

London Borough of Waltham Forest

London Borough of Waltham Forest Local Development Framework

Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Draft Executive Summary

June 2008

1 Introduction

- 1.1 London Borough of Waltham Forest (LBWF) is in the process of preparing a Local Development Framework (LDF) to guide development in the Borough. The LDF will be composed of a number of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).
- 1.2 The Council is producing a Core Strategy Options Paper. This will set the vision for the area, objectives and core policies for the management of development over the plan period. The Core Strategy Options Paper will set out all the Policy Options considered by the Council.
- 1.3 Scott Wilson has been appointed by LBWF to revise the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report for the LDF. The purpose of this revision is to ensure that the sustainability issues identified for the Borough and subsequent assessment of the sustainability of the Policy Options is based on the most up-to-date information.
- 1.4 The SA will inform the development of the most appropriate alternatives and the submission policies.

2 Background

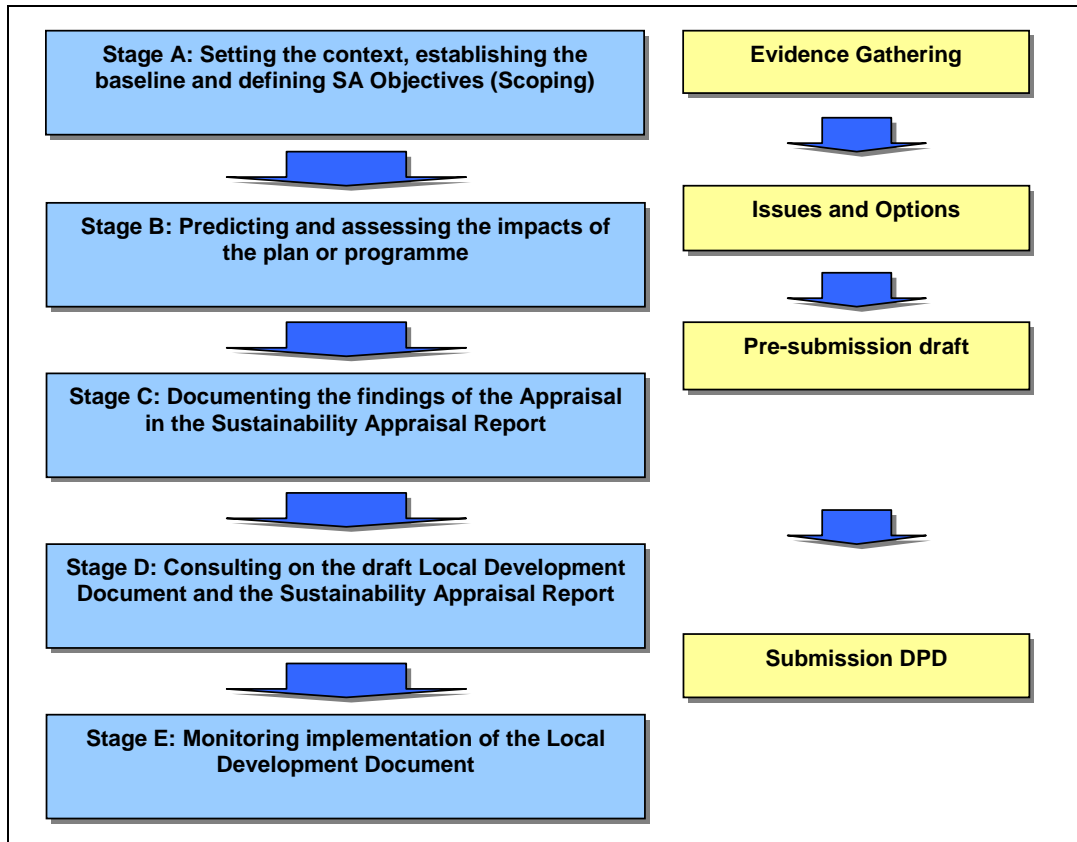
2.1 Purpose of the SA

- 2.1.1 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The SA Report is the means by which stakeholders and the public can comment on the findings of the SA. It sets out the process followed, methods used and conclusions reached, together with proposed mitigation and monitoring measures.

2.2 The SA Process

- 2.2.1 The process can be broken down into five distinct stages (see Figure 2.1). The Scoping Report should set out the findings of Stage A (which includes gathering an evidence base) together with information on what happens next in the process.

Figure 2.1: Five-stage approach to Sustainability Appraisal



2.2.2 Stage A can be divided into five distinct steps, Steps A1-A5, as illustrated in Figure 2.2. Steps A1-A4 cannot be undertaken in isolation as they have the potential to inform each other. This being the case, these Steps are undertaken concurrently and the results are collated in the Scoping Report, which represents Step A5.

Figure 2.2: Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal Process

- A1 – Identify other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives and sustainability objectives that will influence the DPD
- A2 – Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information
- A3 – Identify key sustainability issues for the SA / DPD to address
- A4 – Develop the SA framework, consisting of the SA objectives (and sub-objectives/criteria where appropriate)
- A5 – Produce a scoping report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on A1–A4

2.2.3 A Scoping Report for the SA of the Waltham Forest LDF was produced in July 2006 and was subject to consultation with key environmental organisations such as English Nature and Countryside Agency (now combined under the name Natural England), Environment Agency and English Heritage. In light of the time lapse between the production of the Scoping Report and the development of the Issues and Options for the Core Strategy DPD, and the potential for a change in the baseline situation in the Borough, the Council felt that it would be pertinent to revise and update the Scoping Report to reflect any such changes.

2.2.4 This revised Scoping Report builds on the original Report and updates the baseline data and relevant plans and programmes to ensure that the key sustainability issues identified reflect the current situation. The sustainability objectives have also been updated in the context of the identified issues to reflect these changes. Figure 2.3 below outlines the proposed SA Objectives for the Waltham Forest LDF.

Figure 2.3: Proposed SA Objectives for London Borough of Waltham Forest LDF

SA Objective
SOCIAL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet local housing needs through the provision of a range of tenures and sizes of new dwellings 2. Reduce crime and the fear of crime 3. Improve standard of health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the Borough 4. Increase the provision of and access to community facilities to meet local cultural, recreational and social needs 5. Improve educational attainment in schools 6. Improve opportunities for access to education and training for all residents 7. Reduce the overall level of deprivation 8. Improve opportunities for access to local services, facilities and employment through an integrated sustainable transport system
ENVIRONMENTAL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Reduce production of waste and increase recycling 10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 11. Conserve energy 12. Improve air quality through a reduction in traffic-based emissions 13. Improve water quality and ensure the efficient use of water resources 14. Reduce the risk of flooding 15. Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity 16. Make the best use of previously developed land (PDL) and existing buildings 17. Conserve and enhance biodiversity 18. Protect the ecological integrity of Natura 2000 sites 19. Maintain and enhance the quality of the green belt and open space areas. 20. Conserve and enhance the historic built and natural environment
ECONOMIC
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Borough's town centres 22. Improve the local economy by attracting inward investment 23. Maintain stable levels of employment in the Borough

3 Methodology

3.1 General Approach

3.1.1 The Revised Scoping Report documents the findings of the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process: Stage A, as outlined above. Table 3.1 summarises the tasks undertaken.

Table 3.1: Scoping Report Methodology

Task	Purpose	Report Section
Identification of other plans and programmes of relevance to the LDF	To document the aims and objectives of other plans and programmes and identify any constraints and opportunities for the LDF to take into account.	Context Review in Chapters 4-18
Collect baseline data	To assist in the identification of key sustainability issues and provide a baseline against which the assessment of significant effects can be undertaken and upon which future monitoring can be based.	Baseline Data in Chapters 4-18
Identify key sustainability issues	To ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal is focussed on issues of concern in the Borough.	Sustainability Issues in Chapters 4-18
Development of Sustainability Appraisal objectives, indicators and targets	To provide the means by which the sustainability of the LDF can be assessed. Targets and indicators provide a framework for future monitoring purposes.	Proposed SA Objectives and Monitoring in Chapters 4-18

3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

3.2.1 The SEA Regulations require the assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the plan or programme on issues such as:

- Air
- Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)
- Climate
- Cultural heritage
- Human health
- Landscape
- Material assets
- Population
- Soil
- Water
- And the interrelationship between the above factors

3.2.2 The SA process extends the assessment process to include likely significant social and economic effects, such as effects on the economy and employment, transport, crime and safety, health and education.

3.2.3 This Revised SA Scoping Report includes a chapter on each of the sustainability topics, including those listed above. Each chapter is structured in a series of themes, as follows:

- Introduction
- Environmental Protection Objectives (where applicable)
- Baseline
- Future Trends
- Environmental and Sustainability Problems
- Proposed SA/SEA Objectives
- Proposed Monitoring

4 Sustainability issues

4.1 The table below (Table 4.1) outlines the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and identifies the relevant Sustainability Objectives and Indicators that will be used to assess the sustainability of the LDF documents.

Table 4.1: Summary of the findings of the SA Scoping Report

Likely Future Conditions	Sustainability Issues	Objectives	Indicators/Monitoring
Population			
<p>Population of Waltham Forest is expected to increase and diversify, although the increases are expected to be less than the increases for London and Outer London.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increasing population will require additional housing and infrastructure to cater for their needs. The population density is already high compared with London and England as a whole. 	<p>None identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population (by age group) Population density Ethnicity of population
Health			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy is likely to increase. Mortality rates from circulatory disease and cancer have been falling and this situation is unlikely to change. There is an increasing rate of TB and HIV. It is anticipated that this will stabilise. Teenage pregnancy rates are likely to continue to fall. However, the recent divergence of infant mortality rates suggests that this will continue to be an issue across the Borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy is lower than the average for London and the rest of the country Health inequalities for BME groups Southern part of the Borough is subject to higher levels of poor health, which has been associated with deprivation, poverty and overcrowding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the standard of health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the Borough Improve the provision of, and access to, community facilities to meet local cultural, recreational and social needs Improve air quality through a reduction in traffic-based emissions Improve opportunities for access to local services, facilities and employment through an integrated sustainable transport system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy Mortality rates from circulatory disease and cancer Infant mortality Teenage conception rates Tuberculosis infections HIV infections
Economy			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on past trends it is likely that the local economy will remain stable with the potential for low levels of growth. Given the decline of some industries and the under-representation of others compared with the rest of London, it is possible that the proportion of financial and business services may increase to fill the gap left by declining sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low levels of economic growth in the Borough Declining industrial sectors and under-representation of growth sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Borough's town centres Improve the local economy by attracting inward investment Maintain stable levels of employment in the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAT registrations and deregistrations Vacant premises

Likely Future Conditions	Sustainability Issues	Objectives	Indicators/Monitoring
Employment and Skills			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents within Waltham Forest have a relatively low level of educational attainment when compared with the rest of the country; however the majority of residents are employed in managerial or professional/ technical occupations. The wages of those living in Waltham Forest is higher than those working in the Borough, which suggests that residents commute out of the Borough to access better paid work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average salaries for those working in Waltham Forest are lower than average salaries for those living in the Borough. This disparity could affect the Borough's ability to attract inward investment. Unemployment levels are higher than the average for Great Britain Educational attainment is relatively low and a high proportion of people have no qualifications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve educational attainment in schools Improve opportunities for access to education and training for all residents Reduce the overall level of deprivation Maintain stable levels of employment in the Borough Improve the local economy by attracting inward investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residence and work-based earnings Economic activity rates Employment by occupation Qualifications
Transport			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is currently a high level of reliance on the private car to access employment although much of the Borough is well served by public transport. Commuting patterns in Waltham Forest are such that people are travelling relatively short distances to access employment when compared with the national and London averages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on the private car as the main mode of transport, contributing to air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and congestion; It appears that public transport is not being utilised to access employment opportunities and services and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions Improve opportunities for access to local services, facilities and employment through an integrated sustainable transport system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to work by mode Number of cars/vans per household
Crime and Safety			
It is likely that incidences of crime will remain higher than the England and Wales average in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime levels are generally higher in Waltham Forest than nationally. 	Reduce crime and the fear of crime.	Level of crime
Housing			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of households in Waltham Forest are classed as small households, comprising one or two people. There are a fairly significant number of households comprising lone parents and around 10% of households contain 'concealed households'. The average cost of dwellings in Waltham Forest is low when 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a disparity between the cost of housing and the amount that people are able to borrow to purchase a home, which means that many people are unable to access the property market; There is a potential shortfall in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet local housing needs through the provision of a range of tenures and sizes of new dwellings Make the best use of previously developed land (PDL) and existing buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household size Household composition Housing tenure Number of households on the Housing Register Housing cost to income ratio

Likely Future Conditions	Sustainability Issues	Objectives	Indicators/Monitoring
<p>compared with the rest of London but higher than the national average. There is an identified shortfall between house prices and the potential mortgages that could be obtained by those earning an average salary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a large minority of households that live in social rented or shared ownership accommodation. The number of households on the Housing Register is high • The provision of affordable housing is not meeting current needs and this is likely to continue in the future. 	<p>provision of family accommodation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a shortfall in the provision of affordable housing to meet the needs of those households on the Housing Register. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the overall level of deprivation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing completions (including affordable housing)
Cultural Heritage			
<p>Waltham Forest contains 11 Conservation Areas, over 100 Listed Buildings and 141 locally listed buildings</p>	<p>New development should respect the character and appearance of designated Conservation Areas and the special architectural or historic interest and setting of Statutory Listed Buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the historic built and natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Listed Buildings on the 'Buildings At Risk' Register
Climate			
<p>It is considered likely that greenhouse gas emissions will rise in the future, with the potential to begin to stabilise and reduce over time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a reliance on the private car as the main mode of transport; • Greenhouse gas emissions need to be stabilised and reduced over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions • Conserve energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita)
Air			
<p>It is likely that air pollution will continue to be an issue within the Borough given its proximity to the strategic road network. However, with the introduction of the Low Emission Zone the number of large vehicles might decrease over time.</p>	<p>Air pollution from the strategic road network is an issue across the Borough.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve air quality through a reduction in traffic-based emissions • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQMA targets • NO₂ and PM₁₀ concentrations/emissions
Soil			
<p>Although the proportion of new dwellings built on previously developed land has been extremely</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the quality of the green belt and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated land • Development on PDL

Likely Future Conditions	Sustainability Issues	Objectives	Indicators/Monitoring
high over the past few years it is unclear whether this trend is likely to continue in the future.		open space areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity. 	
Water			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely to be a gradual increase in the areas that are subject to flood risk within the Borough. River water quality has been consistently poor for the past few years and it is likely that this trend will continue. Daily domestic water use in London is currently above the national average. It is anticipated that water consumption will reduce slowly over time as more households become subject to a measured supply. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood risk is likely to become an increasing issue; Relatively high daily domestic water consumption will have implications for water supplies in the future; Local rivers are subject to high levels of phosphates and nitrates which will have an affect on the ecology of the rivers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve water quality and ensure the efficient use of water resources Reduce the risk of flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River water quality Daily domestic water use (per capita) Planning permission granted against the advice of the Environment Agency Number of properties at risk from flooding
Biodiversity			
It is likely that the proportion of 'favourable' and 'unfavourable but recovering' areas within SSSIs will increase over time as better management regimes are implemented.	Parts of Epping Forest are in an 'unfavourable' or 'unfavourable/declining' condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and enhance biodiversity Protect the ecological integrity of Natura 2000 sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of SSSIs / Achievement of PSA target Achievement of BAP targets and actions
Landscape and Townscape			
The current situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future unless development pressure leads to the loss of open space or amenity land.	Development pressure could lead to the loss of open space or recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the best use of previously developed land (PDL) and existing buildings Maintain and enhance the quality of green belt and open space areas Conserve and enhance the historic built and natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and condition of Listed Buildings Area and condition of open spaces Development on PDL
Waste			
The recent introduction of a compulsory recycling scheme is likely to increase the proportion of recycled waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of waste is not decreasing over time The proportion of waste recycled is 	Reduce production of waste and increase recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kg waste collected per head Percentage of waste

Likely Future Conditions	Sustainability Issues	Objectives	Indicators/Monitoring
	not yet meeting Government targets.		recycled or composted