to Local Plan making is emphasised in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2012). It is a requirement (established in the NPPF) that SA is undertaken in-line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which were prepared in order to transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

and CP10 of the JCS. The Interim SA Report was published at the same time as the Draft Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations and it set out how the SA had informed the plan-making, including SA of the reasonable alternatives options and reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with.

10. As a result of consultation, the Proposed Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations was developed and subject to SA. The findings and recommendations of the SA were incorporated into the Proposed Submission document². The Proposed Submission Local Plan and SA Report were subject to public consultation in April 2015.
11. Further refinements were made as a result of the consultation and the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations was Submitted to Government on 9 July 2015 along with the Proposed Minor Modifications. A SA of the Proposed Minor Modifications was also carried out.
12. The Examination of the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations took place in October 2015. Further refinements were made which resulted in a Schedule of Main Modifications and a Schedule of Minor Modifications which were both appraised through the SA Addendum (November 2015).
13. The Planning Inspector found the SA to be adequate and that the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the District, providing a number of modifications are made to the Plan. These Main Modifications had all been subject to the iterative sustainability appraisal process.

How the Sustainability/Environmental Report has been taken into account

14. **SA Scoping Report:** 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 the site allocations plan.
15. **Draft Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations:** 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 reasonable alternative options and allocations were subject to SA using the framework of 23 SA objectives. An Interim SA Report was published at the same time as the Draft Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations.

² Paragraphs 10.4.4 – 10.4.5 of the SA Report (April 2015) sets out the process for refining ‘the reasonable alternatives’ following the December 2014 consultation and on the basis of planning permissions granted subsequent to the December 2014 version.

16. **Proposed Submission Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations and Proposed Minor Modifications:** As SA had been incorporated into the plan-making process at an early stage, only minor changes were carried out at this stage of plan-making. Again, the findings of the SA and the way in which it had influenced the plan-making were set out in the SA Report and SA of minor modifications to the Proposed Submission Local Plan document.
17. **Schedule of Main Modifications and Schedule of Minor Modifications:** These were subject to SA through the SA Report Addendum (November 2015).

How the results of consultation have been taken into account

18. At each stage of the consultations from SA scoping through to the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations and its accompanying SA Reports, responses received and the Council's response has been provided on the EHDC website for public viewing. Throughout the SA process the key environmental bodies – Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England (formerly English Heritage) have been consulted and their views taken into account.

Reasons for choosing the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations as adopted

19. The SA examined and appraised housing and employment allocations and all reasonable alternative options. The potential positive sustainability effects of the proposed allocations, and the mitigation of potential negative effects, are dependent upon the implementation of the supporting policies as adopted. The plan-making and the SA processes established that the adopted Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations are the most sustainable for the Plan period.

Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations

20. The Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations will be subject to an ongoing programme of monitoring as part of the Councils' Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR). This will demonstrate the ongoing suitability of the allocations and enable any unforeseen effects arising from their 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 Local Plan: Housing and Employment Allocations and the Joint Core Strategy will be available for review on the Council's website.

For further information please refer to the Council's website:
<http://www.easthants.gov.uk/planning-policy/ehdc-local-plan-housing-and-employment-allocations-examination>