



Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal – Post Adoption Statement

October 2014

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<p>يمكن توفير هذه الوثيقة أو ملخصها بلغات أخرى أو بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بلغة بريل أو على الشريط. ويمكن توفير خدمة ترجمة عند الطلب. وإذا احتجت من هذه الخدمات الرجاء الاتصال معنا على العنوان المذكور أدناه.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Arabic <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>यह पर्चा या इसका संक्षेप अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों में या सुनने वाली टेप पर माँग कर लिया जा सकता है, और अन्य भाषाओं में अनुवाद की सुविधा भी मिल सकती है। यदि आपको इन सुविधाओं की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया निम्नलिखित पते पर हमारे साथ संपर्क करें।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Hindi <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>অনুরোধক্রমে এই ডকুমেন্ট অথবা এর সারসর্ম অন্যান্য ভাষায়, বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, ব্রেইল বা অক্লিপিটে, অডিও টেইপ বা বাজিয়ে শোনার কেসেটে অথবা অনুবাদ করে দেয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা যাবে। আপনার যদি এসব সেবাসমূহের প্রয়োজন হয়, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সাথে নীচের ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Bengali <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਜਾਂ ਇਹਦਾ ਖੁਲਾਸਾ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਜਾਂ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਸਹੂਲਤ ਵੀ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਸਹੂਲਤਾਂ ਦੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Punjabi <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Waltham Forest Council adopted its Local Plan Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) on the 16th October 2014. The AAP sets out the long term spatial vision and strategy for delivering the growth and regeneration of the town centre over the next 15 years.

1.2 This statement has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (16) (3) and (4). These regulations transpose into UK legislation European Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'SEA Directive') which require a statement to be produced on adoption of a plan or programme, to detail:

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
- how the environmental report has been taken into account;
- how opinions expressed through public consultation (on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process) have been taken into account;
- the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- the measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

1.3 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all development plan documents (DPDs) prepared by local planning authorities must undergo SA. The AAP is one of many DPDs developed as part of the Waltham Forest Local Plan. The purpose of the SA process is to appraise the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan to help ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development in both the town centre and the wider Borough.

1.4 Government guidance clarifies that a single SA can also incorporate the requirements for a SEA by European Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'SEA Directive').

How environmental considerations have been integrated into
the plan or programme

2 How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme

2.1 Consideration of environmental issues have been built into the development of the AAP. Through the SA process every policy (and alternative option) has been tested for its environmental integrity. SA has performed a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the plan and has informed the evolution of the plan through the various stages in the plan making process. The requirements of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been incorporated into the SA exercise undertaken.

2.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report produced in October 2008 informed the preparation of the SA undertaken on the AAP . In particular the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report established the Sustainability Objectives against which the environmental, economic and social impacts of the plans and proposals in the AAP would be assessed. It should be noted that the content and findings of the SA were subject to consultation with a range of both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

2.3 An SA was undertaken at both the Preferred Options stage and the Submission stage of the AAPs development. It should also be noted that an additional addendum was added to the SA undertaken at the Submission stage considering the impacts of the modifications made to the AAP through the Examination process. At each stage in the preparation of the AAP the policies and proposals (and alternatives) were tested against the SA framework/objectives to assess and evaluate the environmental impacts of the plan. The SA informed the AAP by identifying potential adverse impacts of the policies and proposals (and alternatives) and highlighted where they needed to be modified or refined in order to mitigate any adverse impacts and maximising beneficial impacts to improve the sustainability outcomes of the plan. The SA (and findings) undertaken at the Submission stage were also Examined by an Independent Planning Inspector alongside the AAP.

How the environmental report has been taken into account

3 How the environmental report has been taken into account

Preferred Options

3.1 An SA report was published alongside the Preferred Options document in September 2011. Each preferred option was assessed in terms of the overall balance of impacts on an agreed set of SA objectives as set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The SA considered whether the impact of the policies and proposals (and alternatives options) would be expected to be positive, negative, neutral or uncertain. The SA found that for the most part, the emerging policies were likely to contribute positively to the Sustainability Objectives in the plan. However, where the SA identified any adverse impacts, in a limited amount of cases, some policies were proposed to be modified to mitigate these adverse impacts or strengthen beneficial sustainability impacts. The proposed modifications as stated in the recommendations of the SA were taken forward into the Proposed Submission AAP.

Proposed Submission

3.2 Further amendments/modifications were made to the policies and proposals in the Proposed Submission AAP. The reasons for amendments to policies and proposals were essentially; 1) in response to representations made by stakeholders during the consultation period on the Preferred Options document; 2) due to changes in both national and regional planning policy; 3) in response to new evidence gathered by the Council and; 4) the recommendations of the SA. The table after paragraph 17.1.1 of the Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan Sustainability Report (December 2012) sets out the key recommendations of the report. Where the SA identified any adverse impacts, in a limited amount of cases, some policies were proposed to be modified to mitigate these adverse impacts or strengthen beneficial sustainability impacts. The SA undertaken at the Proposed Submission stage was submitted for Examination alongside the AAP in September 2013.

3.3 The Council undertook a statutory consultation on the Proposed submission AAP (and SA). As a result of the consultation, the Council proposed to further modify the policies and proposals in the AAP. These proposed Modifications were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination alongside the AAP.

Post Publication Modifications

3.4 During the Examination by the Planning Inspectorate the policies and proposals in the AAP were modified further. In addition, most of the modifications proposed by the Council (see above) were also carried forward. In order to assess the impacts of these modifications and minor amendments an additional addendum was added to the Proposed Submission Sustainability Report. This addendum concluded that Modifications made to the plan contributed positively to the environment.

How opinions expressed through consultation have been taken
into account

4 How opinions expressed through consultation have been taken into account

4.1 The SEA Directive requires responses to consultation to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to a legislative procedure. As required by the SEA regulations, the Council undertook consultation on the scope of the SA with the statutory bodies and key stakeholders. Comments received were taken into consideration when developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework/Objectives.

4.2 The Preferred Options AAP and Proposed Submission AAP documents have been accompanied by both an SA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Throughout the development of the AAP the content, findings and recommendations of the SA have been consulted on with 'Duty to Cooperate bodies', specific and general consultation bodies. Consultation reports on the AAP have also been produced and published at the Preferred Options and Proposed Submission stages. These reports set out how comments made have been considered and have identified (where necessary) the changes to be made to the plan and SA. All comments have been considered in detail and used to inform the AAPs policies and proposals.

The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted

5 The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted

5.1 The policies and proposals in the AAP have been rigorously tested through; 1) extensive public consultation, 2) the SA process; and 3) independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. The AAP has been found 'sound' by the Planning Inspectorate and thus represents an appropriate response to the key planning issues identified in Walthamstow Town Centre. The document is in general conformity with the Mayor of London's London Plan (2011) and is also in conformity with the Council's Core Strategy which sets out the Council's strategic, borough wide, spatial development strategy. In addition, the AAP has been prepared in accordance with the Waltham Forest Sustainable Community Strategy and in response to the Council's growth agenda.

Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects
of the plan

6 Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects of the plan

6.1 Having assessed and evaluated all the significant impacts arising from the policies and proposals in the AAP, the outline monitoring requirements are set out in section 19 of the SA Report (December 2012). This identifies the key areas where the plan is expected to have significant sustainability impacts and provides details of how such effects will be monitored.

6.2 Section 36 of the AAP sets out the monitoring framework for policies in the AAP. The monitoring framework includes many of the indicators and targets identified by the SA report. The Waltham Forest Annual Monitoring Report will be the main mechanism for assessing the performance and effect of policies contained in the AAP.

Conclusion

7 Conclusion

7.1 The SA process undertaken has ensured that the Walthamstow Town Centre Area Action Plan contributes to the delivery of sustainable development in the town centre and wider Borough. The AAP has been found 'sound' after independent Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. The AAP, as adopted, is the most appropriate development strategy, given the reasonable alternatives considered.

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Waltham Forest

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