

Bracknell Forest Council

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

(Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)

of the

Draft Bracknell Forest Local Plan

Appendix 4 – Sustainability Appraisal of Vision and Objectives

January 2018

Bracknell Forest Council

www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk

This appendix sets out the SA of the BFLP Vision and Objectives. The SA Objectives were used as the basis of the appraisal. The following symbols show the compatibility with the SA Objectives:

- ✓ Compatible
- ? Uncertain
- ✗ Incompatible

BFLP Vision

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Vision	Response to proposed change
1	To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases	Original score: ✗ Score after amendments: ✓ Following the Issues and Options version, the BFLP Vision now includes seeking to prevent and mitigate environmental impacts, including the causes of climate change. It includes for well planned new development, including infrastructure improvements in the right locations. The addition of 'well located development' and 'sustainable transport systems' would improve the Vision; although these are supported by BFLP Objectives D and H respectively.	Changes accepted. 'well located new development' has been added. 'roads' has been replaced with 'sustainable transport systems'.
2	Adapt to climate change by preparing for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.	✓ The BFLP Vision includes mitigating environmental impacts of flooding and harmful effects of climate change.	N/A
3	To conserve and enhance the diversity of wildlife, habitats and geology	Original score: ✓/? Score after amendments: ✓ The BFLP Vision refers to designated areas such as the Thames Basin Heaths; and preventing and mitigating	Changes accepted. 'an attractive and sustainable environment' was added at the end of the first sentence. Wording revised to: 'Development will have

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		environmental impacts. It could be improved by making it clear that all biodiversity (rather than just designated areas) is considered; this is however supported by BFLP Objective B. The addition of 'an attractive and sustainable environment' at the end of the first sentence would improve the Vision.	sought to <u>protect and enhance the valued, national and local natural and historic assets</u> ; and to <u>prevent and mitigate environmental impacts including to biodiversity</u> , to heritage assets, pollution, flooding and other important resources.'
4	To protect and enhance the Borough's characteristic landscape and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Original score: ✓/? Score after amendments: ✓ Following the Issues and Options version, the BFLP Vision now includes respecting the distinctive and varied mix of forested and open landscapes; and locally and nationally important heritage assets and their settings. Whilst drafting the PO version, greater detail on the historic environment was initially added (more so than for other, equally important, aspects of the environment). Some of this could be dealt with in the Objectives and subsequent policy to maintain a balance between the different features and a consistent level of detail across all aspects in the Objectives. This is supported by BFLP Objective B.	Change accepted. Wording revised to: 'Development will have sought to <u>protect and enhance the valued, national and local natural and historic assets</u> ; and to <u>prevent and mitigate environmental impacts including to biodiversity</u> , to <u>heritage assets</u> , pollution, flooding and other important resources.'
5	To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	✓ The BFLP Vision includes for infrastructure improvements and support for preventing and mitigating environmental impacts. The addition of 'an attractive and sustainable environment' at the end of the first sentence would improve the Vision. The BFLP will be supported by the Minerals and Waste Plan which is currently being revised.	Change accepted. 'an attractive and sustainable environment' was added at the end of the first sentence.
6	Minimise air, water, soil / ground, noise and light pollution and improve the quality of air, water and contaminated land	Original score: ✓/? Score after amendments: ✓ The BFLP Vision includes preventing and mitigating environmental impacts including pollution. It could be	Changes accepted. Wording revised to: 'Development will have sought to protect and <u>enhance</u> the valued, national and local <u>natural</u> and historic <u>assets</u> ; and to <u>prevent and mitigate environmental</u>

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Vision	Response to proposed change
		improved by making reference to improving the quality of Bracknell's environment. The addition of 'an attractive and sustainable environment' at the end of the first sentence would help to cover this.	impacts including to biodiversity, to heritage assets, <u>pollution</u> , flooding and other important resources.' 'an attractive and sustainable environment' was added at the end of the first sentence. The addition of 'well located new development' also aids the reduction of pollution.
7	Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.	Original score: ? Score after amendments: ✓ These matters are not explicitly covered by the BFLP Vision which would be improved by the addition of 'an attractive and sustainable environment' within the opening sentence; and reference to 'resource use'.	Changes accepted. Wording revised to: 'Development will have sought to protect and enhance the valued, national and local natural and historic assets; and to <u>prevent and mitigate environmental impacts including to biodiversity, to heritage assets, pollution, flooding and other important resources.</u> ' 'an attractive and sustainable environment' was added at the end of the first sentence. The addition of 'well new located' development also aids the efficient use of resources.
8	To increase energy efficiency and support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy	✓ Following the Issues and Options version, the BFLP Vision now includes seeking to prevent and mitigate environmental impacts, including the causes of climate change.	N/A
9	Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for everyone and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.	✓ The BFLP Vision includes for business needs and a thriving economy.	N/A

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Vision	Response to proposed change
10	Develop opportunities for everyone to access a good education and to acquire the skills and knowledge to find work and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.	✓ The BFLP Vision includes the provision of infrastructure, including schools.	N/A
11	To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home	✓ The BFLP Vision now includes provision of housing needed, seeking to ensure choice and affordability across all tenures.	N/A
12	To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Original score: ✓/? Score after amendments: ✓ The BFLP Vision includes protecting and enhancing quality of life for all; preventing and mitigating environmental impacts including pollution; provision of infrastructure including health facilities and green spaces. The Vision could be improved by referring to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and the addition of 'an attractive and sustainable environment' at the end of the first sentence.	Changes accepted. Wording revised to: 'Development will have sought to <u>protect and enhance</u> the valued, national and local <u>natural</u> and historic <u>assets</u> ; and to <u>prevent and mitigate environmental impacts including to</u> biodiversity, to heritage assets, <u>pollution</u> , flooding and other important resources.' 'an attractive and sustainable environment' was added at the end of the first sentence.
13	To reduce poverty and social exclusion	✓ The BFLP Vision includes protecting and enhancing quality of life for all; housing choice and affordability; and meeting local needs. This is supported by the BFLP Objective F.	N/A
14	To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	✓ The BFLP Vision does not explicitly deal with crime; however it is supported in the BFLP Objective F.	N/A
15	To create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive	✓ The BFLP Vision includes distinct and diverse	N/A

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Vision	Response to proposed change
	communities	communities, meeting local needs and protection of community facilities. This is supported by the BFLP Objective F.	
16	To provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure.	✓ The BFLP Vision includes infrastructure improvements, including schools, health facilities, green spaces and other infrastructure. Local level planning is supported, as is the protection of existing community facilities.	N/A
17	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	Original score: ✘/? Score after amendments: ✓ The BFLP Vision includes would be improved by replacing 'roads' with 'sustainable transport system' and including 'well located development' to enable access to services and facilities, however this is supported by BFLP Objectives D and H.	Changes accepted. 'roads' has been replaced with 'sustainable transport systems'. 'well located new development' has been added.
18	To encourage sustainable development by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs.	✓ The BFLP Vision supports well planned new development and includes brownfield land. The addition of 'well located development' would improve the Vision; however this is supported by BFLP Objective D.	Changes accepted. 'well located new development' has been added.

Summary:

The BFLP Vision provides a high level vision for the future of the borough; it is supported by more detailed Objectives. Several edits were recommended to the Vision to ensure that all areas of sustainability are covered and to reflect the approach being taken; all these edits have been incorporated.

BFLP Objectives

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Objective	Response to proposed change
1	To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases	<p>✓ - per capita ✗ - borough wide</p> <p>The Objectives support addressing the causes of climate change by locating development well (now included in Objective D); and promoting a sustainable transport system (Objective H); these objectives support reducing emissions per person. However growth per se may bring about increased total emission for the borough; the BFLP Objectives support the mitigation of these impacts and are considered appropriate.</p> <p>The following amendments are suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective D – include ‘and reducing the need to travel’. • Objective G – include ‘and reducing carbon emissions’. Amendment is suggested to this objective as it feeds into the policy for sustainable construction. 	<p>Objective D – ‘reducing the need to travel’ was considered integral to the meaning of the existing text and as such was not incorporated. However, Objective H has now been amended to include ‘provides choices about the need to travel’. Overall, change incorporated.</p> <p>Objective G – change rejected - the NPPF currently restricts the ability of planning policies to influence carbon emissions through design; and the causes of climate change are included in Objective D.</p>
2	Adapt to climate change by preparing for extreme weather events, including avoiding and managing the risk of flooding, heat wave, drought and storm damage.	<p>✓</p> <p>The BFLP Objectives support adapting to climate change, including flooding (Objective D).</p> <p>The Issues and Options version did not specifically support green infrastructure (which aids climate adaptation); following discussion this has now been added to Objective I.</p>	Objective I – change accepted - green infrastructure now specifically supported.
3	To conserve and enhance the diversity of wildlife, habitats and geology	<p>✓</p> <p>BFLP Objective B supports the protection, enhancement and management of areas of nature conservation/ecological value as appropriate to their significance.</p> <p>The Issues and Options version did not specifically support green infrastructure (which aids ecological networks);</p>	Objective I – change accepted - green infrastructure now specifically supported.

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Objective	Response to proposed change
		following discussion this has now been added to Objective I.	
4	To protect and enhance the Borough's characteristic landscape and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	<p>✓</p> <p>BFLP Objective B supports, at high level, the protection, enhancement and management of valued countryside, open spaces and historic environment. The objective is considered appropriate, providing further details are contained within specific policies.</p> <p>The following amendments are suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective B – include 'landscapes' 	Objective B – change accepted - 'landscapes' added.
5	To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	<p>✓ - per capita</p> <p>✗ - borough wide</p> <p>Infrastructure needs are considered (Objective I); the underpinning policy detail identifies that this includes waste infrastructure, although this isn't specifically noted in the objective.</p> <p>The quality of development is considered (Objective G); the underpinning policy detail refers to BREEAM which includes waste criteria, although this isn't specifically noted in the objective. This may reduce waste per capita; however the overall growth may lead to an increase in total waste borough wide.</p> <p>A separate Waste and Minerals Plan is being produced.</p>	Change rejected. Preference for keeping Objective I, Infrastructure, generic to ensure that it covers all types of infrastructure.
6	Minimise air, water, soil / ground, noise and light pollution and improve the quality of air, water and contaminated land	<p>✓ - per capita</p> <p>✗ - borough wide</p> <p>BFLP Objective B commits to protect, enhance and manage the water environment. This is supported by an environmental protection policy covering noise, odours, light, air quality, land stability, land contamination and as such is considered</p>	Objective B amended – now includes 'water, air and soil environments'. Noise and light levels have not been specifically added as it was felt that these issues are covered within the broader sense of natural environment; and specific elements of the environment are provided under this by example only.

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Objective	Response to proposed change
		appropriate. The following amendments are suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective B – include ‘air quality, soil/ground quality, noise and light levels’ 	
7	Ensure appropriate, efficient, reliable and careful use and supply of energy, water, minerals, food and other natural resources.	✓ - per capita ✗ - borough wide BFLP Objective I ensures that infrastructure needs are assessed, planned for and delivered at the right time.	N/A
8	To increase energy efficiency and support the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy	✓ BFLP Objective D supports development needs being met sustainably, including addressing the effects of climate change. This is supported by a renewable energy policy.	N/A
9	Facilitate sustainable economic growth and regeneration that provides employment opportunities for everyone and supports a successful, competitive, and balanced local economy that meets the needs of the area.	✓ BFLP Objective C supports economic growth and resilience.	N/A
10	Develop opportunities for everyone to access a good education and to acquire the skills and knowledge to find work and support the sustainable growth of the local economy.	✓ BFLP Objective I relates to infrastructure, however specific reference is not made to education within the objective or supporting policy. Whilst schools are included in the BFLP Vision and schools are being considered within the IDP, education is not specifically included in the objectives. The following amendments are suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider listing the types of infrastructure within the 	Change rejected. Preference for keeping Objective I, Infrastructure, generic to ensure that it covers all types of infrastructure.

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Objective	Response to proposed change
		scope of BFLP Objective I	
11	To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a high quality, well designed and affordable home	✓ BFLP Objective D supports allocating land for development, including affordable housing.	N/A
12	To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	✓ BFLP Objective F supports improving health and wellbeing for all. Minimising pollution is identified directly (Objective D), with support for contaminated land in the underlying policy. Good design to aid health and well being is supported by the policy underlying Objective G.	N/A
13	To reduce poverty and social exclusion	✓ BFLP Objective F supports strong communities where quality of life for all will be protected and where possible enhanced, with access to facilities for all.	N/A
14	To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	✓ BFLP Objective F includes minimising crime and the fear of crime.	N/A
15	To create and sustain vibrant, locally distinctive and socially cohesive communities	✓ BFLP Objective F supports strong communities where the identities of existing settlements are maintained. BFLP Objective G supports maintaining and contributing to local character, distinctiveness and attractive environment.	N/A
16	To provide accessible essential services, facilities and infrastructure.	✓ The objectives support well located land for development (Objective D), a sustainable transport system to access services and facilities (Objective H), and infrastructure	N/A

	SA Objective	Appraisal of BFLP Objective	Response to proposed change
		(Objective I).	
17	To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	✓ The objectives support well located land for development to reduce the need to travel (Objective D); and a sustainable transport system to access services and facilities.	N/A
18	To encourage sustainable development by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs.	✓ The objectives support well located land for development (Objective D); and achieving high quality development (Objective G). Making the best use of previously developed land will be dealt with in the spatial strategy for the Borough and through the site allocation process.	N/A

Summary:

The BFLP Objectives provide, at a high level, the objectives for the BFLP. These have been found to be in general conformity with the SA Objectives, in some instances, it has been necessary to review the subsequent (more detailed) policies to confirm the scope of the Objectives. Several amendments were recommended to the Objectives to provide clarity and to ensure that all areas of sustainability were covered. Some of these have been incorporated into the Objectives; for others, it was not felt necessary or appropriate.