



Basingstoke  
and Deane



# **Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan 2011-2029**

**Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic  
Environmental Assessment Report: Adoption  
Statement**

**May 2016**

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## 1. This Statement

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/ Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) involves a series of procedural steps which are designed to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations<sup>1</sup>. The final step in the process involves preparing a 'statement' at the time a Neighbourhood Plan is made. The SA (inc. SEA) Adoption Statement addresses the requirement to prepare a post-adoption 'statement' under Part 4 of the SEA Regulations.
- 1.2 The SA (inc. SEA) Adoption Statement includes information on:
- how sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan;
  - how the SA has been taken into account;
  - how the results of public consultation have been taken into account;
  - the reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan; and,
  - how any significant sustainability effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan (ODNP) sets out the planning policy framework for Oakley and Deane Parish over the period 2011- 2029. The ODNP was prepared to be in conformity with the emerging Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, and it sets out a vision, objectives and a range of policies for the Parish / Oakley and Deane neighbourhood area which follows the Parish boundaries. Policies relate to a range of topics, including housing, landscape, the built environment, community services, open space and transport.
- 2.2 The Vision for the ODNP is as follows:
- 'To create a plan to meet the allocated development, which will maintain the character of Oakley as a village and respect the views and needs of the community'*
- 2.3 Following extensive work and community involvement on the ODNP by the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Planning Group (NPG) from July 2013, Oakley and Deane Parish Council (ODPC) submitted the ODNP (2011-2029) and supporting documents to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) in July 2015.
- 2.4 BDBC subsequently published the ODNP for formal public consultation between 17 August and 5 October 2015 (Regulation 16) and all representations received were forwarded to an Independent Examiner who was appointed by the Council, with the agreement of ODPC, to examine the Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- 2.5 In December 2015, the Examiner provided his Report to BDBC and ODPC which concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the ODNP meets the basic conditions and other statutory requirements. The Examiner also recommended that, subject to the modifications proposed, the ODNP should proceed to a referendum.
- 2.6 Following a positive outcome at the referendum, the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Plan (ODNP) was 'made' on 26 May 2016.
- 2.7 The stages of the Neighbourhood Plan and SA (Inc. SEA) are discussed below.

### **3. How sustainability considerations have been integrated into the Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.1 In parallel with the development of the ODNP, a SA process has been undertaken. This incorporated SEA, as required by the SEA Regulations. ODPC commissioned consultants (AECOM) to undertake the SA (inc. SEA) of the ODNP.
- 3.2 Neighbourhood Groups use SA/SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the appraisal is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the neighbourhood planning area, and the quality of life of residents through the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.3 The SA was integral to and has informed the plan making process at each stage.

### **4. How the SA has been taken into account**

#### Consultation on the Scope for the SA (inc. SEA)

- 4.1 In October 2014 BDBC determined that the ODNP required a SEA. Therefore a SA (inc. SEA) Scoping Report for the ODNP, which presented the proposed scope of the SA, was prepared and provided to the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) for a five week period between November and December 2014. Consultation responses were received from all three statutory bodies.

#### Regulation 14 Consultation

- 4.2 In December 2014 the SA consultants appraised an initial draft of the preferred ODNP. The purpose of this process was to provide a sustainability perspective of the plan prior to its finalisation for 'Regulation 14' consultation. A series of recommendations were made by the SA consultants to the ODNP Steering Group at this stage. The Steering Group for the ODNP considered these recommendations and subsequently the ODNP was updated prior to consultation. In January/February 2015 the SA consultant

appraised the final Regulation 14 consultation version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal were subsequently presented in the SA Report accompanying the Regulation 14 version of the ODNP as part of the consultation between March and April 2015.

#### Submission version of the ODNP

- 4.3 Following Regulation 14 consultation on the ODNP, the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan were updated to take into account responses received during the six week period of consultation.
- 4.4 An SA of the revised version of the ODNP was then undertaken. A Submission version of the SA Report (July 2015) was subsequently prepared to accompany the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The purpose of this SA Report was to:
- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the current ODNP and alternatives; and
  - Provide an opportunity for statutory consultees, interested parties and the public to offer views on any aspect of the SA process.
- 4.5 The SA Report contains:
- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the ODNP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
  - Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and key sustainability issues;
  - The SA Framework of objectives and appraisal questions against which the ODNP has been assessed;
  - The appraisal of alternative approaches for the ODNP;
  - The likely significant effects of the ODNP in environmental terms;
  - The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the ODNP; and
  - The next steps for the ODNP and accompanying SA process.

#### Independent Examination and Referendum

- 4.6 Following the Submission of the ODNP to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, the Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying SA Report underwent Regulation 16 consultation from August to October 2015.
- 4.7 Independent Examination was subsequently undertaken, with the Examiner's Report presented in December 2015. Subject to a number of modifications being made, the Independent Examiner recommended that the ODNP would meet the Basic Conditions and did not breach and was otherwise compatible with EU obligations and with Convention Rights.
- 4.8 The recommended modifications to the ODNP were evaluated in relation to the findings of the SA Report accompanying the submission version of the ODNP. It was considered that the proposed modifications would not affect

the overall SA findings presented in the SA Report and would not have significant environmental effects.

- 4.9 The updated ODNP was subject to a referendum on 17 March 2016, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. To the question “Do you want Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Oakley and Deane to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”, 94% of votes cast said yes.
- 4.10 Reflecting the favourable outcome of the referendum, the ODNP was subsequently ‘made’ on 26 May 2016.

## **5. How the results of public consultation have been taken into account**

- 5.1 Each version of the SA (inc. SEA) has been subject to public consultation. Comments from the statutory bodies at all stages of the SA (inc. SEA) process were taken into account. None of the statutory bodies raised any concerns with the SA (inc. SEA) or its conclusions.
- 5.2 Representations received on the SA (inc. SEA) consultation and the Parish Council’s response, where appropriate, have been provided on the parish council website for public viewing.

## **6. The reasons for choosing the made Neighbourhood Plan**

- 6.1 The SA (inc. SEA) has considered reasonable alternatives and, for each iteration of the SA, a clear audit trail has been provided of the preferred options taken forward within the ODNP. The SA (inc. SEA) concludes that the ODNP is likely to lead to some significant positive effects and also some residual significant negative effects. To help address residual significant negative effects, the Submission version of the ODNP presented a number of policy interventions to help limit potential effects and achieve enhancements where possible.
- 6.2 A number of alternative approaches were considered in the SA (inc. SEA) in relation to the scale and form of new housing development to be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Plan. These were designed to deliver the 150 houses which Policy SS5 (Neighbourhood Planning) of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2011-2029) specifies should be delivered in and around Oakley over the Plan period. Alternative approaches for delivering reserve sites were also appraised.
- 6.3 Policies in the Local Plan have also been subject to a SA (inc. SEA) and they best achieve the dimensions of sustainable development in comparison to the reasonable alternative options. The SAs ensured that the refinement of policies did not themselves give rise to significant effects, and appropriate mitigation measures were integrated to ensure the policies chosen were the most sustainable.

## **7. How any significant sustainability effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored**

- 7.1 The ODNP will be subject to an on-going programme of monitoring as part of the Councils' Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR). This will demonstrate the on-going suitability of the Plan's policies/allocations and enable any unforeseen effects arising from their implementation to be identified. Monitoring will also provide information as to whether the predicted effects of the SA were accurate.
- 7.2 Monitoring plays an important role in assessing the actual effects of any plans, including the ODNP. This can feed into more accurate future predictions of effects, and can also help identify where changes need to be made to promote more sustainable development within the Oakley and Deane Neighbourhood Area.
- 7.3 The SA (inc. SEA) process has continually assessed and identified predicted significant positive and negative effects from the Plan with mitigation and/or enhancement measures being integrated at appropriate stages in the evolution of the Plan. This has ensured that BDBC and ODPC are able to appropriately address these effects and monitor the potential for unforeseen adverse impacts.

## **8. Further information**

- 8.1 A hard copy of the 'made' ODNP and the SA (inc. SEA) documents, including this SA (inc. SEA) Adoption Statement can be inspected at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH (8:30am – 17:00 pm Mon – Thurs, 8:30am – 16:30pm Fri)
- 8.2 In addition, all of the documents can be viewed online on the council's website at <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ODNP>