

Non-Technical Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the intermediate stage of sustainability appraisal, used to inform the development of Eden's Preferred Options. It is necessary to inform any potential impacts that may arise as a result of the emerging plan.
- 1.2 The Council is required to appraise the sustainability of its proposed policy framework at each stage of development. This is done by carrying out a comparative assessment of sites and policies in the plan against social, economic and environmental criteria. Whilst this may not provide any 'correct answers' on whether we have exactly the right planning strategy for Eden it can help us gauge which options, sites and policies perform best against these criteria. It also helps highlight any particular issues with sites and helps us improve our policy wording. Sustainability Appraisal also incorporates the key themes of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' (SEA) which we are legally required to carry out as part of plan-making.
- 1.3 The document will be sent to key environmental stakeholders. It will also be available for comment more widely whilst the Preferred Options Plan is out to consultation.

2 The Draft Local Plan

- 2.1 The Authority has already made significant progress in the preparation of its Local Plan. In 2013, two draft allocations strategies were published for comment looking at the potential suitability of housing and employment sites. The document builds upon these two documents and provides a spatial context for development.
- 2.2 The Preferred Options Plan will contain the following:
 - Strategic policies directing development within the District;
 - Land allocations to support the growth strategy in the Plan;
 - A number of detailed development management policies.

3 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal

- 3.1 The Authority is required to undertake an SA of the Local Plan to ensure that social, environmental and economic considerations are fed into each stage of document production. The SA has been designed to be compliant with the requirements of the European SEA directive.
- 3.2 The main objectives of the SA are as follows:
 - Ensure that the Local Plan accounts for policies, plans and programmes on an international, national and local scale;

- Establish a baseline assessment of Eden, outlining environmental, social and economic characteristics and raising any issues the Plan needs to focus on;
- Create a framework to assess the sustainability of the Plan;
- Test sites and policies against the sustainability framework to assess the impacts and suggest alterations if necessary;
- Ensure that realistic and meaningful alternative options are tested as part of the process.

4 Conclusions on the Performance of the Local Plan

- 4.1 The SA is an iterative procedure and has been carried out throughout the Plan preparation and has informed policy writing and site selection. Overall, the Preferred Options Local Plan scores well against the Sustainability Criteria. The SA broadly supports the Preferred Option on housing and employment targets, distribution and allocated sites set out in the draft Local Plan Policies are within place to protect the natural environment and promote economic and social development.
- 4.2 The iterative process of the SA enables problems to be identified or areas where wording could be strengthened in order to make the final plan more robust and ensure it has a positive impact on the District. Alterations to policies have been ongoing throughout the SA process to take account of the findings and it is considered that this is a solid base to proceed to a final Plan which will again be subject to a SA process to assess any changes.

Table 1: Sustainability Appraisal recommendations and actions

Policy	Objective	Recommendation	Response
LS1	All objectives	That consideration be given to merging LS1 and LS2	This has not been implemented at this stage as it was considered that a separate policy allowed for more through SA testing of housing options. However, it will be considered as the Plan develops
LS2	6, 10, 15	That consideration be given to including wording which refers to quality design, sustainable transport	This has not been implemented within this policy. However, there is a design and transport policy within the Plan which would be used to assess applications (DEV3 and DEV5)

Policy	Objective	Recommendation	Response
RUR2	7, 9	That consideration be given to refining point 3 in regards to design and point 5 in regards to environmental protection	Policy amended
RUR3	9	That consideration be given to refining point 3 in regards to design	Policy amended
DEV2	11	Remove the wording [FRA] required unless in an area not at risk of flooding as applications over 1ha required to have FRA	Policy amended
DEV5	9	Remove reference to good design particularly where over 10 houses as small sites can have an equally great impact	Policy amended
HS3	8, 14	Consider adding 'profitable' into point 2 in order to ensure housing is granted where there is a reasonable expectation that the enterprise will continue as housing would not normally be allowed in these areas	Policy amended
HS4	3	Consider insertion of 'up to date' in relation to local housing needs surveys	Policy amended
HS5	3	Consider removal of 'attractive to local people' and replace with 'and is appropriately designed'	Policy amended
EC2	3, 9, 14, 15, 16	Strengthen wording in second sentence by adding 'only' in front of be given	Policy unamended - policy already details when permission would be given
EC3	16	Remove or enhance wording in relation to BREEAM	Policy unamended - policy seeks to encourage whilst not deterring development which would be otherwise unviable
EC4	14, 15	Policy rewrite for clarity suggested	Policy unamended

Policy	Objective	Recommendation	Response
EC5	14, 15	Policy rewrite for clarity suggested	Policy unamended
EC6	7	Amendments suggests to respect sensitive areas etc.	Policy amended to reflect concerns of SA
EC7	14, 15, 16	Amendments for clarity suggested	Policy amended
ENV1	7	Amendments to clarity suggested	Policy amended
ENV2	8	Amendments to provide more positive context suggested	Policy amended
ENV3	8	Amendments for clarity suggested	Policy unamended
ENV4	2, 6	Amendments for clarity suggested	Policy amended
ENV5	13	Additional point in relation to waste disposal suggested	Policy amended
ENV6	7, 8	Amendments for clarity suggested	Policy amended
ENV7	7, 10, 11, 12	Amendments for clarity suggested	Policy amended
ENV7/ 8/9/10	7, 10, 11, 12	These policies were formed following a suggestion to break up the policy into different pollution types	Policy amended
COM1	2	Wording suggestions for clarity and typos identified	Policy amended
COM2	2	Wording for clarity suggested	Policy amended

4.3 In terms of the spatial and distribution options, these were tested and it is considered that the Preferred Option is preferable in both cases in terms of social, environmental and economic objectives.

5 More Information?

5.1 If you would like further information on the Sustainability Appraisal, please see the main Sustainability Appraisal Report. This is available:

- on the Council's website at www.eden.gov.uk
- or by emailing loc.plan@eden.gov.uk
- or by telephoning 01768 817817