

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight
Summary of Comments on the Topic 1 Sustainable Development**

To be heard by Planning Inspector Mr Mike Fox BA MA MRTPI as part of the Exploratory meeting on the 11th December 2014 for the Examination of Basingstoke and Deane Local plan.

The Wildlife Trust currently believe that the plan is unsound as it fails to protect the Loddon valley from the adverse effects of development on the East of Basingstoke. We also believe that it is unsound as it fails to protect the Water environment. We do not believe that the information in the Sustainability appraisal is sufficiently robust to ensure that the Local plan will not have an impact upon the Loddon valley or the water environment.

We question why the Biodiversity assessments undertaken for the East of Basingstoke (ED ENV01) which scores biodiversity as high with further assessments needed is then scored as neutral in the housing assessment (ED HO5).

This has led to the Sustainability appraisal also stating “it is anticipated that impacts on biodiversity could be satisfactorily mitigated” (ED SA04). We believe that this is not the case. We question why they need to be mitigated and not avoided in the first place and question why this assessment has been made without any additional information which the biodiversity assessment stated was needed.

We also question why this site has been chosen above other sites where other sites with less biodiversity impacts have not been.

The Wildlife Trust has also raised concerns over the water environment specifically in relation to water quality. The Sustainability Appraisal (ED SA02) identifies that there are already high levels of Phosphates in the River Loddon. It also recognises that there are water quality issues in parts of the borough which will be monitored and used to inform the phasing of new development to ensure there is no deterioration in the water quality band status of the borough’s water bodies. Whilst it is pleasing to see that the development policies do contain a provision that adequate infrastructure is provided for sewerage (on and off site) and will be monitored, we question this. We believe that the monitoring will not be sufficient as it does not ensure that water quality with the band status will not deteriorate. We also question whether the sewage treatment works can cope with the additional capacity. We note the councils repose to this (PS/02/07). This does not change our concerns over this

To finalise we point out that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states there are three dimensions to sustainable development, economic social and environmental. These roles should not be taken in isolation because they are mutually dependent. (NPPF 6-10). The Wildlife Trust believes that the Basingstoke Local Plan is one more economically led and will not protect the Loddon valley from the adverse impacts from development or protect the water courses with regards to water quality.

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Dated 8/12/2014