

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).

Borough Wide Development Policies DPD Strategic Environmental Assessment Post Adoption Statement 9 May 2011

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham adopted its Borough Wide Development Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) on 30 March 2011.

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 emerging LDF policy
- iii) Reporting on the sustainability effects of the plan/draft plan

Scoping Stage

In the early stages and prior to the Issues and Options stage of the LDF in 2005, the initial Sustainability Appraisal 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.

Environmental appraisal of emerging LDF policy

The LDF Issues and Options consultation presented a series of broad questions relating to options for the following topic areas:

- Overall Vision
- Site Allocations
- Environment
- Community

- Housing
- Employment
- Town centres and retail issues
- Transport
- Your neighbourhood.

These alternatives were appraised by environmental policy officers within the Council in consultation with the key bodies such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage. The results of this work informed the development of more refined options being prepared by the policy team as part of preferred options report. The preferred options were then also appraised and were reported and consulted on in the *Sustainability appraisal report of the borough wide development policies preferred options*. As a result of the earlier iterations of appraisal work, environmental considerations had been integrated into the preferred options stage of the LDF and this is well demonstrated in the Borough Wide Development Policies Preferred Options reports (published in March 2007) which present the sustainability appraisal outcomes for the preferred options and its alternatives in the justification text to the policies.

Reporting on the sustainability effects of the plan/draft plan

The sustainability effects of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD were reported on at the following stages:

- Initial sustainability appraisal of the policy options for the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD . This work was completed August 2006 and comprised 26 initial appraisals.
- Sustainability appraisal of the borough wide policies. Environmental Report produced 2007 *Sustainability appraisal report of the borough wide development policies preferred options*.
- Sustainability appraisal of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD. Environmental Report produced 2008 *Sustainability appraisal of the borough wide development policies DPD pre-submission policies*.
- Sustainability appraisal of the Proposed Changes to the Advertised Proposed Changes to the Submission Borough Wide Development Policies DPD June 2010.

The submission version of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD was identical to the pre-submission version.

How the environmental report has been taken into account;

The iterative process of undertaking sustainability appraisal of the borough wide development policies involved the production of two Environmental Reports; one at preferred options stage and the other at pre-submission stage. 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 Borough Wide Policies DPD. At preferred options stage, the targeted consultation on the sustainability appraisal work

was extended to include all stakeholders and the wider public. Consultees therefore responded to the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD with the benefit of being informed about the outcome of the sustainability appraisal of the proposed policies.

The two Environmental Reports were also taken into account by the Council in the refinement of the borough wide development policies. Chapter 7 of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD includes two tables which show how the pre-submission Borough Wide Development Policies were refined directly as a result of the findings in the of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD preferred options report.

The final Environmental Report comprises the *Sustainability appraisal of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD pre-submission report* together with the *Sustainability appraisal of the advertised proposed changes to the submission Borough Wide Development Policies DPD*. The Environmental Report identifies the remaining significant positive and negative impacts of the submitted Borough Wide Development Policies DPD. These predicted impacts will be monitored during the lifetime of the plan (see v below).

iii) how opinions expressed through public consultation have been taking into account;

Public consultation exercises took place at the following stages of Borough Wide Development Policies DPD preparation

1. Issues and Options consultation and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation (Nov 05 – Jan 06).
2. Preferred Options consultation and consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred options (March – May 07).
3. Borough Wide Development Policies Pre-Submission Report consultation and consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal of the Borough Wide Development Policies Pre-Submission Report November to December 2008.

The details concerning the first two phases are set out in the *Council's Pre-submission consultation statement: core strategy and borough wide development policies*. 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 DPDs. This report demonstrates how opinions expressed through public consultation have provided a key input into the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD policies as they emerged.

The submission version of the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD was identical to the pre-submission version. Alongside this, the Council also submitted a schedule of representations received on the pre-submission Borough Wide Development Policies 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 Borough Wide Development Plan* in July 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 Borough Wide Development Policies DPD sets out the criteria against which planning applications for the development and use of land and buildings will be considered. The purpose of the DPD is to provide detailed policies required to implement the spatial strategy and objectives established in its higher level plan; the Core Strategy. The Borough Wide Development Policies DPD establishes policies under the following themes:

- Sustainable Resources and the Environment
- Creating a Sense of Community
- Ensuring a Vibrant Economy and Attractive Town Centres
- Creating a Sense of Place

Each of the policies set out in the Borough Wide Development Policies DPD has emerged following the consideration of reasonable alternatives. These alternatives are documented in the Issues & Options papers and the Preferred Options report. The sustainability appraisal of the alternatives is documented in the following places:

- In Appendix 11 to the sustainability appraisal report for the borough wide development policies DPD pre-submission/submission report.
- In Appendix 9 to the sustainability appraisal report for the borough wide development policies preferred options.
- In the initial sustainability appraisal of the borough wide development policies (undertaken in August 2006).

The parameters of Borough Wide Development Policies DPD is largely constrained by the spatial strategy and objectives set out in the Core Strategy. For more information on this, please refer to the SEA Statement to the Core Strategy dated 16 August 2010.

v) 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 Borough Wide Development Policies Pre-Submission Report identifies the key areas where the plan expected to have significantly 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.