

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE CRAWLEY BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN: CRAWLEY 2030

Post Adoption Statement

December 2015



Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	2
2. Environmental Statement	3
a. How the environmental considerations have been integrated into the Crawley Borough Local Plan	3
b. How the Environmental Report (Sustainability Appraisal Reports 2012 – 2015) has been taken into account	6
c. How opinions expressed as a result of public consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal have been taken into account	8
d. Reasons for choosing the Local Plan as adopted, in light of other alternatives	9
1 e. Measures for Monitoring	11

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Crawley Borough Council adopted the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2015 2030 (Crawley 2030) on 16 December 2015.
- 1.2 - meets Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004. It sets out how the Crawley Borough Local Plan has been prepared in accordance with the

2. Environmental Statement

(a) How the environmental considerations have been integrated into the Crawley Borough Local Plan:

2.1 Figure 1³

- D. Economy;
- E. Natural Environment;
- F. Transport and Infrastructure;
- G. Population, Community Facilities and Open Spaces, Crime and Health of the Community.

2.4

borough. This was initially published in the Scoping Report (2012) alongside the Issues and Options consultation with the Local Plan. This information was collected from monitoring carried out in the past along with other sources, and enabled the key sustainability issues facing the borough to be identified. These issues are set out in Table 1⁴ below:

Table 1:	
Pollution	increase.
Climate Change	Crawley as a dense urban area has a high level of anticipated development, whilst also being identified as an area of radiant energy and subject to serious water stress.
Waste	Crawley has no strategy for managing commercial and industrial wast300

Land Supply	Land supply in the borough is limited.
Building Stock	There is a mismatch between the existing older building stock and the current needs of the changing economy, both within the dedicated business areas and the town centre.
Skills Gap	Local skills do not match the requirements of local businesses, resulting in significant in-commuting to the borough from surrounding areas.

Changing
Economy

3. To protect and enhance the valued built environment and character within the borough through high quality new design and the protection of culturally valuable areas and buildings.
4. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent and affordable home.
5. To maintain, support and promote a diverse employment base that can serve the local and sub-regional and regional economy.
6. To conserve and enhance the biodiversity habitats, key landscape features, fauna and flora within the borough.
7. To reduce car journeys and promote sustainable and alternative methods of transport, whilst ensuring sufficient transport infrastructure is delivered to meet the requirements of the borough.
8. To ensure the provision of sufficient infrastructure to meet the requirements of the borough.
9. To promote healthy, active, cohesive and socially sustainable communities.
10. To ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in sport and to encourage active lifestyles.

2.7 These were compared with each other and against the overall objectives and Vision of the Local Plan. This process allowed any conflicts between the objectives to be identified and enabled possible ways of reducing or resolving conflicts to be found.

(b) How the Environmental Report (Sustainability Appraisal Reports 2012 2015) has been taken into account:

2.8

	Uncertain Impact (?)
	Possible Negative or Slight Negative Impact (-?)
	Negative Impact (-)
	Significant Negative Impact (--)

2.13 Detailed assessment of each of the reasonable alternative options was provided for each proposed Local Plan policy. Following the assessments of each policy, the results were tabulated, which meant it was possible to identify complementary policies and areas of conflict. The mitigation measures necessary to address negative impacts were identified. In considering the policy options available to the council, planning officers endeavoured to ensure that the most sustainable option was preferred, unless other considerations dictated (for example, the most sustainable option could threaten the economic viability of new development within the Plan or the option could be non-compliant with planning legislation or national policy). The chosen option was highlighted for each policy. A draft Sustainability Report was published to accompany the Local Plan Preferred Strategy in October 2012.

- 2.23 Three representations were received to the submission draft Sustainability Appraisal, which was subject to public consultation between 1 September and 13 October 2014. These are set out in Appendix 6 of the Statement of Consultation to the Local Plan (November 2014). These were submitted directly to the Planning Inspector as part of the Local Plan submission documents, on 26 November 2014, for his consideration into the examination of the Crawley Borough Local Plan.
- 2.24 A Sustainability Report for the Modifications Local Plan was produced in June 2015, and consulted upon between 1 July and 12 August 2015. This assessed those policies subject to Main Modifications through the examination process. Where the modifications affected the options appraised through the SA/SEA, the policy and/or allocation was re-assessed and the conclusions were set out as tracked changes in the Modifications version of the Sustainability Report. No representations were received directly in relation to the Sustainability Report as part of this consultation.
- 2.25 At each of the above formal stages of public consultation, statutory consultees were notified of the process. The following specific statutory and locally significant partners were approached directly to assist with the Sustainability Appraisal of Options, the Preferred Option for the Local Plan and the final submission Local Plan:
- Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - English Heritage (Historic England)
 - Highways Agency (Highways England)
 - NHS Sussex (Crawley CCG)
 - West Sussex County Council Transport and Infrastructure
 - West Sussex County Council Education
 - West Sussex County Council Minerals and Waste
 - Crawley Borough Council Development Management
 - Crawley Borough Council Corporate Policy
 - Crawley Borough Council Environmental Health
 - Crawley Borough Council Housing
 - Minority Forums for Older People; Ethnic Minorities; Disabled People and Young Mothers.
- 2.26 Full details on the public consultations are set out in the Statement of Consultation to the Local Plan (November 2014) and paragraphs 2.14-2.24 and 4.5-4.14 of the final Sustainability Report (December 2015).

(d) Reasons for choosing the Local Plan as adopted, in light of other alternatives:

- 2.27 The development of options was considered during the earliest stages of the plan preparation, starting with the Core Strategy Review Issues and Options topic papers and the reviewed and updated Issues and Options for the Local Plan in 2012, each setting out strategic options for the key topic areas being considered. The questionnaires issued as part of the early 2012 consultation asked high level questions to influence the direction of the priorities for the Local Plan. The responses from these early consultations directly influenced

the development of the Crawley 2030 Vision⁷, from which the Local Plan objectives⁸ and strategy were formed.

- 2.28 The strategic spatial strategy was assessed against the sustainability objectives following results from consultation and technical evidence base information. The outcome of the final option chosen for the Spatial Strategy was a combination of Scenario 2 (Sub-Regional Focus) and 3 (Crawley borough Focus). The negative effects associated with each option were mitigated and minimised as far as possible. It was, therefore, considered to be the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable
- A combination of Scenarios 2 and 3 were chosen to create a realistic and deliverable Local Plan which maximises sustainable development opportunities whilst protecting the quality of the environment for local residents, businesses and visitors*⁹.

- 2.29 The assessment of the Local Plan policies found that policies generally had positive effects for social and economic Sustainability Objectives, but had uncertain or less positive impacts for the environment. This was expected when considering the combination of Sustainability Objectives 1: (en 1 h)3 (ua)3(l)5(o)15(md6(as 23()-4(t)-4(

3. Further Information

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