

Report for Information

Report to Sustainable Development Panel
27 July 2011

Item

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Report of Head of Planning Services

Subject Site allocations development plan document (DPD) –
Update on sustainability appraisal for major
amendments/new sites

Purpose

The report provides an update on the recently completed sustainability appraisal of the additional sites proposed to be included in the Site allocations plan. The proposed sites, and the Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report, will shortly be subject to public consultation.

Recommendations

To note the publication of the addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal.

Financial Consequences

The cost of the consultation on the Site allocations plan and the addendum to the SA report is covered by the existing planning service budget.

Risk Assessment

Not applicable.

Strategic Priority and Outcome/Service Priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future” and the service plan priority to deliver the Local Development Framework for Norwich

Cabinet Member: Cllr Bremner

Ward: All

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

Report to Local Development Framework Working Party, 3 December 2010, on Sustainability Appraisal methodology. This report will be on the council’s website from 29 July 2011.

Other relevant Information available:

Further information on the Sites Allocation DPD process is available via the link below. This page will be fully updated to reflect the decisions made at cabinet on 13 July 2011 prior to the commencement of the public consultation period on 29 July 2011.

[Norwich City Council: Council Services](http://www.norwich.gov.uk/webapps/atoz/service_page.asp?id=1708)

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Report

Site allocations development plan document (DPD) – Update on sustainability appraisal for major amendments/new sites

Background

1. At the Sustainable Development Panel meeting on 29th June, members agreed to recommend to Cabinet that it authorise a period of public consultation on proposed major changes / amendments to sites in the Site Allocations plan. It was reported to members at that meeting that a sustainability appraisal (SA) of the amended/new sites was in the process of being carried out but that this was not complete at that time.
2. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to assess the impacts of a plan on social, economic and environmental issues. This report provides a brief update on the SA process for the additional / amended sites, for members' information.

Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal report

3. The further SA work has now been completed by external consultants (Land Use Consultants) and takes the form of an addendum to the previous SA report which was published in December 2010. The addendum was completed prior to Cabinet on 13th July and copies were circulated at that meeting. Copies have been included with the meeting papers for Sustainable Development Panel members. The addendum will shortly be consulted upon as part of the further Regulation 25 consultation for the additional / amended sites, and will be available on the Council's website from 29th July.
4. As noted at the Panel meeting on 29th June, the SA of additional / amended sites has been carried out on exactly the same basis as the SA report produced to accompany the Regulation 25 (2nd stage) plan which was consulted upon between January and March 2011. The methodology used in the SA report and addendum was agreed at Local Development Framework Working Party on 3rd December 2010.
5. The SA addendum contains a systematic assessment of each additional / amended site against a set of sustainability criteria, and identifies (in section 4, pages 11-17) potential constraints and opportunities for each site, taking into account their proposed uses. In section 5 (pages 18-20) the report summarises the sites' potential sustainability effects and indicates whether they have a potentially positive or negative impact on SA objectives.
6. The report's conclusions do not suggest that any of the additional sites should be excluded from the additional sites consultation. The report however does indicate some of the issues that will be taken into consideration by officers in the eventual choice of sites to be included in the Regulation 27 plan.

Next steps

7. Consultation will take place from 29th July to 23rd September on the proposed additional / amended sites, and the Sustainability Appraisal addendum.

8. The next stage in the plan process will be production of the Pre-submission draft plan. The inclusion of sites to be allocated in that document will depend on their performance in terms of suitability assessment and sustainability appraisal, as well as on the responses to the consultation (both the consultation earlier this year and the additional round of consultation about to begin). Key stages in the plan process are set out below.

Public consultation	Additional public consultation (Regulation 25) on a small number of additional / amended sites, and on the SA addendum	29 th July – 23 rd September 2011 (8 weeks)
Pre-submission consultation	Opportunity for public comments on the soundness of the proposed submission document (Regulation 27)	Late 2011
Submission	Submission to the Secretary of State and independent public examination (Regulation 30)	Early – mid 2012
Adoption	Adoption of the Site Allocations Plan	Late 2012