

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).

Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement 28 March 2011

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham adopted its Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Development Plan (DPD) on 23 February 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 Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan 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 March 2007 the Council published a Part Two Scoping Report specific to the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD.

Environmental appraisal of the higher level plan; the Core Strategy

The purpose of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD is to set out policies and proposals to deliver growth, stimulate regeneration and protect and improve the physical environment of the built environment of the town centre. The aim of the AAP is to allow the Council to promote the extensive opportunities in this particular area of the borough for further housing, community services, retail and leisure development in accordance with the Core Strategy. The broad spatial strategy and strategic objectives guiding the development of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan 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.

Environmental Appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan

The BTC AAP policies have been subject to a thorough process of environmental appraisal as reported in the following:

- Sustainability Appraisal of Issues and Options - June 2007
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options – June 2008
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Report – June 2009

Reporting on the sustainability effects of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD

The sustainability effects of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD were reported on in the:

- Sustainability appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Report (June 2009)

The submission version of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD was identical to the pre-submission version. However during the examination in to the DPD, the Council advertised changes to the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD (5 Feb – 5 March 2010). Further sustainability appraisal work was undertaken at this stage and reported in the following document:

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Changes to the Submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (Date February 2010)

As a result of the Examination further significant Post-Hearing changes to the Area Action Plan were made in relation to tall buildings and heritage and the historic environment. The Council consulted on the proposed changes between 10 June and 9 July 2010. Further sustainability appraisal work was undertaken at this stage and reported in the following document:

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Post Hearing Changes to the Submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Development Plan Document (June 2010)

How the environmental report has been taken into account

The process of undertaking sustainability appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan has involved the production of four environmental reports; one at preferred options stage, one at pre-submission stage and one during examination when the Council advertised a set of Proposed Changes to the submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan and the other when the Council advertised a set of Post Hearing-proposed changes to the submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan. 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) , the statutory and general consultees for the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan. Consultees therefore responded to the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan with the benefit of being informed about the outcome of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed policies.

The plan has been subject to iterations based on consultation responses, recommendations made in the SA reports, and changing circumstances in the borough, as well as developments in baseline information. Recommendations made by consultees on the SA Reports at all stages have also been used to develop policies within the pre-submission AAP. The influence of the SA process on the content of the final Environmental Report is documented in Appendix One to the Pre-Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report (Consultation on the SA of the BTC AAP) and Appendix Six a – SA Recommendations and Responses. As demonstrated in Appendix Six (a) to the Environmental Report, the majority of recommendations have been taken on board directly (e.g. with amendments/additions to the AAP policies or text), and reasons given if they have not. Where

recommendations have not been taken on board, this is usually to avoid repetition with the policies within the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPDs.

How opinions expressed through public consultation have been taken into account

During the period June to December 2007, the LDF team used the results from the public consultation of the Issues and Options Report, together with the SA work, to refine the options for the BTC AAP and prepare draft policy statements. These would form the BTC AAP Preferred Options Report.

These 'Preferred' policy options were then appraised by environmental sustainability officers against the sustainability appraisal framework. The Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options in June 2008.

Responses received on the BTC AAP Preferred Options and accompanying SA Report were used to develop a set of final policies and version of the Area Action Plan for consultation. This is known as the 'Pre-Submission' version and is the final version of the plan upon which representations are sought prior to formal submission to the Secretary of State. This pre submission version of the AAP was then subject to SA, and is the subject of the Pre Submission Environmental Report.

Public consultation exercises took place at the following stages of Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan preparation:

1. Barking Town Centre Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (March to April 2007)
2. Barking Town Centre Issues and Options Report and Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal Report (July to August 2007)
3. Barking Town Centre Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Options (June to August 2008)
4. Pre-submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD and Sustainability Appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan (5 June to 17 July 2010).
5. Advertised Proposed Changes to the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD including sustainability appraisal of the significant changes (5 February to 5 March 2010).

The details concerning the earlier phases are set out in the *Council's Pre-Submission Consultation Statement: Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan*. 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 Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD. This report demonstrates how opinions expressed through public consultation have provided a key input into the Barking Town Centre policies as they emerged.

The submission version of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD was identical to the pre-submission version. Alongside this, the Council also submitted a schedule of representations received on the pre-submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan 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 Submission Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan* 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 Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan is determined by its higher level plan, the Core Strategy. Its key functions is to set out policies and proposals to deliver growth, stimulate regeneration and protect and improve the physical environment of the Town Centre. As such the Barking Town Centre Area Action plan DPD establishes polices for the following:

- Commercial Barking
- Transport
- Housing
- Social Infrastructure
- Urban Design and the Public Realm
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Sustainability
- Developer Contributions
- Town Centre Site Specific Allocations

Whilst the wider parameters of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan has been established by a higher level plan alternatives to the adopted policies were considered and appraised. These are documented in Chapter Six of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan.

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 of the Barking Town Centre Area Action Plan Pre-Submission Report identifies the key areas where the plan 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.