

## **London Borough of Barking and Dagenham**

Directive 2001/42/EC (d) of the European Parliament and of the Council Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (16) (3) and (4).

### **Site Specific Allocations Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement 17 January 2011**

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham adopted its Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) on 8 December 2010.

This Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (16) (3) and (4), which require a statement to be produced on adoption of a plan, to detail:

- i) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- ii) how the environmental report has been taken into account;
- iii) how opinions expressed through public consultation have been taking into account;
- iv) the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- v) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.

### **How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan**

The undertaking of the sustainability appraisal process has ensured that environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan from the outset of preparation. There are three elements to this:

- i) Scoping Stage
- ii) Environmental appraisal of the higher level plan; the Core Strategy.
- iii) Reporting on the sustainability effects of the Site Specific Allocations DPD.

#### *Scoping Stage*

In the early stages and prior to the Issues and Options stage of the Local Development Framework (LDF) in 2005, the initial Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report was drafted. This reported on the methodology to be adopted in appraising the LDF and incorporated the SA Framework. The SA Framework comprised a set of objectives against which emerging LDF policy would be appraised. In July 2007 the Council published a Part Two Scoping Report specific to the Site Specific Allocations DPD.

#### *Environmental appraisal of the higher level plan; the Core Strategy*

The purpose of the Site Specific Allocations DPD is to resolve the land use implications of the Core Strategy and therefore to consider the future of sites across the borough. The broad spatial strategy and strategic objectives

guiding the development of the Site Specific Allocations DPD are determined at the Core Strategy level. This spatial strategy and strategic objectives have been subject to a thorough process of the environmental appraisal as reported in the following:

- Initial sustainability appraisal of the policy options for the Core Strategy DPD - 2006.
- Sustainability appraisal of the core strategy policies. Environmental Report produced 2007 *Sustainability appraisal report of the core strategy preferred options*.
- Sustainability appraisal of the core strategy policies. Environmental Report produced 2009 Sustainability appraisal of the core strategy pre-submission policies.
- Sustainability appraisal of the Schedule of Proposed Changes. Advertised Proposed Changes to the Core Strategy November 2009.

More detail on the sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy is provided in the Core Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement 16 August 2010.

#### *Reporting on the sustainability effects of the Site Specific Allocations DPD*

The sustainability effects of the Site Specific Allocations were reported on in the:

- Sustainability appraisal of the site specific allocations pre-submission report.

The submission version of the Site Specific Allocations DPD was identical to the pre-submission version. However during the examination in to the DPD, the Council advertised changes to the Site Specific Allocations DPD. Further sustainability appraisal work was undertaken at this stage and reported in the following report:

- Sustainability appraisal of the proposed changes to the submission site specific allocations development plan document.

#### **How the environmental report has been taken into account**

The process of undertaking sustainability appraisal of the Site Specific Allocations involved the production of two environmental reports; one at pre-submission stage and the other during examination when the Council advertised a set of Proposed Changes to the submission Site Specific Allocations. At each of these stages the environmental reports were published on the Council's website and targeted consultation held with the environmental consultees (English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency) and the statutory consultees for the Core Strategy. At pre-submission stage the targeted consultation on the sustainability appraisal work was extended to include all stakeholders and the wider public. Consultees therefore responded to the Site Specific Allocations with the

benefit of being informed about the outcome of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed policies.

The sustainability appraisal of individual sites, undertaken at the Site Specific Allocations pre-submission stage, identified some negative effects. The appraisal also identified mitigation measures to reduce these negative effects. The majority of these mitigation measures are:

- i) included in the Proposed Use and Design Requirements for each site within the Site Specific Allocations pre-submission DPD and/or
- ii) will be required by the application of Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development policies at the planning application stage.

### **How opinions expressed through public consultation have been taken into account**

Public consultation exercises took place at the following stages of Site Specific Allocations preparation

1. Issues and Options Stage ( 30 June to 11 August 2008)
2. Pre-submission Site Specific Allocations DPD ( 5 June to 17 July 2010).
3. Advertised Proposed Changes to the Site Specific Allocations DPD (5 February to 5 March 2010).

The details concerning the first two phases are set out in the *Council's Pre-submission consultation statement: site specific allocations*. This report documents who we consulted, how we consulted, a summary of the main issues raised and also how these have been addressed in the Site Specific Allocations DPD. This report demonstrates how opinions expressed through public consultation have provided a key input into the Site Specific Allocations as they emerged.

The submission version of the Site Specific Allocations DPD was identical to the pre-submission version. Alongside this, the Council also submitted a schedule of representations received on the pre-submission Site Specific Allocations DPD, together with the representations themselves. In order to address issues raised by representors at the pre-submission stage, the Council produced the document *Schedule of Advertised Proposed Changes to the submitted Site Specific Allocations* in February 2010. The Inspector considered these proposed changes alongside the pre-submission representations as well as the representations received during the hearings themselves.

### **The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

The purpose of the Site Specific Allocations document is to resolve the land use implications of the Core Strategy and therefore to consider the future of

sites across the borough. As such the Site Specific Allocations DPD identified the following:

- Key Regeneration Areas and Significant Housing Sites
- Minor Housing Sites
- Transport Infrastructure Sites
- Town Centre Hierarchy
- Public Open Spaces
- Allotment Sites
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Social Infrastructure Sites
- Strategic Industrial Locations
- Locally Significant Industrial Locations

When assessing the reasonable alternatives to the above it is necessary to look at the reasonable alternatives to the spatial strategy and objectives established by the Core Strategy. For further information, please refer to the SEA Statement to the Core Strategy and Borough Wide Development Policies DPD dated 16 August 2010.

**The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.**

Chapter 8 in the Sustainability Appraisal Report (Sustainability Appraisal of the Site Specific Allocations DPD) identifies the key areas where the Site Specific Allocations DPD is expected to have significant sustainability effects (both positive and negative) and details how these will be monitored. In the majority of cases this will be through existing monitoring mechanisms. The Annual Monitoring Report for the LDF will report on the monitoring of the significant effects during the lifetime of the plan.