



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Draft Scoping Report

Non Technical
Summary



Local Development Framework

Core strategy

September 2007

Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Draft Scoping Report – Non-technical summary

The scoping report is the first stage of the emerging Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. The LDF is the set of planning documents that collectively provide a long-term planning vision for the Borough and contain policies that will be used to guide and control development that will help achieve that vision. The Core Strategy is the overarching document of the LDF, and this will set out the spatial vision and objectives for Basingstoke and Deane to the year 2026.

The aim of the scoping report is to establish and assess the sustainability implications of the LDF Core Strategy. The final SA will show how the policy options considered have been evaluated for their economic, environmental and social impacts. The SA incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (SEA) which require a formal strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The scoping report provides an early opportunity for interested parties to comment, and ensure that the final SA report is robust enough to achieve its sustainable development objectives when appraising the Core Strategy.

As part of the scoping report, a context review of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives has been carried out. This helps to clarify the role of the Core Strategy and the policy context within which it will work. This stage of the SA has also included the collation of baseline information which will provide the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the LDF, and enables current sustainability issues to be identified.

The scoping report identifies the main sustainability issues that are affecting the Borough. These have been separated into environmental, economic and social matters; although there is inevitably overlap. For example certain issues, such as climate change, have environmental, economic and social implications.

A summary of the Sustainability Issues for Basingstoke and Deane Borough

General Sustainability Issue	Specific issues
Environment	
Climate Change	<p>The impact of climate change on the Borough in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water resources • Flooding • Agriculture • Greenhouse gases/emissions • Renewable Energy • Biodiversity • Landscape character • Human health • Fabric of historic buildings
Landscape and Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change impacts • Conservation and enhancement of the Borough's landscape character • Conservation and enhancement of the Borough's biodiversity, including habitat loss, fragmentation and decline
Water Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Water supply • Flooding • Sustainable water resource management
Historic Environment and cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites and monuments, buildings of historic and architectural interest, and historic parks and gardens • Sustaining the local distinctiveness of the Borough's historic environment
Resource Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of fewer resources and less production of waste • Re-use of previously developed land • Maximising the use of sustainable design and construction technologies and the re-use of construction waste • Household recycling





General Sustainability Issue	Specific issues
Economy	
Sustainable prosperity and economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing economic growth and prosperity • Shortages of graduates and highly skilled staff • Ensuring a supply of employment land to meet needs • Transport and accessibility • Image of the Borough • Tourism • Vitality and viability of the Borough's retail centres
Access and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on private transport with increased CO2 emissions due to increased traffic • Congestion • The accessibility of services • Provision, capacity and integration of public transport
Sustaining vibrant communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring local services and community facilities • Affordable housing and mix of housing • Encouraging 'urban renaissance' • Improving access to services and facilities, particularly in rural areas
Social	
Deprivation and social inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood renewal of deprived areas • Regeneration
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population • Inmigration/Outmigration
Housing – amount, spatial distribution and delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability impact of provision of new housing/ constraints on new development • Delivery of housing
Housing for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability • Ensuring a balanced mix of housing • Inclusion of specific groups • Reducing homelessness
Education and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment at secondary school • Higher level skills shortages
Open space and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of green infrastructure to meet local communities • Improving access to open space and the countryside • Improving the quality of the Borough's open spaces • Meeting recreational and cultural needs to help create a healthy Borough

Sustainability Objectives

A range of SA objectives have been drafted, primarily taking into account the context review, baseline data and key sustainability issues identified for the Borough. These can be used to indicate the outcomes the LDF should be seeking to achieve, and to check whether the Core Strategy objectives, policies and proposals are the most sustainable.

Issue	Objective
Housing	(1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent home
Deprivation and social exclusion	(2) To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods
Climate Change	(3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change
Biodiversity and Landscape	(4) To protect and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna
	(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests
Water Environment	(6) To maintain and improve the quality of water sources in the Borough
	(7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy
Access and Transport	(8) To improve accessibility to all services and facilities
	(9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options
Skills/education	(10) To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough and personal development
Sustainable, Prosperous Economy	(11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy
	(12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment
	(13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth
	(14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	(15) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the local built environment
Resource Efficiency	(16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies
Sustaining vibrant communities	(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities
Open Space and Recreation	(18) To promote and improve access to open space and the countryside, and encourage healthy lifestyles
Safety and security	(19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behaviour
Health and well-being	(20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities

The draft SA objectives have been tested against the Community Strategy themes and outcomes, and this has shown general compatibility and consistency between the two.

The Borough Council is consulting on this scoping report for a period of 6 weeks (between 21 September and 2 November). The Council will be consulting the three environmental bodies – Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, plus other key stakeholders. We also welcome your views on the document.

The full SA Scoping Report can be viewed on the council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf or copies are available from the Council's Forward Planning Team who can be contacted on 01256 845532 / 845464. Consultation response forms are available from the same source.

The next stage of the SA process involves predicting and evaluating the effects of the policies of the LDF.

