

Final Sustainability Appraisal Report - Streetscene SPD (incorporating SEA)

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Non-Technical Summary

The following non-technical summary has been produced to inform consultees and the general public about the process of Sustainability Appraisal in plain English, avoiding the use of technical terms. The production of a non-technical summary is also a requirement of the EU Directive known as the SEA Directive.

Introduction

Bracknell Forest Council is preparing a collection of planning documents which will guide development in the borough, known as the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will advise on how and where housing, shops, offices, industry, transport and leisure facilities are located over the next 20 years.

The Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is one of the documents making up the LDF. There are two types of document making up the LDF:

- **Development Plan Documents (DPDs)** which contain policies and proposals; and
- **Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)** which contain the detail needed to implement the policies.

The Streetscene document is an SPD which will assist in raising standards of design of all aspects of the public realm and streetscene across the borough and to guide designers and developers in creating attractive and safe places which the whole community can enjoy.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. However, the Planning Act 2008 has removed the requirement for carrying out SA of SPDs. Despite SA being no longer required for SPDs, Bracknell Forest Council has decided to prepare an SA for the Streetscene SPD. This ensures that social, economic and environmental effects are considered. The SA also incorporates the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Scoping

A scoping stage is required as part of the SA which involves setting the context for the appraisal by

- considering current baseline information on the environment, local communities and the local economy
- taking account of relevant plans and programmes
- identifying key sustainability issues and problems
- outlining the SA framework which will be used to carry out the appraisal.

The SA framework consists of 24 sustainability appraisal objectives which cover a number of topics. These objectives cover a range of social, environmental and economic issues, for example: protecting and enhancing human health, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, ensuring high and stable levels of employment and addressing the causes of climate change.

The scoping stage covering the whole of the LDF has been set out in an SA Scoping Report.⁽¹⁾ In order to provide more detailed scope specific to the Streetscene SPD, an additional Scoping Report⁽²⁾ was produced and consulted upon to supplement the information in the LDF Scoping Report.

The SA Scoping Report of the Streetscene SPD considered which of the SA objectives formulated for the LDF as a whole were applicable to the Streetscene SPD. Several SA objectives were scoped out as not being relevant. The list of SA objectives used is provided below:

Table 1 Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives (Relevant to the Streetscene SPD)

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives (Relevant to the Streetscene SPD)
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing
SA4: To reduce poverty and social exclusion
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys
SA16: To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources
SA17: To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery

1 Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Council Local Development Framework (January 2010).

2 Scoping Report, Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document' (February 2009)

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives (Relevant to the Streetscene SPD)

SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management

SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality

SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.

SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough

Refining Options and Predicting Effects

Two different options were considered for the approach to be taken for the issue of Streetscene. These were as follows:

1. To prepare an SPD;
2. To prepare no Streetscene SPD at all.

These options were considered and tested against the SA objectives, and the results are shown in the full version of this report. Option 1 was chosen as the most appropriate.

Evaluation of Effects

The Streetscene SPD has been subject to SA. The draft SPD has undergone SA, and suggestions have been made as to what alterations might improve the document. Following the SA of the draft SPD suggestions were taken into consideration when preparing the final SPD.

The effects of the recommendations made in the Streetscene SPD have been assessed against the SA objectives, and the results have been recorded in tables showing the likelihood and spatial scale of the effects, whether they will be felt in the short, medium and/or long term, and the permanence of the effects. The tables are presented in the following manner:

Table 2 Approach for Assessment Table

SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	++	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Likelihood of Effect:</p> <p>Spatial Scale:</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent:</p> <p>Short, medium, long term:</p>

SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	+	Comments: Likelihood of effect: Spatial scale: Temporary/Permanent: Short, medium, long term:
Etc.		

The assessment of effects column is scored using the following scoring system:

Table 3 Scoring Mechanism

Scoring	Explanation
++	Very positive effect on the SA objective
+	Minor positive effect on the SA objective
0	Neutral
-	Minor negative effect on the SA objective
--	Very negative effect on the SA objective
I	Outcome dependant upon implementation
?	Impact cannot be predicted

A brief summary of the assessment of results of the final Streetscene SPD is provided below. The full results and scores are available in the main body of the SA Report.

Table 4 Summary Results Table

SA Objective	Streetscene SPD - Assessment of Effect
SA2	+/-
SA3	++
SA4	+
SA6	+
SA7	+

SA Objective	Streetscene SPD - Assessment of Effect
SA8	+/-
SA9	+
SA10	+/-
SA11	+/-
SA12	+/-
SA13	+/-
SA14	+/-
SA15	+/-
SA16	+
SA17	+/-
SA18	+/-
SA19	?
SA20	+
SA22	+

As can be seen from the table above, only a few minor negative scores have been awarded, many of which tend to depend on implementation, all of which have been considered to be justifiable, and no mitigation is thought to be required. One recommendation made at the draft SA stage was that the SPD considers the use of permeable surfaces in order to help reduce flood risk. The final SPD now reflects this advice given as it is now considered to suitably address the issue of Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs). In general, it is considered that preparing a Streetscene SPD is positive in terms of sustainable development.

Mitigation

Taking on board the comments at the Draft SA/SPD stage no mitigation is thought to be necessary.

Consultation

So far the SA has been consulted upon at the Scoping Stage and at the Draft SA stage. Details of comments made at the Scoping and Draft SA stages and the changes made as a result of these are provided in the draft SA Report for the Streetscene SPD.

Monitoring

The success and effectiveness of the Streetscene SPD will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data according to identified indicators as set out in the BFC Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Local Development Framework (January 2010).

Future Stages

The table below lists the various outputs of the SA and shows what stages have been completed and when.

Table 5 Stages of the SA

SA Output	Stage	Date
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Completed	February 2009
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed	May 2010
Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed - this report	March 2011
Monitoring of the Character Areas SPD	To be carried out	Ongoing from completion of document

As can be seen from the table above, this report is the final SA report of the Streetscene SPD. It is a *final* SA Report because the SPD itself is final. Monitoring of the SPD will take place as part of the monitoring of the whole LDF.

1 Introduction

Background

1.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Bracknell Forest Council's Draft Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been carried out by the Design, Environment and Transport team at Bracknell Forest Council.

1.2 The Streetscene SPD will form part of the Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework (LDF) which comprises a number of documents that together guide the future development of the Borough. There are two types of document:

- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which contain policies and proposals; and
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which contain the detail needed to implement the policies.

1.3 The Streetscene document is an SPD which will assist in raising standards of design of all aspects of the public realm and streetscene across the Borough and guide designers and developers in creating attractive and safe places which the whole community can enjoy.

Sustainable Development

1.4 Sustainable development first moved into mainstream policy making and legislation after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, having emerged as a key issue in 1987, highlighted by Brundtland. Following the Rio Earth Summit, the UK government produced 'A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK',⁽³⁾ which described the main themes of sustainable development. These were highlighted as being:

- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment; and
- The prudent use of natural resources.

1.5 Subsequently, in March 2005 a new UK framework for sustainable development 'Securing the Future'⁽⁴⁾ was launched which took account of new policies since 1999, and highlighted the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. Five principles of sustainable development are identified in 'Securing the Future':

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

1.6 A Council officer and member working group drafted a local definition of sustainable development which has been adopted by Bracknell Forest Council:

3 Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1999) A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom

4 HM Government (2005) Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy

"Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore sustainability is acting to create harmony between a developed economy and the environment."

1.7 For ease of use the themes of sustainability are typically categorised under the 3 general headings of social, economic and environmental. However, in reality many of the issues overlap and do not fall distinctly into one of these categories. The Streetscene SPD should be based on the principles of sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

1.8 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required in the EU by an EU Directive (2001/42/EC)⁽⁵⁾ on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This Directive is often referred to as the "SEA Directive". SPDs are considered to have the potential for causing significant environmental effects and are therefore required to be screened for SEA to ensure that significant negative environmental effects are minimised and the positive environmental effects are maximised.

1.9 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.⁽⁶⁾ However, the recent Planning Act 2008⁽⁷⁾ has removed the requirement for carrying out SA of SPDs. Despite SA being no longer required for SPDs, Bracknell Forest Council has decided to prepare an SA incorporating SEA for the Streetscene SPD. This ensures that social and economic factors are considered as well as environmental.

1.10 As there are many cross-overs between SA and SEA, government guidance has recommended that the two processes be undertaken simultaneously. This approach has been taken for the Streetscene SPD, therefore where SA is referred to this also incorporates the requirements of SEA.

Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document

1.11 The Streetscene SPD will define what the Council considers to be well designed, durable and attractive streets and provide an interpretation of policy CS7 of the Core Strategy DPD.⁽⁸⁾

1.12 The intention to prepare the Streetscene SPD is highlighted in the Bracknell Forest Local Development Scheme⁽⁹⁾ which sets out the timetable for preparing documents that will form part of the Local Development Framework.

Core Strategy Objectives

1.13 The Bracknell Forest Core Strategy identifies 12 Spatial Objectives to guide development in the Borough up until 2026. These are as follows:

5 EU (2001) The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

6 HM Government (2004) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

7 HM Government (2008) Planning Act 2008

8 Bracknell Forest Borough Council (2008) Core Strategy Development Plan Document

9 Bracknell Forest Council (2008) Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Scheme

A	To plan for a balance of housing and employment growth
B	To aid delivery of housing in the Borough, which meets the needs of all sectors of the community, including the provision of affordable housing
C	To deliver the regeneration of Bracknell town centre
D	To promote a sequential approach to the location of new development
E	To promote a transport system which enables access to services, by a choice of transport modes
F	To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough
G	To support and facilitate essential community facilities and infrastructure in accessible locations
H	To deliver accessible development meeting the needs of the Borough
I	To maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to avoid or mitigate the effects of new development upon the natural and historic environment
J	To maintain high and stable levels of economic growth
K	To promote the sustainable use and disposal of resources
L	To mitigate against and adapt to climate change

1.14 The content of the Streetscene SPD will contribute to meeting some or all of these Spatial Objectives guiding development in the Borough up until 2026.

Stages of the SA Process

1.15 Government guidance on SA⁽¹⁰⁾ identifies the various stages of SA and how these relate to the different stages of preparing an SPD such as the Streetscene SPD. The stages are shown below, taken from Figure 9 of the ODPM Guidance on SA.

10 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks

Table 6 Incorporating SA within the SPD Process

SPD Stage 1: Pre-production - Evidence Gathering
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives • A2: Collecting baseline information • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • A4: Developing the SA framework • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
SPD Stage 2: Production - Prepare draft SPD
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework • B2: Developing the SPD options • B3: Predicting the effects of the SPD • B4: Evaluating the effects of the SPD • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Preparing the SA Report
<p>Stage D: Consulting on the draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public participation on the SA Report and the draft SPD • D2: Assessing significant changes
SPD Stage 3: Adoption
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3: Making decisions and providing information
<p>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring • E2: Responding to adverse effects

1.16 This report is the final Sustainability Appraisal Report. The previous stages of the SA have already been completed⁽¹¹⁾ and ⁽¹²⁾ This report will document and describe the SA process which has been undertaken to appraise the Streetscene SPD.

- 11 Bracknell Forest Council Scoping Report Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document, February 2009
- 12 Bracknell Forest Council Draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document, May 2010

2 Stage A - Scoping

Introduction

2.1 This section of the report sets out how the scoping stage of the SA was carried out, with reference to the tasks listed in Stage A in Table 6 in the previous section. It is important to note that the scoping stage for this SA has been able to draw on the Scoping Report for the SA of the overall LDF,⁽¹³⁾ and the SA of the Core Strategy⁽¹⁴⁾. This has avoided the repetition of much of the contents of these reports and is an accepted approach to SA. A separate Scoping Report for the Streetscene SPD⁽¹⁵⁾ has also been prepared, but this only includes information specific to this SPD. The LDF SA Scoping Report, the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, and the Streetscene SPD SA Scoping Report are available on Bracknell Forest Council's website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

Task A1: Identify relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

2.2 This task requires a review of policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Streetscene SPD to establish the sustainability objectives which need to be considered.

2.3 A comprehensive review of relevant policies, plans and programmes for the Bracknell Forest LDF was undertaken as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report⁽¹⁶⁾ and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report.⁽¹⁷⁾ In preparing the SA Scoping Report for the Streetscene SPD, consideration was given to whether there were additional plans or programmes which should be considered specific to the Streetscene SPD.

2.4 The following documents were identified as relevant for consideration for the Streetscene SPD and the associated SA:

Table 7 Additional Relevant Plans and Programmes

Plan/Programme	Summary
<p>Manual for Streets⁽¹⁸⁾</p> <p>N.B. Please note that this has now been updated since the Scoping stage to:-</p> <p>Manual for Streets 2⁽¹⁹⁾</p>	<p>Provides advice on the design of residential streets in England and Wales. Indicates that increased consideration should be given to the 'place' function of streets. The importance of safety is stressed, but it is highlighted that this should not be at the expense of other considerations.</p>

- 13 Bracknell Forest Council Sustainability Appraisal(incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework, January 2010
- 14 Bracknell Forest Council (2005) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Borough Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents, February 2005
- 15 Bracknell Forest Council Scoping Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Streetscene Supplementary Planning Document, February 2009
- 16 Bracknell Forest Council Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework, January 2010
- 17 Bracknell Forest Council (2005) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents, February 2005
- 18 Department for Transport and CLG (2007) Manual for Streets
- 19 The Chartered Institute of Highways & Transportation(2010) Manual for Streets 2

Plan/Programme	Summary
	The principles for residential streets set out in Manual for Streets (2007) have been retained in Manual for Streets 2 (2010). The document looks to expand on already established residential principles and apply them to other highways. As a result of the residential principles being retained no significant changes to the original scoping are required.
Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places⁽²⁰⁾	Provides guidance on good urban design, including identifying principles of urban design and explaining how these can be applied to create successful places.
Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3⁽²¹⁾	Emphasises the need for better design of residential areas. Highlights that quality of life can be improved if residential areas are well-planned, well-designed, and well-managed. Encourages better linkages between planning and design and for local authorities and developers to think more imaginatively about design and layout.
By Design - Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice⁽²²⁾	Highlights the importance of good design and how it is important <i>everywhere</i> . States that good design arises from a thorough and caring understanding of place and context and as no two places are the same so there can be no blueprint for good design.
Places, Streets and Movement: A Companion Guide to Design Bulletin 32 - Residential Roads and Footpaths⁽²³⁾	Advises that streets should be less dominated by cars and roads, so that there is a balance between highway requirements and other requirements. Density, building form and enclosure are highlighted as the key ingredients in creating a sense of local identity.

Task A2: Collecting baseline information

2.5 This task requires the collection of baseline information about the plan area and anywhere outside the plan area which may be relevant. A large amount of baseline data is presented in the LDF SA Scoping Report and the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, both of which cover the whole of the borough. The information in these two documents is considered to be sufficient for the Streetscene SPD, therefore no additional baseline data has been collected specific to this SPD. The LDF and Core Strategy SA Scoping Reports should be read in conjunction with this document.

20 English Partnerships, Housing Corporation, Roger Evans Associates Ltd (2007) Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places

21 DTLR, CABE (2001) Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3

22 CABE, DETR (2000) By Design - Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice

23 ODPM (1998) Places Streets and Movement: A Companion Guide to Design Bulletin 32 - Residential Roads and Footpaths

Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

2.6 This task requires the identification of key sustainability issues and problems relevant to the plan in question, based on the review of plans and programmes and the baseline information collected as part of the previous tasks.

2.7 The LDF SA Scoping Report identified a number of significant sustainability issues within Bracknell Forest. The Streetscene SPD SA Scoping Report did not identify any additional issues to be considered. Sustainability issues and problems highlighted in the LDF SA Scoping Report have therefore been selected for consideration for this SA as appropriate. The sustainability issues considered of most relevance to the Streetscene SPD are listed below:

- Access to essential services;
- Protecting the landscape character of the Borough;
- Reducing congestion and journey times.

Task A4: Developing the SA Framework

2.8 The SA framework is made up of a number of SA objectives which are then used to test the plan. A set of 24 SA objectives were identified as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report to consider relevant local issues covering a range of social, environmental and economic impacts. The justification for their selection and a testing for internal compatibility are detailed in the LDF SA Scoping Report.

2.9 As the Streetscene SPD relates to a specific topic, it is possible that not all the SA objectives will be relevant for consideration. Table 3 below, lists the SA objectives, and indicates which are considered relevant to the Streetscene SPD. The SPD will only be tested against the SA objectives which are considered relevant.

Table 8 Relevance of SA Objectives to the Streetscene SPD

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the Streetscene SPD?
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	No
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	Yes
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Yes
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Yes
5. To raise educational achievement levels	No
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	Yes
7. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	Yes

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the Streetscene SPD?
8. To provide accessible essential services and facilities	Yes
9. To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	Yes
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	Yes
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible	Yes
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	Yes
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	Yes
14. To protect and enhance, where possible, the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Yes
15. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	Yes
16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	Yes
17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	Yes
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	Yes
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	Yes
20. To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	Yes
21. To ensure high and stable levels of employment	No
22. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	Yes
23. To encourage 'smart' economic growth	No
24. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find work	No

2.10 When carrying out an SA, the SA objectives are used to assess the plan. The appraisal is informed by the information from previous stages, notably the review of plans and programmes, and the baseline data but is also based on the professional judgement of members of the Design, Environment and Transport team at Bracknell Forest Council.

2.11 As many of the LDF SA objectives are relevant to this SPD, the SA Framework detailed in the LDF Scoping Report is directly applicable. Therefore the SA Framework table has not been reproduced in this document.

Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

2.12 The LDF SA Scoping Report was consulted upon early in 2010, the Core Strategy Scoping Report was consulted upon in February 2005 and the Streetscene SPD SA Scoping Report was consulted upon in February 2009. The statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage) were consulted, for a minimum of five weeks. Members of the public were also given an opportunity to comment. A summary of consultation responses relating to the Streetscene SPD SA Scoping Report is provided in Appendix 1 of this document.

3 Stage B - Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

Introduction

3.1 This section sets out how stage B tasks (see table 6) of the SA have been carried out.

Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework

3.2 The aim of the Streetscene SPD is to

- help achieve Core Strategy objective F: To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough;
- help achieve Core Strategy Objective I which aims to maintain and improve the built and natural environment and to avoid or mitigate the effects of new development on the built and natural environment;
- to provide guidance for the implementation of Core Strategy policy CS7.

3.3 There are no separate objectives for the Streetscene SPD.

3.4 The compatibility of Core Strategy objectives F and I with the SA objectives has already been assessed in the SA of the Core Strategy. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 9 Compatibility of Objective F and I with SA Objectives

SA Objective	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective F	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective I
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Y	
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people and property and the environment		Y
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Y	
SA4: To reduce poverty and social exclusion	Y	
SA5: To raise educational achievement levels		
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	Y	
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	Y	

SA Objective	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective F	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective I
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	Y	
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	Y	Y
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	Y	
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible		
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts		
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity		Y
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas		Y
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys		
SA16: To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	Y	
SA17: To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery		
SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses including groundwater and to achieve sustainable resource management		Y
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality		

SA Objective	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective F	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective I
SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough		N
SA21: To ensure high and stable levels of employment		
SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough		
SA23: To encourage 'smart' economic growth		
SA24: To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills to find work		

Table 10 Key

Y	Compatible
N	Potentially incompatible - depends on implementation

3.5 The key to the symbols used in the table is shown above. Where the table is left blank, these objectives are not applicable, not directly related to each other, or neutral. As can be seen from the table, Core Strategy objectives F and I are considered to be mostly compatible with the SA objectives.

Task B2: Developing the SPD Options

3.6 Two different options were considered for the approach to be taken for the issue of Streetscene. These were as follows:

1. To prepare an SPD;
2. To prepare no Streetscene SPD at all.

3.7 In order to help decide which option was most appropriate, the two options were assessed against the SA objectives.

3.8 The methodology used to assess the options for the Streetscene SPD is based on the approach suggested in Figure 29 of the ODPM guidance on SA⁽²⁴⁾. The results of the options assessment are shown in the table below. This is a summary table only, the full assessment tables for each option can be found in Appendix 2, including commentary on the scoring. The scoring mechanism is shown below.

24 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

Table 11 Scoring Mechanism

Scoring	Explanation
++	Very positive effect on the SA objective
+	Minor positive effect on the SA objective
0	Neutral
-	Minor negative effect on the SA objective
--	Very negative effect on the SA objective
I	Outcome dependent upon implementation
?	Impact cannot be predicted

Table 12 Options Appraisal Summary Table

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people and property and the environment	+/-	0
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	++	0
SA4: To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	+	0
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	+	0
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	+	0
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	+/-	0
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	+	0
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	+/-	0
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	+/-	0
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	+/-	0
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	+/-	0
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	+	0

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	+/-	0
SA16: To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	+	0
SA17: To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery.	+/-	0
SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management	+/-	0
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality	?	0
SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.	+	0
SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	+	0

3.9 As can be seen from the table above, there are no predicted effects of having no Streetscene SPD. This is because planning policies, such as the Core Strategy policies, will be in place whether or not an SPD is prepared. This does not mean however that it is not necessary to prepare a Streetscene SPD. The appraisal of this option 1 shows some positive effects which would not be gained if no SPD were prepared. Option 1 has therefore been chosen - to prepare a Streetscene SPD. The SPD will provide guidance for development management officers when they are determining planning applications, so the document will inform their decisions.

Task B3-B5: Predicting and Evaluating the effects of the SPD and considering Mitigation

3.10 The purpose of these tasks is to predict and assess the effects of the final Streetscene SPD. The methodology used to carry out the SA of the final Streetscene SPD is based on the approach suggested in Figure 34 of the ODPM guidance on SA⁽²⁵⁾. The chosen approach for the table is shown in the following table. The scoring mechanism is the same as that used for the options appraisal.

Table 13 Approach for Assessment Table

SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent,	++	Comments: Likelihood of effect:

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SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
sustainably constructed and affordable home.		Spatial scale: Temporary/Permanent Short, medium, long term:
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	+	Comments: Likelihood of effect: Spatial scale: Temporary/Permanent Short, medium, long term:
Etc.		

3.11 The assessment involves predicting and evaluating the effects of the SPD against the SA objectives. In describing the effects, consideration is given to the likelihood of these effects, the spatial scale, permanence of effects, and whether the effects will be experienced in the short, medium and/or long term. Consideration is also given to the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, including cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects. Baseline information is used to inform the decisions regarding scoring but professional judgement is also used, therefore there is some subjectivity in the assessment. Reasoning behind the scoring is given in the commentary section. Also, where mitigation is considered necessary to minimise adverse effects or maximise beneficial effects, this is suggested in the commentary column.

Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD

3.12 As part of the SA, a monitoring programme is required to be put forward to monitor the effects of the SPD on the SA objectives over time once the SPD is in place. Monitoring is already in place for the Core Strategy of the LDF, and includes the topics relevant to the Streetscene SPD, therefore no additional monitoring is proposed specific to this SPD.

4 Results of the Appraisal

Introduction

4.1 In this section the results of the final SA of the final Streetscene SPD are provided. As SPDs do not contain policies, these cannot be assessed, therefore the summary lists of the issues in the SPD have been assessed. This section contains a summary table of these assessments and a discussion of the significant issues raised. Full appraisal tables are provided in Appendix 2.

Appraisal Results

Table 14 Summary Results Table

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA2	+/-	<p>The SPD is likely to cause both positive and negative effects on flood risk. In new areas of development, new streets (where there was once greenspace) are likely to increase run off and increase flood risk. Requiring early investigation into highways drainage at the preliminary stage of any development scheme however, should ensure that the collection and disposal of surface water from roads are adequately provided for.</p> <p>[A recommendation of the Draft SA was for the SPD to make reference to permeable surfaces and in particular SUDs. This was taken into consideration and now the final SPD is considered to make suitable reference to SUDs. However there is no change to the original draft scoring (+/-) as further work will need to be carried out once Government advice on SUDs has been published]</p>
SA3	++	The SPD is likely to benefit health and wellbeing, particularly where streets are visually pleasant, help to reduce traffic speed, include public art, are adequately lit and include good footpaths and cycleways.
SA4	+	The SPD is likely to reduce social exclusion by reducing street clutter and ensuring that streets are fully accessible to all members of society including disabled people, older people and children.
SA6	+	The SPD is likely to help to reduce crime and the fear of crime by ensuring that buildings front onto streets, thereby creating activity and natural surveillance, traffic calming and avoiding large garage areas.

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA7	+	The SPD has a positive effect on this objective as it recognises that no one solution fits all locations. It is likely to create locally distinctive communities by ensuring that the streetscene informs character of an area and seek public art where possible.
SA8	+/-	The SPD could have both positive and negative effects on accessibility. Traffic calming measures could make access by car to some areas more difficult. This is however likely to be (more than?) offset by the resulting areas being much more accessible to walkers and cyclists.
SA9	+	The SPD could help to make leisure and recreation readily accessible by the sympathetic design of cycleways and footpaths.
SA10	+/-	The SPD is likely to have a positive effect on urban renaissance by improving design and layout of streets. There is less likely to be a significant effect on using land more efficiently.
SA11	+/-	Traffic calming is likely to reduce the speed of traffic and therefore emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂). Some traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, however could encourage stop-start journeys which could lead to an increase in NO ₂ emissions.
SA12	+/-	<p>The SPD is unlikely to have very significant effects on climate change. Any increase in NO₂ emissions from traffic as described above could have a negative effect on climate change. Planting schemes could have a positive effect on carbon emissions. The use of permeable surfaces, where appropriate, could better prepare Bracknell Forest for any increased risk of flooding as a result of climate change.</p> <p>[A recommendation of the Draft SA was for the SPD to make reference to permeable surfaces and in particular SUDs. This was taken into consideration and now the final SPD is considered to make suitable reference to SUDs. However there is no change to the original draft scoring (+/-) as further work will need to be carried out once Government advice on SUDs has been published]</p>
SA13	+/-	Any significant effect that the SPD has on biodiversity is difficult to establish since it depends on what the biodiversity value of an area was before it is developed / redeveloped. Removal of existing vegetation could have a negative effect on biodiversity.

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
		Sympathetic planting schemes could however improve the biodiversity value of a particular area especially if native species are used.
SA14	+	By ensuring that landscaping informs character, the SPD could have a small positive effect on protecting and enhancing the historic environment in urban and rural areas.
SA15	+/-	Providing walkways and cycleways could increase travel choice and accessibility and reduce the need to travel by car. Traffic calming could however have an effect on increasing the duration of car journeys.
SA16	+	The use of locally sourced materials could have a positive effect on the sustainable use of resources.
SA17	+/-	The SPD is likely to make recycling easier and therefore have a positive effect on recycling. Building new streets and making streets more attractive could however have a negative effect on waste arisings.
SA18	+/-	The SPD could have a negative effect on water quality during construction. It is likely however to have a positive effect when services are taken into account early in the planning stage.
SA19	?	It is not clear what effects there may be on soil quality resulting from the SPD. If green areas are retained there may be positive effects. Additional development in certain areas could have negative effects.
SA20	+	The SPD should bring about a small positive effect in an increase in energy efficiency as energy efficient lighting is considered.
SA22	+	Attractive streets should help sustain the economic competitiveness of the borough.

4.2 To summarise:

- The SPD is likely to have very positive effects on health and wellbeing.
- Positive effects are also likely on reducing social exclusion, community safety, maintaining or creating distinctive communities, walking and cycling, local character, use of local resources, energy efficiency and economic competitiveness.
- There are both positive and negative effects recorded for most of the other SA objectives, although this could depend on implementation.
- The previous recommendation to make reference to permeable surfaces and in particular SUDs has been taken into consideration and can now be found in section 11 of the final SPD (Highway Drainage). However there is no change to the original draft scoring (+/-)

as further work will need to be carried out once Government advice on SUDs has been published.

5 Conclusions and Future Tasks

Conclusions

5.1 Having carried out a thorough appraisal of all the summaries in the Streetscene SPD, it has been concluded that no changes are necessary. The final SPD has taken on-board previous comments at the Draft SA stage where it was considered necessary to result in a more positive score - to further reduce flood risk. At the time this was to recommend the use of permeable surfaces where possible. This recommendation has now been satisfactorily incorporated into the final Streetscene SPD.

5.2 Only a few minor negative scores have been awarded, all of which have been considered to be justifiable, and no mitigation is thought to be required. It is considered that preparing a Streetscene SPD is generally positive in terms of sustainable development.

5.3 No secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects have been identified. Some scores are uncertain or will depend on how the recommendations are implemented. However all aspects of sustainable development have been considered when finalising the Streetscene SPD.

Future Tasks

5.4 The table below lists the various outputs of the SA and shows what stages have been completed and when.

Table 15 Stages of the SA

SA Output	Stage	Date
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Completed	March 2009
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed	May 2010
Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed- This report	March 2011
Monitoring of the Streetscene SPD	To be carried out	Ongoing from completion of document

5.5 As can be seen from the table above, this report is the Final SA report of the Streetscene SPD. It is a *final* SA Report because the SPD itself is final. Monitoring of the SPD will take place as part of the monitoring of the whole LDF.

Quality Assurance

5.6 A quality assurance checklist is provided in Appendix 3 of this document. It is designed to signpost the requirements of the SEA Directive through references to specific parts of the SA Report, or other documents.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Summary of Consultation Stages Including SA Scoping and Draft SA Stages

Table 16 Summary of Consultation Responses to Streetscene SPD SA Scoping Report

Organisation	Summary of Comments	Action Taken
Environment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add the following to the list of PPPSIs; Planning Policy Statement 25, Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan and the Thames River Basin Management Plans (RBMP). • The baseline data is sufficient. • Updated data is probably available for water quality and flood risk indicators. • Any element of sustainable drainage that can be captured by the Streetscene SPD should be incorporated to achieve SA Objective 2. 	<p>No actions necessary. Since receiving these comments, the Bracknell Forest LDF Scoping Report has been updated and was published in January 2010. The suggested PPPSIs and the water quality and flood risk data have already been updated within this report and applies to the Streetscene SPD as well as all other LDF plans produced by BFC. As stated in section 7 of the Streetscene SPD Scoping Report, only those PPPSIs which are specifically relevant to the production of the Streetscene SPD are included here.</p>
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add Planning Policy Statement (PPS)12 to the List of PPPSIs. • Satisfied with the baseline data. • Satisfied that the lost of sustainability issues and problems identified is relevant. • No comments on the SA Framework. 	<p>No actions necessary. Since receiving these comments, the Bracknell Forest LDF Scoping Report has been updated and was published in January 2010. PPS12 has already been added to this report and applies to the Streetscene SPD as well as all other LDF plans produced by BFC. As stated in section 7 of the Streetscene SPD Scoping Report, only those PPPSIs which are specifically relevant to the production of the Streetscene SPD are included here.</p>
English Heritage	No response	No actions necessary

Table 17 Summary of Consultation Responses to Streetscene SPD Draft SA

Organisation	Summary of Comments	Action Taken
Environment Agency	Sustainability Appraisal- SA2 and SA4 (page 3) are listed as the same objective.	This has been noted and amended as such.
	Sustainability Appraisal- Tables 4, 14, 17 and 24. Applying reference to SUDs could provide a more positive outcome	The final SPD now incorporates a section on SUDs under section 11- Highway Drainage. Although this is considered to have a positive effect upon SA objectives SA2 (Flood Risk) and SA12 (Climate Change) the scores are to remain the same as national SUDS guidance is still to be published by DEFRA. Therefore further work in this area will need to take place and the final SPD acknowledges this.
	Sustainability Appraisal Table 17 SA2 Likelihood is uncertain- The risk of flooding is likely to increase without reference to permeable surfaces. Therefore the likelihood of the effects should be changed to 'likely'.	This is correct and the appraisal will be amended as such. This change does not result in any significant implications.
	Sustainability Appraisal Table 17 SA2 Spatial Scale- The spatial scale should be referred to as Borough Wide rather than Local.	This is correct and the appraisal will be amended as such. This change does not result in any significant implications.
	Sustainability Appraisal Table 17 SA2 Temporary/Permanent- The effects would be permanent and not temporary.	This is correct and the appraisal will be amended as such. This change does not result in any significant implications.
	Sustainability Appraisal- The document concludes that the effects be it negative and/or positive, will depend on how the implementation of development occurs. Shouldn't any mitigation requirements be raised at the beginning.	This point is noted. However only a few minor negative scores have been awarded, all of which have been considered to be justifiable. Due to the inclusion of SUDs in section 11 (Highways Drainage) of the SPD, there is now no mitigation required.
Natural England	No response	
English Heritage	No response	

Appendix 2 Appraisal Tables

Appraisal of the Streetscene SPD (Option 1)

Table 18 Sustainability Appraisal - Streetscene SPD

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
<p>SA2 - To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment</p>	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to cause both positive and negative effects on flood risk. In new areas of development, new streets (where there was once greenspace) are likely to increase run off and increase flood risk. Requiring early investigation into highways drainage at the preliminary stage of any development scheme however, should ensure that the collection and disposal of surface water from roads are adequately provided for. The use of permeable surfaces, where appropriate, could also reduce the risk of flooding.</p> <p>[A recommendation of the Draft SA was for the SPD to make reference to permeable surfaces and in particular SUDs. This was taken into consideration and now the final SPD is considered to make suitable reference to SUDs. However there is no change to the original draft scoring (+/-) as further work will need to be carried out once Government advice on SUDs has been published]</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough Wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Short term</p>
<p>SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing</p>	++	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to benefit health and wellbeing, particularly where streets are visually pleasant, help to reduce traffic speed, include public art, are adequately lit and include good footpaths and cycleways.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA4: To reduce poverty and Social Exclusion	+	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to reduce social exclusion by reducing street clutter and ensuring that streets are fully accessible to all members of society including disabled people, older people and children.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	+	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to help to reduce crime and the fear of crime by ensuring that buildings front onto streets, thereby creating activity and natural surveillance, traffic calming and avoiding large garage areas.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	+	<p>Comments: The SPD has a positive effect on this objective as it recognises that no one solution fits all locations. It is likely to create locally distinctive communities by ensuring that the streetscene informs character of an area and seek public art where possible.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD could have both positive and negative effects on accessibility. Traffic calming measures could make access by car to some areas more difficult. This is however likely to be (more than?) offset by the resulting areas being much more accessible to walkers and cyclists.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p>

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
		Short, medium, long term: Long term
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	+	<p>Comments: The SPD could help to make leisure and recreation readily accessible by the sympathetic design of cycleways and footpaths.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to have a positive effect on urban renaissance by improving design and layout of streets. There is less likely to be a significant effect on using land more efficiently.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Permanent Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	+/-	<p>Comments: Traffic calming is likely to reduce the speed of traffic and therefore emissions of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Some traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps, however could encourage stop-start journeys which could lead to an increase in NO₂ emissions.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Local Temporary/Permanent: Temporary Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term</p>
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD is unlikely to have very significant effects on climate change. Any increase in NO₂ emissions from traffic as described above could have a negative effect on climate change. Planting schemes could have a positive effect on carbon emissions. The use of permeable surfaces, where appropriate, could better prepare Bracknell Forest for any increased risk of flooding as a result of climate change.</p>

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
		<p>[A recommendation of the Draft SA was for the SPD to make reference to permeable surfaces and in particular SUDs. This was taken into consideration and now the final SPD is considered to make suitable reference to SUDs. However there is no change to the original draft scoring (+/-) as further work will need to be carried out once Government advice on SUDs has been published]</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Uncertain Temporary/Permanent; Uncertain Short, medium, long term: Uncertain</p>
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	+/-	<p>Comments: Any significant effect that the SPD has on biodiversity is difficult to establish since it depends on what the biodiversity value of an area was before it is developed / redeveloped. Removal of existing vegetation could have a negative effect on biodiversity. Sympathetic planting schemes could however improve the biodiversity value of a particular area especially if native species are used.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Borough wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Medium / long term</p>
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	+	<p>Comments: By ensuring that landscaping informs character, the SPD could have a small positive effect on protecting and enhancing the historic environment in urban and rural areas.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Local areas Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	+/-	<p>Comments: Providing walkways and cycleways could increase travel choice and accessibility and reduce the need to travel by car. Traffic calming could however have an effect on increasing the duration of car journeys.</p>

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
		<p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Uncertain Short, medium, long term: Uncertain</p>
<p>SA16:To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources</p>	+	<p>Comments: The use of locally sourced materials could have a positive effect on the sustainable use of resources.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough-wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term</p>
<p>SA17:To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery</p>	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD is likely to make recycling easier and therefore have a positive effect on recycling. Building new streets and making streets more attractive could however have a negative effect on waste arisings.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough wide Temporary/Permanent: Temporary and permanent Short, medium, long term: Short and long term</p>
<p>SA18:To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management</p>	+/-	<p>Comments: The SPD could have a negative effect on water quality during construction. It is likely however to have a positive effect when services are taken into account early in the planning stage.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Local Temporary/Permanent: Temporary Short, medium, long term: Short term and long term</p>
<p>SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality.</p>	?	<p>Comments: It is not clear what effects there may be on soil quality resulting from the SPD. If green areas are retained there may be positive effects. Additional development in certain areas could have negative effects.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Local</p>

Streetscene SPD		
Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
		Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term
SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.	+	Comments: The SPD should bring about a small positive effect in an increase in energy efficiency as energy efficient lighting is considered. Likelihood of effect: Likely Spatial scale: Borough wide Temporary/Permanent; Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term
SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	+	Comments: Attractive streets should help sustain the economic competitiveness of the borough. Likelihood of effect: Uncertain Spatial scale: Borough wide Temporary/Permanent: Permanent Short, medium, long term: Long term

Appraisal of Option 2: to prepare no Streetscene SPD

Table 19 Options Appraisal - Option 2: to prepare no Streetscene SPD at all

SA Objective	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments / Explanation
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people and property and the environment	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA4: To reduce poverty and social exclusion.	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	0	0	0	No effects predicted

SA Objective	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments / Explanation
SA16: To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA17: To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough.	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	0	0	0	No effects predicted

Appendix 3 Quality Assurance Check list

The following checklist is taken from Figure 14 of the ODPM SA Guidance⁽²⁶⁾. It is designed to signpost the requirements of the SEA Directive through references to specific parts of the SA Report, or other documents.

Table 20 Quality Assurance Check list

Quality Assurance Checklist	Completed / Location
Objectives and context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Completed - Section 1 Introduction
Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives are considered in developing objectives and targets.	Completed – Section 2
SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	Completed – Section 2
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Completed – Section 2 also LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Conflicts that exist between SA objectives, between SA and plan objectives, and between SA and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Completed – Section 3
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.	Completed – Section 2 and Appendix 1
The appraisal focuses on significant issues.	Completed
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Completed – Section 4
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration	Completed – Section 4
Options/Alternatives	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Completed – Section 3

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Quality Assurance Checklist	Completed / Location
Alternatives include 'do nothing' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Completed - Section 3
The sustainability effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Completed – Section 3
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Completed – Section 3
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives	Completed – Section 3
Baseline information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	Completed – Section 2 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.	Completed – Section 2 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Completed – Section 2 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Prediction and evaluation of likely significant effects	
Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects are identified, including those listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant.	Completed – Section 4 and Appendix 2
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable, the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Completed – Section 4 and Appendix 2
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable.	Completed – Section 4, 5 and Appendix 2
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Completed – Section 4 and 5
Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	Completed – Section 4
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	Completed – Section 3

Quality Assurance Checklist	Completed / Location
Mitigation measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	Not applicable
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	Not applicable
The Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	Completed
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	Completed
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Completed
Explains the methodology used.	Completed – Section 3
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Completed – Section 2 and Appendix 1
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Completed – Section 3 and Section 4
Contains a non-technical summary.	Completed
Consultation	
The SA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Completed – Section 3 and Appendix 1
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	Completed
Decision-making and information on the decision	
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	Completed- Appendix 1
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	Completed- Appendix 1
Reasons are given for choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	Completed
Monitoring measures	

Quality Assurance Checklist	Completed / Location
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SA.	Completed – Section 4.5 of the LDF SA Scoping Report
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SA.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect).	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD

Appendix 4 Glossary

Baseline Information – Information or data gathered at a point in time which is used to describe the present conditions and the state of an area and monitor future changes against. Gathered to describe the conditions that exist before an action is taken.

Biodiversity – Variability among living organisms from all sources, including land-based and aquatic ecosystems, and the ecosystems of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species, and or ecosystems.

Core Strategy – Sets out the Council's long-term vision and strategy to be applied in promoting and controlling development throughout its area.

Cumulative Impacts – These arise where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect.

Development Plan Document (DPD) – A document which is subject to external examination and therefore carries full statutory weight for determining planning applications. DPDs are a series of documents which set out the Borough's policies relating to the development and use of land in its administrative area.

Indicator – A measure of variables over time often used to measure achievement of objectives.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – The overall folder of documents (Local Development Documents) setting out the planning strategy and policies for the area. This is as a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) which introduced significant changes to the plan-making process at all levels.

Local Development Document (LDD) – Any document making up the LDF.

Mitigation - An approach which is aimed at avoiding, preventing, reducing or compensating for significant adverse impacts.

Objective – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change.

Previously Developed Land – Land which has previously been developed, excluding mineral workings, agriculture and forestry buildings or other temporary uses.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Internationally-used term to describe high-level environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes required by the EU SEA Directive.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Guidance which provides additional information to explain further policies and proposals within the Local Development Framework to assist in the preparation of planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – The assessment of the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective. Required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, but which fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainable Development – Most common definition is from the Brundtland Commission (1987) – “Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Appendix 5 References

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Nepali

यस प्रचारको सक्षेपं वा सार निचोड चाहिं दिइने छ ठूलो अक्षरमा, ब्रेल वा क्यासेट सून्नको लागी । अरु भाषाको नक्कल पनि हासिल गर्न सकिने छ । कृपया सम्पर्क गनुहोला ०१३४४ ३५२००० ।

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