



# London Borough of Waltham Forest Core Strategy Proposed Submission Sustainability Appraisal

Non-Technical Summary  
December 2010



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 About this Non-technical Summary

1.1.1 Scott Wilson has been commissioned by London Borough of Waltham Forest to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy, which is a component of the Borough's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF).

1.1.2 The Core Strategy will set out the overarching planning framework for the Borough up to 2026. It will set out the long-term vision for the Borough and identify the broad locations, scale and type of development and supporting infrastructure (such as schools and road improvements) that will take place. It will include policies on issues such as new homes, jobs and the environment.

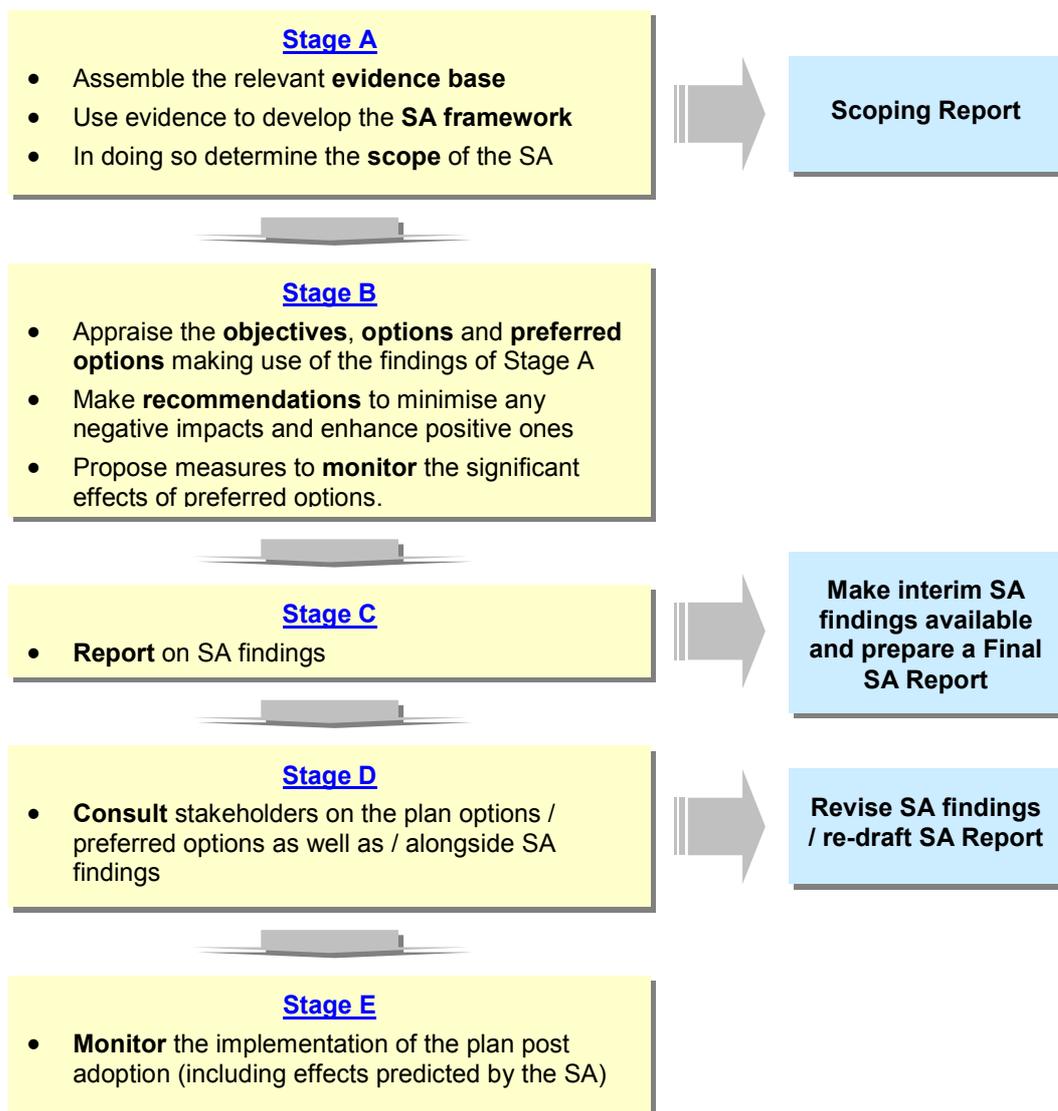
1.1.3 This report is a non-technical summary of the findings of the SA of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. Its purpose is to report the findings of the SA in a way that can be easily understood and without the use of jargon or technical language.

## 1.2 Background

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) / Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**

1.2.1 SEA and SA are processes by which the environmental, social and economic effects of a strategic action (a plan or a programme) are considered during its preparation. The aim is to identify the likely effects of the plan or programme in advance so that adverse effects can be minimised and beneficial effects can be enhanced. The findings of SA should be reflected in the adopted plan to help ensure that it maximises its contribution to future sustainability.

1.2.2 There are five stages undertaken for SA, as outlined below:



1.2.3 A Scoping Report for the SA of the Waltham Forest LDF was produced in July 2006 and was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees<sup>1</sup>. 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 Development Plan Document (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.

1.2.4 The Revised Scoping Report builds on the original Report and updates the baseline data and policy context 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. The Scoping Report is available in full to download from the Council’s website at: <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/index/environment/planning/planning-policy/local-dev-framework/ldf/ldf-core-strategy-background.htm>

<sup>1</sup> The Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage

- 1.2.5 The Proposed Submission Core Strategy SA Report focuses on documenting the results of Stages B, C and D of the SA process. The Proposed Submission policies have been appraised and recommendations have been made to enhance beneficial effects and minimise adverse ones. The Proposed Submission SA report should be read in conjunction with the Scoping Report and with the previous SA reports which accompanied the Preferred Options Consultation and Issues and Options.
- 1.2.6 Stage D involves the preparation of the SA Report ('Environmental Report'). At this stage in the process, this Draft Submission SA Report will accompany the Proposed Submission Core Strategy at consultation. Following consultation of both documents the Council will submit the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State. This SA Report has been produced to fulfil the requirements of the 'Environmental Report' as defined by the SEA regulations. A SA Statement will be produced for submission.
- 1.2.7 Stage E of the process (monitoring) will be undertaken by the Council following adoption of the Core Strategy and documented in the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). Monitoring proposals are contained in the report. These proposals set out the indicators considered necessary to enable the Council to identify whether the adopted Core Strategy is contributing towards achieving sustainable development. These indicators are provisional and a definitive list of monitoring indicators will be published in a final SA Statement following adoption of the Core Strategy.

## 1.3 Development of the Core Strategy

- 1.3.1 The proposed timetable for the production of the Core Strategy:

Key Milestone	Timescale
Public participation on the Preferred Options and the SA Report	January – February 2010
Consideration of representations and discussions with community and stakeholders, preparation of Core Strategy Proposed Submission document	November 2009 – October 2010
Publish Core Strategy Proposed Submission document	January 2011
Submission of the Core Strategy, SA Report and the Proposals Map to the Secretary of State	May 2011
Examination/ Hearing Sessions	Summer 2011
Receipt of Inspector's binding report	Autumn 2011
Adoption and publication of the Core Strategy and Proposals Map	By December 2011

- 1.3.2 The Proposed Submission Core Strategy contains the Draft Core Strategy Policies. These have been developed from the options put forward in the Preferred Options consultation. The reasons for choosing specific options and for making revisions to Policies arising from consultation responses are documented in the Core Strategy Preferred Options Summary of Consultation response<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Waltham Forest Preferred Options Consultation responses (16 11 2010)



## 2 Summary of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal has concluded that the Draft Submission Core Strategy is broadly sustainable. In general it is likely to have beneficial effects across a range of issues: economic, environmental and social, although some minor adverse effects are also possible. In ten particular respects it is considered likely that there will be significant effects over and above those that would have occurred, under the current Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

### 2.2 Likely Significant Effects

#### Human Health

2.2.1 **CS13:** Promoting Health and Fitness aims to create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities. It offers the potential for significant benefits in relation to improving the health and wellbeing of those who live and work in the Borough through improving access to open spaces, health facilities and services, leisure, sports and recreation facilities.

2.2.2 There are also benefits associated with improving pedestrian and cycle access to green and open spaces, including the Olympic Park, and through making the public realm more attractive and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. This will contribute towards SA Objective 8.

#### Recommendation

2.2.3 The policy references 'proliferation of unhealthy uses' but the supporting text indicates that this refers only to hot food takeaways. If this is the case then perhaps the policy should be amended to state it is the proliferation of hot food takeaways that is the issue.

#### Economy

2.2.4 **CS3:** Making Efficient Use of employment Land was previously Preferred Option policy CS2. The policy has been considerably restructured and divided up to focus on the key economic growth factors. There is a focus on encouraging a mix of employment facilities and types, in particular provision for small and medium sized enterprises and creative/cultural industries. This focus should in the medium to long term when proposals come forward deliver significant sustainability benefits with regard to employment delivery and the economic development of the Borough. The policy also makes provision for other centres outside of Walthamstow Town Centre to deliver office developments which are ancillary to existing organisations needs, small in scale or meet the needs of small businesses.

2.2.5 **CS10:** Creating More Jobs and Reducing Worklessness has changed considerably since the Preferred Options Policy CS6. Overall, it has been considerably rationalised, in recognition of the fact that many key decisions should be made through the Development Management Policies DPD, Area Action Plan DPDs and through negotiating Planning Obligations, rather than through the Core Strategy. This policy seeks to maximise employment opportunities for the Borough's residents. Over the plan period this will promote significant positive benefits with regard to employment delivery and associated economic benefits for the local economy.

#### Employment and Skills

2.2.6 **CS1:** Distribution of Growth seeks to protect employment land in the SILs (Strategic Industrial Locations) and other Borough Employment Areas positively contributing to the maintenance of the borough's employment locations.

- 2.2.7 **CS3:** Making Efficient Use of Employment Land focuses on encouraging a mix of employment facilities and types, in particular provision for small and medium sized enterprises and creative/cultural industries. This focus should in the medium to long term when proposals come forward deliver significant sustainability benefits with regard to employment delivery and the economic development of the Borough. The policy also makes provision for other centres outside of Walthamstow Town Centre to deliver office developments which are ancillary to existing organisations needs, small in scale or meet the needs of small businesses.
- 2.2.8 **CS10:** Creating More Jobs and Reducing Worklessness seeks to maximise employment opportunities for the Borough's residents. Over the plan period this will promote significant positive benefits with regard to employment opportunities.

### Transport

- 2.2.9 **CS8:** Delivering Sustainable Transport is clearly focused on promoting sustainable transport, in particular through the location of developments and the provision of accessible and attractive routes and facilities for public transport, in particular walking and cycling. The policy also requires the production of travel plans and transport assessments. These mechanisms offer significant benefits in the long term with achieving accessible facilities through an integrated transport system.

### Crime and Safety

- 2.2.10 **CS16:** Making Waltham Forest Safer. Over the plan period this policy should achieve significant benefits with regard to reducing crime and the fear of crime through implementing designing out crime principles in all new development, promoting safer streets and public realm improvements in particular in areas with higher levels of crime and through focusing land-uses to minimise the likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

### Housing

- 2.2.11 **CS1:** Delivery of Growth will, over the plan period deliver significant benefits as the required and planned for housing allocation (10,320 new homes) is implemented and the associated benefit of meeting housing need and delivering the required size and tenure of dwelling is realised.
- 2.2.12 **CS2:** Improving Housing Quality and Choice. The delivery of the housing allocation, over the plan period (long term) will significantly benefit meeting local housing need. The policy requires housing to be delivered to meet identified tenures and in particular affordable units (370 a year). The provision of these dwellings in particular the affordable units is envisaged to contribute towards reducing deprivation across the borough and in the particular identified locations, which as housing delivery increases is identified to be significant in the longer term.

### Climate

- 2.2.13 **CS5:** Minimising and Adapting to Climate Change. Since the Preferred Options, policy CS4 has been considerably revised – being separated into 4 individual policies. Policy CS5 (previously CS4) significantly benefits, over the medium to long term, in relation to the minimisation of carbon emissions and delivery of renewable energy and energy efficient developments.

### Recommendations

- 2.2.14 Define 'high' environmental standards with regard to BREEAM and CSH (point B) to ensure that the mandatory standards are met (for social housing).

## Air

- 2.2.15 **CS5:** Minimising and Adapting to Climate Change. Since the Preferred Options, policy CS4 has been considerably revised – being separated into 4 individual policies. Proposed Submission policy CS5 (previously CS4) significantly benefits, over the medium to long term, minimisation of carbon emissions and delivery of renewable energy and energy efficient developments, thus contributing to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

## Soil

- 2.2.16 **CS11** - Tourism Development and Visitor Attractions offers significant benefits in relation to SA Objective 19. It recognises that the particular assets, such as Epping Forest, Lea Valley Regional Park and Walthamstow Wetlands, associated with the Borough mean that there is a need to promote visitor growth outside of Walthamstow. Investment in these assets should enhance their quality and provide them with increased protection/management.

## Waste

- 2.2.17 **CS7** – Promoting Sustainable Waste Management is a new policy; previously sustainable waste management was included within Preferred Option Policy CS4. This policy now contains specific reference to treating waste as close to the source as possible.
- 2.2.18 This policy will over the medium to long term offer significant benefits with regard to waste minimisation and the increase of waste material recycled. This policy is dependent on the implementation of the Joint North London Waste Plan which is the overarching waste DPD for this area of London. It seeks to ensure waste minimisation in the design and construction process and encourages the use of sustainably sourced materials. Recycling storage facilities, both internal and external, for new developments are also required.
- 2.2.19 The policy now encourages the sustainable movement of waste, maximising the use of rail and water transport for movements where the waste can not be treated at source, this positively contributes to reductions in air pollution where road based Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) are not used as frequently.

## 2.3 Mitigation and Monitoring

### Mitigation

- 2.3.1 Mitigation means taking measures to offset adverse effects or to enhance beneficial effects and is essential in making a plan or programme sustainable. The SA has identified very few adverse effects and no significant adverse effects. This is in light of the evolution of the Core Strategy and in particular the revisions made to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy between draft and final stages as illustrated in the main SA Report. Therefore the measures proposed as mitigation are few and limited. The Council will consider these measures along with comments received during the consultation period before submitting the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State.

### Monitoring

- 2.3.2 A set of indicators for monitoring the effects of the Core Strategy has been proposed and will be considered by the Council. These indicators have used where available indicators from the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and other sources of indicators such as the Environment Agency. These indicators are intended to provide a means of determining whether the Core

Strategy is having unexpected significant adverse effects and therefore an indicator has been proposed for each sustainability problem identified during the Scoping of the SA. Indicators have also been proposed to monitor the known likely significant effects of the Core Strategy (discussed above), although these are all expected to be beneficial. The monitoring of identified significant effects will be undertaken by the Council's AMR process.

## 2.4 Next Steps

- 2.4.1 Following the consultation on the Core Strategy Proposed Submission document the Council will consider the comments received on both the SA Report and the draft Core Strategy and submit these responses to the Planning Inspector. The Submission Core Strategy will then be the subject of an Examination in Public where a Planning Inspector will determine the 'soundness' of the document and will recommend its adoption or modification.
- 2.4.2 Following adoption of the Core Strategy a Sustainability Appraisal Statement will be produced summarising the SA process and defining ongoing monitoring that will be undertaken by the Council.