

Report to	Sustainable development panel	Item
	25 May 2016	
Report of	Head of planning services	6
Subject	Technical Consultation on Greater Norwich Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	

Purpose

To inform the panel of the content of the Greater Norwich Local Plan draft sustainability appraisal scoping report prior to technical consultation.

Recommendation

Recommend to cabinet that the draft sustainability appraisal scoping report should be published for technical consultation.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority to provide a safe, clean and low carbon city and the service plan priority to produce a local plan

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Bremner – Environment and sustainable development

Contact officers

Mike Burrell , Planning team leader (policy)

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Background documents

None

Report

1. Norwich City Council is working with Broadland District Council and South Norfolk Council, with the support of Norfolk County Council, to produce the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).
2. Legislation requires that a sustainability appraisal is produced for plans or programmes such as the GNLP. Failure to properly complete a Sustainability Appraisal could lead to the GNLP being found unsound at examination by a Planning Inspector or being subject to legal challenge.
3. The key stages of preparing a sustainability appraisal are:
 - a) Develop a scoping report that sets out the context of the Local Plan, describes the baseline economic, social and environmental conditions and establishes a framework of objectives against which the Local Plan policies are evaluated.
 - b) During production of the Local Plan, develop and refine reasonable policy alternatives, discount unreasonable alternatives and assess the effect of policies on the baseline conditions.
 - c) Prepare the sustainability appraisal report, to be published prior to the submission of the Local Plan for examination in Public.
 - d) Reporting and monitoring after the adoption of the Local Plan.
5. The draft GNLP SA Scoping Report, stage a) above, is available on the council's website at
6. The scoping report has taken into account the comments of Lepus Consulting. Lepus Consulting has been appointed as expert advisors for the production of the GNLP SA Report.
7. Before the draft scoping report can be finalised it must be subject to a technical consultation. As a minimum this consultation must invite comments from Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. The consultation must be open for a minimum of five weeks.
8. The views of elected members from each of Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk on the draft Scoping Report are being sought prior to the technical consultation.
9. Member comments on the draft sustainability appraisal scoping report are invited prior to it being considered by Cabinet and prior to the technical consultation.

Appendix – Greater Norwich Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

PDF available from separate web link by clicking [here](https://cmis.city.norwich.gov.uk/cmislive/Meetingscalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/253/Committee/9/Default.aspx) or on the committee page:
<https://cmis.city.norwich.gov.uk/cmislive/Meetingscalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/253/Committee/9/Default.aspx>