



SCOTT WILSON Planning & Environment
Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment
South Kesteven District Council Local Development Framework

Core Strategy Preferred Options
Sustainability Appraisal Non-technical Summary

May 2006



SA / SEA South Kesteven District Council
Local Development Framework
Core Strategy Preferred Options
Sustainability Appraisal Report Non-technical Summary
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Scott Wilson was commissioned in 2006 by South Kesteven District Council to undertake the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD).

1.1.2 This document summarises the findings of the SA / SEA process so far using non-technical language.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

1.2.1 SEA involves the identification and evaluation of the environmental effects of a plan or programme. In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive').

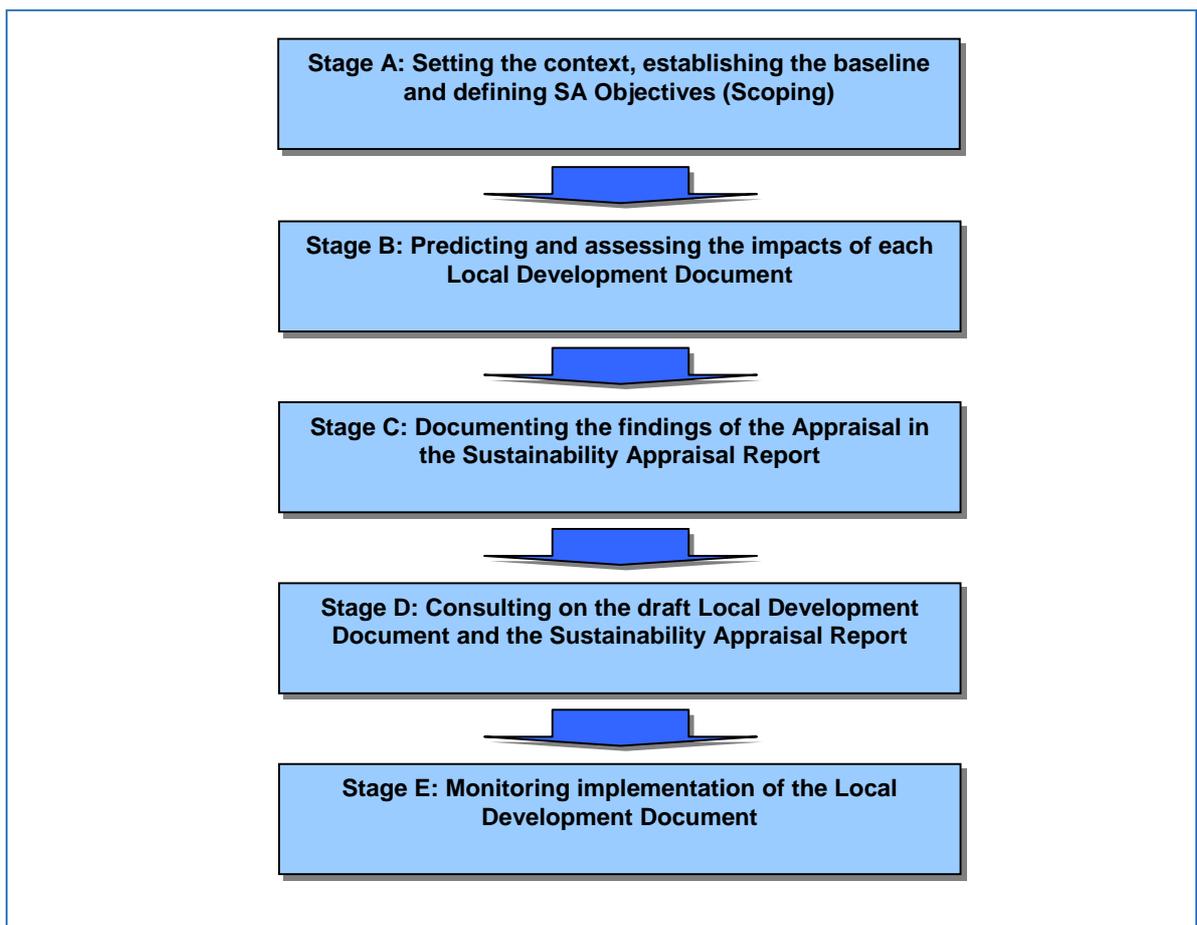


Figure 1.1: Five-stage approach to SA/SEA

1.2.2 The aim of the SEA Directive is “to provide for a high level of protection of

the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes, with a view to promoting sustainable development”.

- 1.2.3 SA extends the concept of SEA to encompass economic and social concerns. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA), Local Authorities must undertake SA for each of their DPDs and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – the constituent parts of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for LDFs along with SEA.
- 1.2.4 Government guidance advocates a five-stage approach to undertaking SA (see Figure 1.1, above). The SA / SEA of the Core Strategy is currently at Stage D and this Non-technical Summary is being made available to facilitate public consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for the Core Strategy.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Core Strategy objectives and contents

- 2.1.1 Urban areas will be the focus for any new development or redevelopment. The Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands recognises Grantham as a Sub Regional Centre and Grantham's role will be to support sustainable development objectives by performing a complimentary role to the Principal Urban Areas.
- 2.1.2 The nature of development and change in Grantham, Stamford, Bourne and The Deepings will vary according to their capacity and policy situation, with differing balances being struck between urban concentration and urban expansion depending on sub-regional circumstances.
- 2.1.3 For new development or redevelopment, a sequential approach will be adopted. This will be in accordance with national and regional sequential protocols and also reflect local circumstances that will help the Council deliver the improvements in the quality of life as set out in the Spatial Vision.

2.2 Spatial Vision for South Kesteven

- 2.2.1 To ensure that the residents of South Kesteven are proud of their district by maintaining and improving the towns, villages and countryside of the district to create self-supporting, sustainable communities which are safe, healthy and desirable place in which to live and work. This will be achieved by:
- Creating the right balance of jobs, housing and infrastructure
 - Ensuring that development is sustainable in terms of location, use and form
 - Balancing the development needs of the district with the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment
 - Addressing and mitigating, any negative effects of development on the built and natural environment

2.3 Preferred Options

2.3.1 The Core Strategy contains the following Preferred Options:

- Preferred Option 1: SEQUENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KESTEVEN
- Preferred Option 2: SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT
- Preferred Option 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Preferred Option 4: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
- Preferred Option 5: PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- Preferred Option 6: PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT
- Preferred Option 7: DESIGN
- Preferred Option 8: PROTECTING NEIGHBOURHOOD AMENITY THROUGH DESIGN
- Preferred Option 9: DEVELOPMENT IN CONSERVATION AREAS
- Preferred Option 10: LISTED BUILDINGS
- Preferred Option 11: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES
- Preferred Option 12: REDUCING THE RISK OF FLOODING AND PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES
- Preferred Option 13: RENEWABLE ENERGY
- Preferred Option 14: RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN NEW DEVELOPMENT
- Preferred Option 15: POLLUTION CONTROL
- Preferred option 16: PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

3 LIKELY EFFECTS, MITIGATION AND MONITORING

3.1 Likely significant effects

3.1.1 The SA Report discusses the likely significant sustainability effects of the Core Strategy in detail. These are summarised below using the SA Objectives set out in the Scoping Report, which outlines the scope and level of detail of the SA. The Scoping Report can be found at:

<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/publications> and clicking on Local Development Framework

3.1.2 Table 3.1 shows the summary of the likely significant effects in the short, medium and long terms. A tick ✓ is used to denote a beneficial effect, while an adverse effect is represented by a cross ✗. Brackets indicate that there is some scope for mitigation (see Section 3.2). A question mark means that it is uncertain whether the effect will be significant.

Table 3.1: Likely Significant Effects

Social					
SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
To ensure that the housing needs of the community are met, in particular the affordable housing requirements	Will it help to meet affordable housing need?	~	✓	✓	High affordable requirement for new housing development
	Will it help provide balanced housing?	~	~	~	
	Will it reduce the number of unfit / non-decent homes?	~	(✓)	(✓)	Provides for significant increase in housing that will reduce the proportion of unfit homes
To facilitate improved health provision where appropriate	Will it add to the provision of health facilities?	~	✓	✓	Through planning obligations
To facilitate the provision of recreational facilities for all	Will it add to the provision of recreational / sports facilities?	~	✓	✓	Through planning obligations
Contribute to community safety by encouraging good design	Will it reduce levels of crime?	~	~	~	
	Will it reduce the fear of crime?	~	✓	✓	Requires new development to 'design out' crime
	Will it improve community safety?	~	~	~	
	Will it reduce noise concerns?	?	?	?	Significant growth of Grantham and increase in population suggests localised increases in disturbance from construction and from traffic

To ensure that development is located in the most sustainable locations to minimise adverse environmental impact	Will it help achieve the most sustainable pattern of development?	~	(X)	(X)	The Preferred Options balance economic growth with social and environmental factors, however there is potential for improvement as discussed in the chapter on mitigation
To protect and enhance the District's cultural, built and archaeological heritage	Will it have a positive impact upon the condition of Listed Buildings in the District?	✓	✓	✓	Offers protection to Listed Buildings

Environment					
SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
To protect and enhance the District's Natural Assets and Biodiversity	Will it enhance designated sites?	~	~	~	
	Will it increase tree or woodland cover?	~	~	~	
	Will it increase populations of species and habitats listed within the Lincolnshire BAP?	~	~	~	
To enhance and conserve the environment of the District through sustainable design and development	Will it improve the places where people live?	~	✓	✓	Through regeneration and design measures
To manage prudently the natural resources of the district to reduce vulnerability to flood risk	Will it reduce vulnerability to flooding?	~	~	(X)	Some reservations about the long-term sustainability of development in Bourne in relation to flood risk
To minimise energy usage through sustainable design and development	Will it reduce energy consumption?	~	~	~	
	Will it increase the proportion of energy requirements through use of renewable sources?	~	~	~	
Conserve soil resources and quality	Will it reduce the amount of indigenous soil lost?	~	~	~	
	Will it improve soil quality?	~	~	~	

	Will it remediate contaminated soil?	~	(✓)	(✓)	Development on brownfield land will often mean development on contaminated land that will need remediation beforehand
Conserve water resources and quality	Will it reduce water consumption?	~	X	X	Option seven requires new development to incorporate measures to reduce the use of water, nevertheless consumption overall seems likely to rise
	Will it improve river water quality and ecology?	~	~	~	
To minimise waste and encourage recycling and reuse of waste	Will it reduce household waste?	~	X	X	The scale of growth in Grantham seems likely to see an overall rise in the amount of waste generated, despite measures in option seven to promote re-use of natural resources
	Will it encourage the amount of waste being recycled?	~	~	~	
To maintain and enhance the quality of rural and urban areas	Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside?	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)	Options six, seven, eight, nine and ten all contribute in various ways
	Will it reduce fly tipping and littering?	~	~	~	
	Will it maintain/enhance the distinctiveness of towns and villages?	✓	✓	✓	The sequential approach outlined in option one directs new housing away from towns and villages

Economy					
SA Objective	Decision-making criteria	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
To encourage employment opportunities for all	Will it promote sustainable economic growth?	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)	Provides for local employment to maintain balanced growth
	Will it provide diversity in the economy?	~	~	~	
	Will it improve the diversity and level of skills of local people?	~	~	~	
	Will it encourage rural diversification in rural areas?	~	(✓)	(✓)	There are some limitations placed on diversification in options one and twelve
To facilitate the development of new technology to support a modern economic	Will it increase the use of new technologies?	~	~	~	
	Will it encourage home working?	~	~	~	

infrastructure	Will it improve research and development knowledge?	~	~	~	
To improve accessibility to jobs and services by increasing the use of public transport, walking and cycling	Will it improve accessibility to work by public transport, walking and cycling?	~	(✓)	(✓)	Co-location of housing and employment development will increase opportunities for people to walk or cycle
	Will it reduce commuting?	(✓)	(✓)	(✓)	Measures are in place to encourage new business into the District
To improve the social and environmental performance of the economy	Will it improve environmental performance?	~	~	~	
	Will it encourage ethical trading?	~	~	~	
	Does it value unpaid work?	~	~	~	

3.2 Mitigation

3.2.1 Mitigation measures, designed to offset adverse effects or enhance beneficial effects, are recommended in the SA Report. These were accepted by the Council and now form part of the Preferred Options that are currently the object of public consultation.

3.3 Monitoring

3.3.1 Proposals for monitoring the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy are set out in the SA Report. The indicators proposed are as follows:

Population

- Total population
- Population structure by age
- Population structure by sex
- Population structure by ethnic background
- Population structure by social grade

Human Health

- *It is recommended that the Council agrees a suitable set of indicators in consultation with Lincolnshire Health and Social Care Partnership Board*

Economy

- Business registrations and de-registrations
- Gross Domestic Product per capita

Employment

- Economically active people of working age
- Employment by occupation

Transport

- Modal split of journeys within the District
- Proportion of people commuting to work outside the District
- Distance travelled annual by private car within the District

Crime and Safety

- Violence against the person
- Sexual offences
- Robbery
- Burglary of a dwelling
- Theft of a motor vehicle
- Theft from a motor vehicle

Housing

- Housing completions
- Affordable housing completions
- Average house prices
- Housing given planning permission on floodplains
- Housing built on previously developed land

Climate

- Emissions of greenhouse gases by source in the District
- Energy generated from renewable sources in the District
- Development in the floodplain
- Development incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Number of homes or business flooded in the District

Air

- *It is recommended that the council incorporates indicators from its own Local Air Quality Management process*

Soil

- Percentage of development on brownfield sites
- Percentage of contaminated land undergoing remediation as part of development

- Percentage of development on greenfield land
- Area of 'best and most versatile' agricultural land (Grade 1, 2 and 3a) lost to development

Water

- Chemical and biological water quality
- Monitoring of groundwater for organic and inorganic pollutants
- Number of development permitted in areas at risk of flooding
- Number of flooding incidents

3.4 To comment on the Sustainability Appraisal

3.4.1 If you would like to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal please contact:

- Mike Sibthorp Head of Planning Policy and Economic Regeneration,
Council Offices, St Peters Hill, Grantham, NG31 9PZ
m.sibthorp@southkesteven.gov.uk

3.4.2 To obtain a copy of the full report, please contact :

- planningpolicy@southkesteven.gov.uk or telephone 01476 406467