



Draft Supplementary Planning Document

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report is a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of Leicester City Council's Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 'Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy'. A separate Screening and Scoping Report, including baseline information, was also produced as part of the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Document. These are available separately on the Council's website.

2.0 CONTEXT

2.1 The term sustainable development has been widely used since its inception by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 and refers to "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Following the Summit the UK government defined the themes of sustainable development in the strategy 'A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK'. These include:

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

2.2 Sustainability Appraisal is now considered to be an integral part of producing planning documents. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 12 ensure the concept of sustainable development is integrated into all land-use plans. It requires such plans to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). Its purpose is to promote sustainable development by integrating sustainability considerations into plans. SA assesses and reports the likely significant effects of the plan and the opportunities for improving the social, environmental and economic conditions by implementing the plan.

2.3 At the same time as a Sustainability Appraisal the plan documents are also required to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) pursuant to European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes.

2.4 Whilst the SA examines all sustainability related effects the SEA is focused primarily on its environmental effects. SEA involves carefully assessing plans and programmes for the potential environmental impacts they may have. It also takes into consideration sustainability issues in the strategic decision-making.

2.5 The SA and SEA are distinct, however there is a large amount of overlap between the European requirement and the SA allowing these to be

combined into one process for assessment. This document will be in accordance with government guidance and in addition ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met.

3.0 THE SPD OBJECTIVES

- 1) to provide practical guidance in line with plan policies on how developments can become less energy intensive, meet government CO2 emissions targets, and reduce their impact on the environment
- 2) Provide practical advice on how energy saving measures can be incorporated into new developments
- 3) Provide practical advice on what renewable energy technologies are available, and how they can be incorporated into, and benefit new and existing developments
- 4) To provide practical guidance on the benefits of CHP schemes and how they can be incorporated into new and existing developments.

4.0 PREPARING THE REPORT

4.1 The Energy Efficiency Supplementary Planning Document will form part of the Leicester Local Development Framework (LDF). This Sustainability Report has been prepared in accordance with government guidance on how to carry out sustainable appraisal as an integral part of the process of preparing Local Development Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents . The report follows the stages within the guidance of the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, Consultation Paper 2004. (See table 1)

Table 1: SEA / SA guidance taken from the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks, Consultation Paper 2004, ODPM 2004

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
A1 Identifying other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives.
A2 Develop relevant baseline information and characterise the area.
A3 Identifying key sustainability issues.
A4 Developing the SA Framework including objectives, indicators and targets.
A5 Testing the plan objectives against the SA Framework.
A6 Consulting on the scope of the SA.
<i>Output: Scoping Report</i>
STAGE B: Developing and refining options (Reg25)
B1 Appraising issues and options
B2 Consulting on the SA of emerging Options

<i>Output: Sustainability Report</i>
STAGE C: Appraising the effects of the plan (SPD) (Reg26 & Submission)
<p>C1 Predicting the effects of the plan, including plan options</p> <p>C2 Assessing the effects of the plan</p> <p>C3 Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects</p> <p>C4 Developing proposals for monitoring</p> <p>C5 Preparing the SA Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Output: Sustainability Report</i></p>
STAGE D: Consulting on the plan and SA Report
<p>D1 Consulting on the SA Report alongside the plan</p> <p>D2 Appraising significant changes</p> <p>D3 Decision making and providing information</p> <p>Consultation on the Sustainability Report</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Output: Sustainability Statement</i></p>
STAGE E: Monitoring implementation of the plan
<p>E1 Monitoring the significant effects of the plan and publishing reports</p> <p>E2 Responding to adverse effects</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Output: section in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</i></p>

5.0 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

- 5.1 Finally, as part of the “scoping report”, SA objectives incorporating the SEA Directive issues were devised. These are essentially a test of the emerging SDP’s sustainability and environmental soundness.

Table 2: SA / SEA Objectives

Social Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that the existing and future housing stock meets the housing needs of all communities 2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing health services 3. To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the City’s heritage and participate in cultural and recreational activities 4. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime 5. To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across communities 6. To promote a sense of community identity that celebrates Leicester’s cultural mix
Environment Objectives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To protect, enhance and manage the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the City

8. To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the City by increasing the environmental infrastructure
9. To manage prudently the natural resources of the City including water, air quality, soil and minerals
10. To minimise energy usage and to develop renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources
11. To involve people, through changes to lifestyle and at work, in preventing and minimising adverse local, regional and global environmental impacts.

Economic Objectives

12. To create high quality employment opportunities and to develop a culture of ongoing engagement and excellence in learning and skills
13. To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation, creating a climate within which entrepreneurs and world-class business can flourish.
14. To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.

Spatial Objectives

15. To ensure that the location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps to improve access, whilst reducing the need to travel.
16. To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings
17. To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials
18. To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking, and reducing traffic growth and congestion
19. To limit impacts associated with expected climate change, including flooding and drought.

6.0 Appraisal Methodology

- 6.1 The Appraisal was undertaken by officers of Leicester City Council. There has been extensive input to the Supplementary Planning Document from the 'Leicester Better Buildings Project Officer' on the specific issues relating to sustainable energy design .
- 6.2 The SPD supplements policies EN 63 on 'Energy' of the adopted City of Leicester Local Plan, UD08a 'Energy Efficiency', BE18 'Renewable Energy', and BE18a 'Combined Heat and Power and Community Heating'. These policies have all been appraised as part of the sustainability appraisals of the Local Plan and the Replacement Local Plan. The appraisal process therefore, has been undertaken as an iterative and continuous process commencing from the Local Plan policy development stages upto this report on the SPD.
- 6.3 These policy appraisals were then developed further into detailed guidance as part of updating the existing Supplementary Planning Guidance document on 'Energy Efficiency'. The SA objectives set out as part of the scoping report were assessed to see how the new SPD document could meet these objectives. The findings are shown in Table 3.

The Scoping Report includes the baseline information. This will need to be updated and monitored .

7.0 Appraisal of Local Plan Policies

- 7.1 Policies EN63 of the adopted Local Plan, UD08a, BE18 and BE18a of the Replacement City of Leicester Local Plan were appraised as part of a matrix of factors relating to the Quality of Life and Local Environment, Natural Resources, and Global Sustainability. The outcomes are set out in the appraisal documents which supplement the Local Plan.
- 7.2 The policies scored positively in terms of sustainable outcomes and were strengthened by revisions especially with regard to assessments and in terms of renewable energy, the need for special consideration in Conservation Areas and on listed buildings.

8.0 Responses to the Four Consultation Bodies.

- 8.1 The comments of the four statutory environmental bodies – Environment Agency, The Countryside Agency, English Nature and English Heritage who were consulted on the Scoping Report and the Screening Statement as part of the preparation of the SPD have been incorporated onto this report.

English Heritage

- English Heritage sought additional data for inclusion in the baseline, the potential impact on the historic environment regarding the location and siting of infrastructure and the need for mitigation measures.

The Urban Design Group, incorporating the Conservation team was consulted during the preparation of this document, including the ‘Better Buildings Project Officer’ who has been extensively on the sustainability and energy design issues.

The Conservation Team has been contacted to provide a list of designated buildings sites and areas, which will be included with the Baseline Data. The database will be developed further to include relevant data.

The SPD already notes that areas with special historic designation will be given extra protection; this is in line with guidance in PPS22 and in the Urban Design chapter of the Replacement Local Plan. Further to this the Replacement Plan Policy BE18 states:

Planning permission will be granted for the development of renewable energy installations where they do not have an unacceptable effect on the local environment that would outweigh their wider community and/or environmental benefits.

Further to this paragraph 3.05 (renumbered since initial consultation) states:

- 3.05 In accordance with guidance in PPS22, renewable energy developments within conservation areas and areas with special historic designation should only be granted planning permission where it can be demonstrated the objectives of the area will not be compromised; or the development will provide environmental, social and economic benefits that clearly outweigh this.

English Nature

- English Nature stated that that wildlife and bio diversity interests should be protected and enhanced during design and development stages

The Leicestershire Environmental Resources Centre will be able to supplement additional relevant data that is appropriate for this SPD.

Small Scale Hydro Power, which would be constructed on the Soar, the Soar is designated a Site Important for Nature Conservation and Green wedges have Development Plan policies which offer them extra protection from development, which includes biodiversity considerations

Reference is made within the SPD on the need for development to meet all relevant Development Plan Criteria, when being considered.

Environment Agency

- Data sources were provided to help complete baseline data, however no critical comments were received.

The Countryside Agency:

Although not made explicit, the SPD broadly concurs with the policies set out in the Regional Energy strategy, however specific reference to this will be included in the revision of the SPD. As part of the screening, the CA noted that the SPD is not likely to result in significant effects on landscape and access.

No comments were made on the Screening Statement by the other three bodies.

9. Policy, Environmental, Social and Economic context

Stage A of the SA/SEA process considered the policy and 'sustainability' context in which the SPD is being prepared. The main findings of the Stage A "scoping report" were as follows.

Six key implications underpinning the SPD were identified on the themes of:

- Housing, Resources and Waste,
- Transport and Access,
- Regeneration and Employment,
- Pollution and Contamination,
- Health
- Climate Change and Energy Use

Housing:

Implication

1. The SPD should promote reuse of previously developed land and encouraging sustainable building design and help meet the 60% target for new homes to be built on previously developed land by 2016.

Resources and Waste:

Implication

2. The SPD should help and encourage efficient use of resources, ensuring provision of facilities within new developments to reduce waste production, increase reuse, recycling and recovery of energy from waste

Transport/Access:

Implications

3. The SPD should aim to reduce the environmental impacts of transport, particularly impacts on air quality and safety through encouraging a modal switch away from road based transport.
4. The SPD will assist with future transport needs of the community and ensure that developments are in sustainable locations

Regeneration/ employment:

Implications

5. SPD should assist with proposals for redevelopment of land that favours a sustainable approach to job creation and the local economy

Pollution/ Contamination:

Implications

6. The SPD should assist with the aim to protect and improve the quality of natural resources air, freshwater resources, soil resources by reducing loss of resources and the spread of pollutants and providing remediation where necessary.
7. The SPD considers the various environmental effects of the demand on utilities and related resources of new development

Health:

Implication

8. The SPD should help to promote health

Climate Change and Energy Use:

Implication

9. The SPD should help to achieve long-term cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and conserving energy.

The overall impacts of the SPD when assessed against each SA objective are documented in table 3 below.

Table 3. Overall impacts of the SPD

SA/SEA objective	Comments and overall assessment
1. To ensure that the existing and future housing stock meets the housing needs of all communities in the area	++ The SPD would help promote and reuse previously developed land, encourage sustainable building design and help achieve housing density targets
2. To improve health and reduce health inequalities by promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting health and providing health services	++ The SPD would help to improve health through better building design and incorporating factors such as ventilation and sunlight.
3. To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the area's heritage and participate in cultural and recreational activities	+ The SPD seeks to ensure that design issues are fully incorporated in any proposal.
4. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	
5. To promote the development of social capital across communities	
6. To promote a sense of community identity that celebrates Leicesters cultural mix	
7. To protect, enhance and manage the area's rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets	+ The protection of assets are part of the development plan framework, of which this SPD forms a part. Any proposal which potentially have an effect on these assets is subject to the relevant policies in the Local Plan
8. To enhance and conserve the environmental quality of the City by increasing the environmental infrastructure	Nature Conservation and Green wedges have Development Plan policies which offer them extra protection from development, which includes biodiversity considerations
9. To prudently manage natural resources, including water, air quality, soil and minerals	+ By promoting energy efficiency and reducing demand the SPD would help to reduce air pollution. . Small Scale Hydro Power, which would be constructed on the Soar, the Soar is designated a Site Important for Nature Conservation and Green wedges have Development Plan policies which offer them extra protection from development, which includes biodiversity considerations
10.To minimise energy usage and to develop renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable resources	++ This is the purpose of the SPD, and the guidance contained within will help achieve these key sustainability aims.
11.To involve people through changes in lifestyle and at work, in minimising adverse local regional and global impacts.	++ Through the implementation of the detailed design factors and the guidance on renewable technologies the SPD will greatly assist in educating people and making lifestyle changes.
12.To create high quality employment opportunities and to develop a culture of ongoing engagement in learning and skills	- The SPD may be perceived as adding to business costs

13.To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation and excellence within which business can flourish	
14.To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies.	+ The SPD will assist in seeking to ensure that new technologies are implemented with regard to energy efficiency.
15.To ensure that the location of development makes efficient use of existing infrastructure and helps to improve access whilst reducing the need to travel	++ The SPD emphasises the integration of transport systems and urban layout, access and movement and sustainable locations.
16.To promote and ensure high standards of sustainable design and construction, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings	++ The SPD notes the need for sustainable locations and sets out the detailed design guidance on energy efficiency .
17.To minimise waste and to increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials	++ Energy from waste,bio gas, bio mass and ground source heat is highlighted in the SPD
18.To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, cycling and walking; reducing the need to travel; and making efficient use of existing physical infrastructure	++ This is an integral part of the overall aim of the SPD
19.To limit impacts associated with expected climate change, including flooding and drought.	++ The implementation of the SPD in development projects will help achieve the aims of the climate change strategy, and national and global objectives..

++	likely to have a very positive impact
+	likely to have a positive impact
0, +/-	likely to have a neutral impact, or positive impacts would balance out negative impacts
	unlikely to have an impact
-	likely to have a negative impact
--	likely to have a very negative impact
	could have a positive or a negative impact depending on how it is implemented
*	Nothing specific to this character area – refer to generic policies

The new SPD updates and revises existing supplementary planning guidance and therefore inevitably the option for not revising or not having a SPD would mean that the City Council would not be able to offer detailed planning guidance on energy efficiency and renewable energy in this key area of sustainability.

The appraisal shows that the SPD cumulatively meets sustainability and environmental objectives. There are in addition to the strategic sustainability aims and land use planning objectives, opportunities to educate people and implement new technologies, including overcoming perceived short term financial costs in incorporating design and technological features.