

Sustainability Appraisal
*Incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment*

for Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD

Adoption Statement

January 2016

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) (2016) was adopted on 27 January 2016. A copy of this plan is available via the Council's website (www.testvalley.gov.uk). Alongside the preparation of this, Sustainability Appraisal Reports¹ were produced as required by legislation.
- 1.2 This statement provides information required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programme Regulations 2004, which forms part of the sustainability appraisal process.

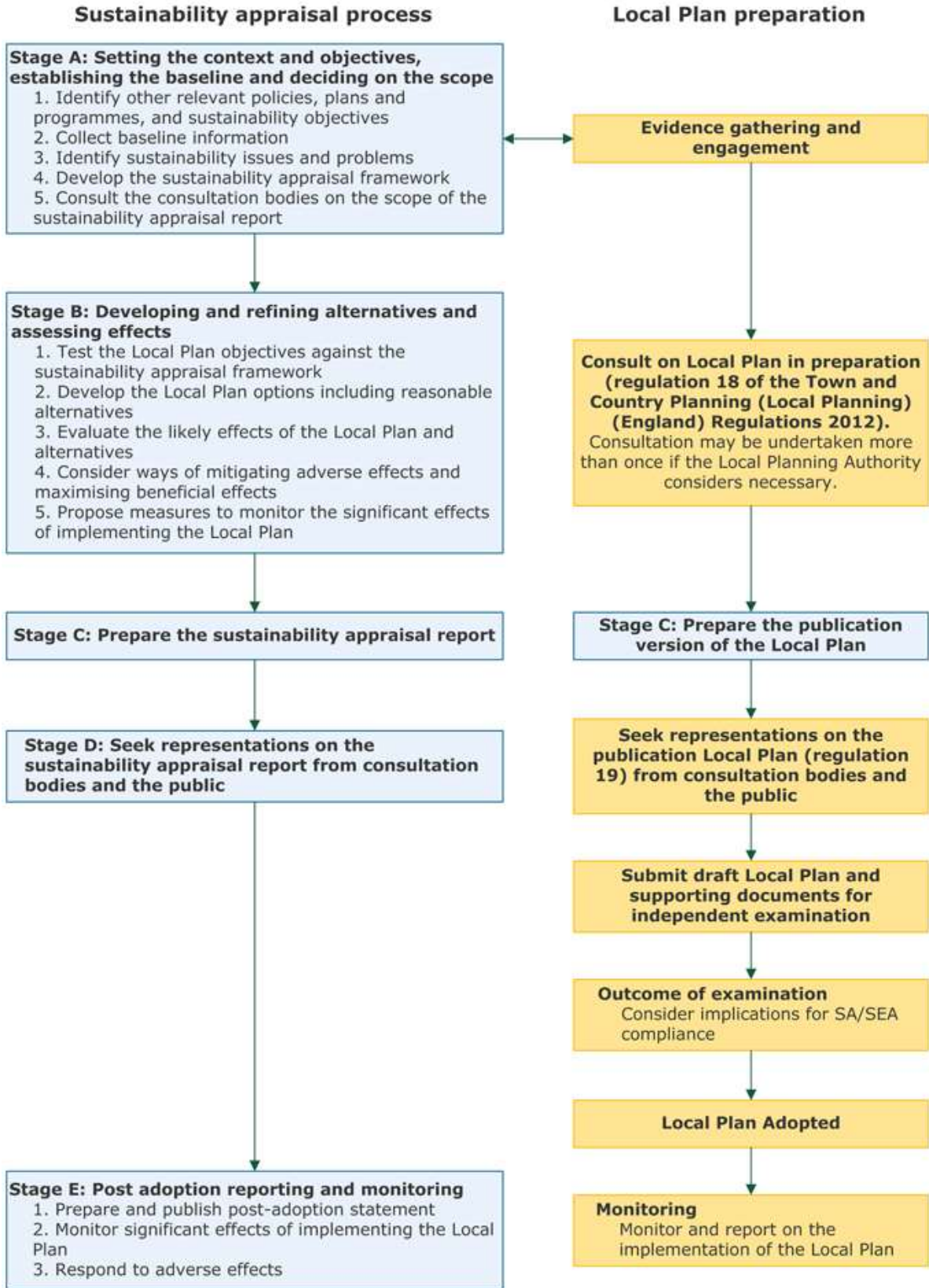
2 Background

- 2.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare sustainability appraisals to support Development Plan Documents (DPDs) through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). There is also a requirement to produce an environmental report in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004². The requirements of both sets of legislation have been addressed through the sustainability appraisal process. Therefore, where there is reference to environmental reports below, this can be read as the sustainability appraisal report.
- 2.2 There are a number of stages to the sustainability appraisal process, which are undertaken alongside the preparation of the DPD. Figure 1 provides an overview of these stages and how they link with the plan preparation process.
- 2.3 Section 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 require the preparation of a statement which provides the following information:
- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan
 - How the environmental report has been taken into account
 - How opinions expressed in response to the environmental report have been taken into account
 - How the results of any transboundary consultation undertaken have been taken into account
 - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with
 - The measures to be undertaken to monitor the significant effects of the implementation of the plan
- 2.4 This information is provided in the subsequent sections of this statement. Sustainability appraisal documents can be accessed from: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/sustainability-appraisal/>

¹ Available via: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/sustainability-appraisal/>

² Also known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations, this transposes the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (known as the SEA Directive).

Figure 1: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process³



³ Planning Practice Guidance, paragraph reference ID: 11-013-20140306, available: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

3 How Environmental Considerations have been Integrated into the Plan

- 3.1 This section should be read in conjunction with section 4 of this statement, as there is overlap in the matters covered.
- 3.2 The Revised Local Plan sets out the long term strategy to manage development up to 2029; providing policies to inform the determination of planning applications and provide strategic proposals, including allocations.
- 3.3 The sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) process has formed an integral part of the preparation of the Revised Local Plan. It commenced at an early stage in the preparation of the plan and has considered social, economic and environmental matters.
- 3.4 Figure 1 (above) sets out the main stages of the sustainability appraisal process, which incorporate:
- Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
 - Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives, and assessing effects
 - Stage C: Preparing the sustainability appraisal report
 - Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan and sustainability appraisal report
 - Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementation of the plan
- 3.5 The table in Appendix 1 provides an overview of when the stages were undertaken, who was involved and difficulties encountered. This draws on similar tables that were included in the Scoping Report and Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2013).

Scoping Report

- 3.6 A Scoping Report was prepared in 2011 as the first part of the sustainability appraisal process (covering 'stage A'). This included gathering baseline data, consideration of other relevant plans, identification of key sustainability issues and the establishment of sustainability objectives. The sustainability objectives were developed taking account of the environmental issues identified in legislation, so as to ensure all specifically mentioned topics were covered⁴.
- 3.7 The Scoping Report was subject to consultation between 18 February and 25 March 2011, with the responses feeding into the preparation of the final Scoping Report.
- 3.8 The Scoping Report is available on the Council's website at the following links:

Main Report:

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/112/SustainabilityAppraisalScopingReport-June2011-.pdf>

⁴ See Table 36 in the Scoping Report (2011).

Appendices:

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/551/SustainabilityAppraisalScopingReport-June2011-Appendices.pdf>

Non-Technical Summary:

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/118/SustainabilityAppraisalScopingReportNonTechnicalSummary-June2011-.pdf>

Sustainability Appraisal Reports

- 3.9 Sustainability Appraisal Reports (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) have been published for comment alongside every draft version of the plan. This included an appraisal of proposed modifications to the Plan during the course of the Examination in Public.
- 3.10 The Sustainability Appraisal Reports accompanying the draft plans have outlined the options that have been considered (incorporating the reasonable alternatives), the likely significant effects of the options and details of mitigation measures that could be incorporated to reduce adverse effects of certain options.
- 3.11 The scope of these reports was informed by the Scoping Report, with the objectives and the resultant sustainability appraisal framework establishing the basis for the assessment of options. The sustainability objectives therefore provided a mechanism of ensuring that environmental considerations were taken into account as part of the preparation of the plan.
- 3.12 The Sustainability Appraisal Report prepared for the Regulation 19 (Pre-Submission) version of the plan set out a summary of previous sustainability appraisal work prior to the further assessment of options at this stage of the plan preparation. The main report, appendices and non-technical summary for the Regulation 19 stage can be found at:
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/sustainability-appraisal/>
- 3.13 The sustainability appraisal relating to modifications during the Examination in Public process is also available from the above link.
- 3.14 Appendix 2 to this statement seeks to summarise how the Revised Local Plan policies link with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, which were developed so as to ensure environmental considerations (along with economic and social matters) were integrated into the Plan.

4 How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

- 4.1 This section should be read in conjunction with section 3 of this statement, as there is overlap in the matters covered.
- 4.2 The sustainability appraisal process was undertaken to inform the preparation of the Plan, with Sustainability Appraisal Reports being consulted upon at the same time as draft versions of the Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Reports

considered the plan objectives, policies and allocations, with the assessment of the effects of reasonable alternatives. The results of this process can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Reports and the associated appendices.

- 4.3 The sustainability appraisal process took account of the evidence based that had been collated to support the preparation of the plan. This helped to inform the identification of reasonable alternatives and the assessment of likely effects of bringing certain options forward.
- 4.4 As is set out within the Sustainability Appraisal Reports, this process was undertaken to inform decision making rather than to make the decisions. The outcome of public engagement and consultation has been taken into account as part of the preparation of the plan.
- 4.5 The recommendations arising from the sustainability appraisal process are identified in relation to each topic under consideration within the Sustainability Appraisal Report – this includes:
- Testing the plan objectives against the sustainability objectives – chapter 6 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Consideration of the scale of residential development – chapter 8 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Identifying sites for residential development – chapter 9 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Consideration of the approach to settlement boundaries – chapter 10 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Considering the scale of economic development and strategic sites – chapter 11 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Consideration of the scale of retail development and strategic sites – chapter 12 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Considering the scale of need and sites for other uses including recreation and park and ride facilities – chapter 13 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
 - Consideration of policies to support the development management process (i.e. determining applications) – chapter 14 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report
- 4.6 In addition to the above, chapter 15 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report included a table of mitigation measures that should be considered in the plan (Table 39) and how they have been taken into account. This has been provided at Appendix 3 to this statement with updates to account for subsequent changes.
- 4.7 The Sustainability Appraisal Report relating to modifications to the plan considered the implications of the proposed changes arising through the Examination process. Modifications related to a range of policies, including on residential and commercial developments, as well as policies providing a framework for the conservation of the environment. In many cases these modifications related to clarifying how policies would be applied and therefore did not result in any new likely significant effects being identified.

5 How Opinions Expressed in relation to the Environmental Report have been taken into account

- 5.1 This section of the statement focuses on setting out how opinions expressed in relation to the environmental report / sustainability appraisal have been taken into account.
- 5.2 The legislation also requires that the statement set out how the results of any transboundary consultation have been taken into account. The nature of the Revised Local Plan and the implications of its proposals meant that consultation with other EU Member States was not considered to be necessary. Therefore, no further information has been provided on this matter within this statement.
- 5.3 As part of the sustainability appraisal process, consultation has been undertaken at a number of stages. This includes during the preparation of the Scoping Report and then at each stage of consultation on the Revised Local Plan (with consultation on both the Plan and the associated Sustainability Appraisal Report).
- 5.4 At each stage a copy of the sustainability appraisal report and the relevant plan have been made available at the Council's main offices for public inspection, with all documentation also available via the Council's website.
- 5.5 Consultation was undertaken on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in February to March 2011 as part of the preparation of this document. Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report sets out a summary of the responses that were received and how they were taken into account⁵.
- 5.6 Throughout the preparation of the Revised Local Plan, comments on the sustainability appraisal process have been taken into account, with changes being made as considered to be appropriate.
- 5.7 A summary of the comments received on the Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying the Regulation 18 stage Revised Local Plan were presented in Appendix 2 to the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report⁶. At this stage Natural England and the Environment Agency made no comments in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal Report. Comments made by English Heritage and other parties were taken into account.
- 5.8 Comments made on the Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying the Regulation 19 stage Revised Local Plan were incorporated into the schedule of responses on the plan⁷. Responses to these comments were set out and

⁵ Available at: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/551/SustainabilityAppraisalScopingReport-June2011-Appendices.pdf>

⁶ Available at: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/5584/SA-Appendices.pdf>

⁷ Available: <http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/assets/files/7083/EB-AD-12-Officer-responses-to-representations-received-regulation-19-.pdf> (see section on paragraph 1.18 for most comments, however, there are other comments linked to the Sustainability Appraisal throughout this report)

fed into the Examination in Public process. There were no comments from Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.

- 5.9 Consultation was also undertaken on a Sustainability Appraisal Report (March 2015) accompanying proposed Main Modifications to the Revised Local Plan. No comments were received specifically in relation to this Sustainability Appraisal Report within the consultation period.

6 Reasons for Choosing the Plan as Adopted

- 6.1 The Council, through the sustainability appraisal process, has considered a series of options, including reasonable alternatives, as part of the preparation of the plan.
- 6.2 In each case these are considered by topic within the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report. This includes details setting out the reasons why options were selected and rejected, for example, in chapter 9 of this report there is commentary as to why certain strategic residential sites were selected or rejected, with a summary of this reasoning provided in Appendix 10. As recognised above, the reasons for choosing the plan, while informed by the sustainability appraisal process, is not solely derived from the outcome of the assessments but also takes account of national planning guidance and wider engagement.
- 6.3 More information on the reasons for selecting specific options for the Revised Local Plan, having regard to the sustainability appraisal, can be found within the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report as below:
- Scale of residential development over the plan period – Chapter 8
 - Identification of strategic sites for residential development – Chapter 9
 - Approach to settlement boundaries – chapter 10
 - Scale of economic development and identification of strategic economic development sites – chapter 11
 - Scale of retail development and strategic sites – chapter 12
 - Scale of need and sites for recreation provision and park and ride facilities – chapter 13
 - Approach to policies to support the development management process – chapter 14
- 6.4 Appendix 4 to this statement provides a summary of the options considered and the preferred option in relation to the scale and location of development based on the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report. This does not cover the options considered in relation to policies to support the development management process, which can be found in Chapter 14 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report as indicated above.
- 6.5 The Sustainability Appraisal Report on Modifications (dated March 2015) gave consideration to modifications proposed to the Plan during the Examination in Public process which were identified in response to matters raised by the Inspector. Therefore the Examination in Public process also influenced the content of plan that was adopted.

6.6 The Inspector's Report on the Examination into the Test Valley Revised Local Plan considered the sustainability appraisal process that had been undertaken. This report sets out that sustainability appraisal undertaken was adequate (see table associated with paragraph 237 of the Inspector's Report).

7 Monitoring Significant Effects

7.1 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 establish that environmental reports should provide a description of measures that are intended to aid in the monitoring of the significant effects of the implementation of the plan. As part of this requirement, it is also intended to provide a mechanism to identify unforeseen adverse effects so as to enable appropriate action to be taken.

7.2 It can be challenging to implement monitoring to enable the identification of unforeseen effects and to be able to attribute significant effects or unforeseen effects specifically to the implementation of a certain plan / programme (particularly when cumulative or synergistic effects are involved). However, a monitoring framework was proposed in section 16 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2013) that sought to provide a broad framework to enable the effects of the Revised Local Plan to be identified.

7.3 This framework established that the indicators referred to would be reported in the Authority's Monitoring Report, which is published on an annual basis⁸. To date they have been published covering each financial year.

7.4 Therefore, there is a framework in place to enable the monitoring of any significant environmental effects as a result of implementing the Revised Local Plan, with the outputs of this monitoring being published within the Authority's Monitoring Report.

7.5 There is also a commitment within chapter 12 of the Revised Local Plan to undertake this monitoring, with a table setting out the measures to be monitored.

8 Conclusion

8.1 The sustainability appraisal process (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) has informed the production of the Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan. This statement has sought to summarise information required through legislation, including how this process has been taken into account and how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

8.2 The documents prepared as part of the sustainability appraisal process are available via the Council's website.

⁸ Previous reports are available at:
<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/planningandbuildingcontrol/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/amr/>

Appendix 1: Commentary on the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment Process⁹

| SA Stage/task | Who was involved? | When was the work undertaken? | Difficulties/issues encountered |
|--|--|---|---|
| Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope | | | |
| Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and objectives | Planning Policy Team with assistance from other Council Services | January to March 2011, also aspects reviewed as part of the preparation of the Regulation 19 stage sustainability appraisal report. | Difficulties encountered including ensuring that the all the most relevant (and up to date) plans, policies and programmes were included and accessing them via the Internet. Similarly, accessing the most up to date data sources was a challenge, particularly in relation to the scale of the document and the issues under consideration. There were difficulties in establishing likely future trends, particularly where there are a number of factors which may have combined effects. In terms of developing objectives, there was a need to balance covering all the issues whilst maintaining a manageable number of objectives. |
| Task A2: Collecting baseline information | | | |
| Task A3: Identifying sustainability problems / issues | | | |
| Task A4: Developing SA / SEA objectives (and the SA Framework) | | | |
| Task A5: Consultation on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal | Planning Policy Team; the three statutory environmental consultation bodies ¹⁰ plus the other organisations identified in Appendix 1 of the Scoping Report. | | |
| Stage B: Develop and refine alternatives, and assess effects | | | |
| B1: Test the plan objectives against the sustainability objectives | Planning Policy Team (with input from other teams within the Council and other organisations for specific aspects). | May to October 2011 for Regulation 25 consultation work; June to December 2012 for Regulation | It was challenging to identify the specific effects (including their significance) of options considered and the Plan, in conjunction with other plans, policies and programmes, particularly where there are |
| B2: Developing strategic alternatives | | | |

⁹ Based on Table 3 of the Scoping Report (2011) and Table 5 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report (November 2013), some of the naming of the stages is therefore different to that provided in Figure 1.

¹⁰ Natural England, Environment Agency and English Heritage are the statutory environmental consultees.

| SA Stage/task | Who was involved? | When was the work undertaken? | Difficulties/issues encountered |
|---|---|--|--|
| B3: Predict the effects of the draft plan | | 18 stage; June to November 2013 for Regulation 19 stage. | many factors that influence the evolution of the environment (including proposals coming forward over the plan period). In some cases, indicators that enable the monitoring of significant effects are not available; therefore other ways of looking at effects may be required. |
| B4: Evaluate the effects of the draft plan | | | |
| B5: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects | | | |
| B6: Proposing measures to monitor the effects of the plan | | | |
| Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report | | | |
| C1: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report | Planning Policy Team (supported by external advice / peer review) | May – October 2011 for Regulation 25 work; June to December 2012 for the Regulation 18 work and from June to November 2013 for the Regulation 19 report. | Balancing the provision of an appropriate level of detail (with appropriate links to the Revised Local Plan) to meet the legal requirements whilst avoiding the document being overly long. |
| Stage D: Consult on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report | | | |
| D1: Consult on the draft plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report | Co-ordinated by Planning Policy Team. | Consultation on the Regulation 19 report was undertaken between 24 January and 7 March 2014. | Ensuring all those who want to comment on this report knew how to do so, understanding its role and the rationale for its production. |
| D2: Assess significant changes | Planning Policy Tem | A further report was prepared in relation to modifications to the plan between February and April 2015. This was | It was challenging to identify alternatives, when the modifications (in many cases) related to requests from the Inspector for example to clarify a specific matter. In addition it was challenging to draw out the potential significant changes as a result of |

| SA Stage/task | Who was involved? | When was the work undertaken? | Difficulties/issues encountered |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| | | subject to consultation between 24 April and 5 June 2015. | the modifications. |
| D3: Make decisions and provide information | The Council adopted the plan on 27 January 2016. This statement (as prepared by the Planning Policy Team) provides the information referred to, as required by legislation. It has been important to ensure that appropriate detail is provided to satisfy the legal requirements whilst making the statement clear to follow. | | |
| Stage E: Monitor the significant effects of implementation of the plan | | | |
| E1: Develop the monitoring arrangements | Consideration of monitoring arrangements has been a continuing activity alongside the development of the plan and the associated sustainability appraisals. More information is contained within chapter 16 of the November 2013 Sustainability Appraisal Report. One of the key issues associated with monitoring is identifying appropriate (and available) indicators / measures to monitor the potential significant effects identified and other potential effects on the environment. In some cases other proxies have had to be identified. | | |
| E2: Responding to adverse effects | The monitoring framework (referred to above) provides the mechanism to identify potential adverse effects and to consider whether a response is necessary. The plan also includes a section on delivery, implementation and monitoring that may be relevant in the context of responding to adverse effects. | | |

Appendix 2: Comparison of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives with Proposals / Policies within the Revised Local Plan

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | How this has been considered / Integrated into the Revised Local Plan? |
|--|--|
| 1. Avoid and reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detrimental effects to public wellbeing, the economy and environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk has been considered in the identification of allocations, one strategic site includes an area of flood risk (COM6) however the supporting text recognises that vulnerable development should be located outside this zone • Policy E7 highlights the need to comply with national guidance on flood risk |
| 2. Support the mitigation against and adaptation to climate change. Promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RLP includes text supporting the principle of energy generating developments that support mitigation to climate change • Supporting text to policy E7 requires compliance with national guidance on flood risk and seeks to ensure higher levels of water efficiency • Policy T1 seeks to encourage more sustainable modes of travel, while the selection of sites for allocation took account of accessibility and sustainable travel options • Policy E5 seeks to retain ecological stepping stones and networks |
| 3. Improve the efficient use of land and conserve soil resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Given the nature of the Borough, additional development on greenfield sites is proposed, some of which includes high grade agricultural land – these matters were considered through the identification of sites for allocation • Policies in the plan support redevelopment within the settlement boundaries (COM2) which may included previously developed land, similarly policy LE16 provides a framework for the re-use of buildings in the countryside • Policy E8 provides the framework for considering pollution, including in relation to the land |
| 4. Promote the efficient and sustainable use of resources, whilst ensuring the sustainable management of waste. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy E7 seeks higher levels of water efficiency from new development • Policy LE16 relates to the re-use of buildings in the countryside |
| 5. Protect and enhance the water environment and ensure the sustainable management of water resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy E7 provides a framework for considering water quality (including in relation to the Water Framework Directive), the protection of groundwater resources and higher level of water efficiency from new development • Policy E8 seeks to avoid pollution from new development, including in relation to the water environment • Policy COM15 provides the framework for ensuring sufficient water infrastructure capacity is available to support new development |
| 6. Conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy E5 provides a framework for considering biodiversity, with a focus on conserving and where possible enhancing biodiversity • Policies E2 and E6 may have indirect effects on the |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | How this has been considered / Integrated into the Revised Local Plan? |
|---|---|
| | consideration of biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity was taken into account in the identification of allocations within the Plan |
| 7. Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality is maintained or enhanced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy E8 seeks to avoid pollution from new development, including in relation to air quality • Policy T1 seeks to promote more sustainable modes of travel, which may have air quality implications |
| 8. Conserve and enhance the Borough's landscape and settlement character. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies E1 and E2 provide the main focus for considering impacts on settlement character and landscape • Policy E3 seeks to retain the distinction between settlements with local gaps being defined • Policy E4 seeks to retain the character of certain areas identified as having a low density • Effects on settlement character and the landscape were taken into account in the identification of allocations within the Plan |
| 9. Conserve and enhance the historic environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy E9 provides a framework to seek to sustain and where possible enhance heritage assets • Effects on the historic environment were taken into account in the identification of allocations within the Plan |
| 10. Ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainability constructed and affordable home suitable to their needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan sought to deliver a level of housing across the Borough that meets needs, whilst balancing this with other considerations; the delivering of this housing is supported through the allocation of residential sites and the definition of settlement boundaries • Policies COM7 and COM8 provide a framework for seeking the delivery of affordable housing • Policy COM9 provides a framework for considering housing for rural workers • Policy COM13 provides a framework for considering proposal for accommodation for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople |
| 11. Reduce poverty and social exclusion, whilst maintaining and seeking to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, particularly in areas of deprivation within the Borough. Reduce crime and the fear of crime. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of residential and economic development needs have sought to take account of the availability of homes and jobs within the Borough so as to avoid substantial increases in the need for out-commuting • Policies COM14 and LHW1 seek to retain community services and facilities, and public open space respectively • Policy T1 aims to provide access to a range of modes of travel, including walking, cycling and public transport • Policy CS1 seeks to ensure that community safety is taken into account when considering new development proposals • Policy ST1 seeks to promote access to skills and training in conjunction with certain major developments |
| 12. Ensure the local economy is thriving with high and stable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan provides allocations for additional economic development uses in Andover and the south east of |

| Sustainability Appraisal Objective | How this has been considered / Integrated into the Revised Local Plan? |
|--|--|
| <p>levels of growth. Raise levels of enterprise and productivity promoting a diverse economy (including tourism) with high value and low impact, whilst stimulating economic regeneration.</p> | <p>the Borough, with policy LE16 providing a framework for considering commercial developments in the countryside through the re-use of buildings, with policy LE17 setting an approach for the redevelopment of existing employment sites in the countryside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy LE8 provides for an extension to Walworth Business Park to support the rejuvenation of this site • Policy LE10 seeks to retain employment sites, and particularly strategic employment sites, within the Borough; with other policies seeking to retain specific employment uses on key sites (e.g. policies LE1, LE6, LE7, and LE9) • Policy LE18 provides the framework for considering tourism proposals • Policy ST1 seeks to promote access to skills and training in conjunction with certain major developments |
| <p>13. Enable residents and visitors to have access to and enjoy a wide range of high quality cultural and leisure activities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy LE11 supports the principle of main town centre uses in the town centres, this includes leisure, entertainment and cultural uses • Policy LHW1 seeks the provision of public open space in conjunction with new residential developments, along with the retention of existing recreation uses • Policies seek to provide for a new outdoor sports facility in Romsey (LHW2) and a forest park in the south east of the Borough (LHW3) |
| <p>14. Improve access to all services and facilities, whilst improving the efficiency and integration of transport network and the availability of sustainable modes of transport.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach to considering where new development would be appropriate (including through allocations) considered access to facilities and services, as well as the provision of new facilities / services where justified in conjunction with allocations • Policy COM14 seeks to retain existing facilities and services • Policy T1 seeks to support access to sustainable modes of travel for new developments |
| <p>15. Raise educational achievement levels and develop the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills they need throughout life, supporting the development of a skilled workforce.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy COM15 seeks to ensure that sufficient infrastructure is available to support new development, including education infrastructure • Policy ST1 seeks to promote access to skills and training in conjunction with certain major developments |

Appendix 3: How Mitigation Measures Have Been Incorporated into the Revised Local Plan DPD

(Based on Table 39 of the Sustainability Appraisal Report dated November 2013)

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|--|---|--|
| General Matters | | |
| Additional development resulting in increased number of trips with the potential for effects on air quality | <p>Promotion of access to sustainable modes of travel (including pedestrian and cycle links).</p> <p>Consideration given to identifying sites to meet housing need in accessible locations (including in terms of access to key destinations)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy on managing movement included which covers access to public transport, pedestrian and cycle links (policy T1) - References in policies for residential allocations to include provisions for pedestrian and cycle routes |
| Ensuring that an appropriate level of affordable housing is provided to support those in housing need | <p>Taken account of the need for affordable housing as part of the consideration of housing numbers for the plan period</p> <p>Seek the provision of or contribution towards affordable housing where there is a net gain in dwellings, incorporating a stepped approach to maximise provision (subject to viability)</p> <p>Provide a framework for considering rural affordable housing schemes</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy COM7 provides a framework for seeking affordable housing using a stepped approach in terms of the number of dwellings and the proportion affordable that should be sought - Policy COM8 sets the approach to rural affordable housing schemes |
| Ensuring that additional development does not have an adverse effect as a result of insufficient infrastructure capacity (covering utilities, community facilities and services, etc.) | <p>Ensure that an overarching policy is provided that sets out that sufficient infrastructure capacity will need to be available to support additional development</p> <p>Provide additional public open space to support new residential development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy COM15 sets out that appropriate investment in infrastructure needs to be secured - Policy LHW1 requires the provision of additional public open space and the retention of existing provisions - Policy COM14 seeks to retain community |

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>Seek to retain existing facilities and services which support communities</p> <p>Highlight key infrastructure requirements associated with proposed residential development</p> | <p>facilities and services (including local shops, pubs, cultural and community facilities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies COM3 to COM6a identify the need for additional education and community provisions in association with proposed residential allocations |
| <p>Additional development is likely to increase demand for water resources, which are already under stress – mitigation should be provided to reduce this pressure</p> | <p>Seek a higher level of water efficiency from new development (residential and non-residential) using recognised standards (higher Building Regulations level for residential water efficiency and BREEAM for non-residential schemes) to reduce the increase in consumption associated with new development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E7 includes a requirement to achieve certain levels of water efficiency for new development |
| <p>Seek to avoid an increase in the risk of flooding (including through surface water flooding) as a result of additional development</p> | <p>Seek to avoid areas identified at risk of flooding, including through site selection</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable drainage systems with new development to avoid a risk of increasing flood risk (either on site or off site)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NPPF and associated guidance set out the approach to flood risk, policy E7 highlights the need to comply with this - Through the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 there will be requirements to make use of sustainable drainage systems, therefore it is not necessary to duplicate this within the Revised Local Plan - In both cases a reference to these requirements has been provided in the supporting text to policy E7 |
| <p>Additional development has the potential to affect landscape and settlement character, with the potential for a decline in the quality</p> | <p>Take account of potential impact on settlement character and landscape character and quality as part of the identification of allocations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies E1 to E4 relate to settlement character and the landscape character to ensure new developments integrate into the surrounding area; they also seek to retain |

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|--|--|---|
| of the landscape (including designated areas) | Provide a framework for considering applications for additional development to ensure schemes are sensitive to the landscape and settlement character | the distinction of settlements through the use of local gaps. |
| Additional development has the potential to affect biodiversity | <p>Take account of potential impact on biodiversity as part of the identification of allocations</p> <p>Provide a framework for considering applications to ensure schemes are designed to conserve and enhance biodiversity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E5 establishes policy requirements seeking to conserve and enhance biodiversity, identifying key assets that should be taken into account |
| Additional development has the potential to affect the historic environment | <p>Take account of potential impact on the historic environment as part of the identification of allocations</p> <p>Provide a framework for considering applications to ensure schemes are designed to be sensitive to the historic environment, including seeking to conserve and enhance heritage assets</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E9 establishes a framework for considering the approach to the historic environment in relation to applications |
| Area / Site Specific Mitigation (this has not duplicated matters referred to above unless there is a site specific matter that has been highlighted as part of the appraisal) | | |
| Ensuring that additional development in Andover and surrounding villages does not exceed the available capacity for Fullerton WWTW and potentially | It will be important to ensure that development is phased to take account of available capacity at this works, this will require the Council to work with the Environment Agency and Southern Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E7 sets out that development will be approved if it does not result in the deterioration of water quality - The supporting text to E7 highlights the need to ensure delivery of development is phased |

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|--|---|---|
| have an adverse effect on the water environment | | to account for constraints in capacity, highlighting Fullerton WWTW, and noting the need for joint working on this matter |
| Development at George Yard / Black Swan Yard, Andover (LE14) has the potential to adversely affect the historic environment; the proposal would involve development on public car parks which may result in the loss of parking provision for the town | <p>Ensure that any development is planned in a way that is sensitive to the historic environment, taking account of heritage assets and their setting</p> <p>Ensure that there is appropriate provision for parking (which is likely to include the re-provision of existing parking)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E9 sets out requirements in relation to heritage assets, with the supporting text to policy LE14 also noting the need to respect the Conservation Area and the relationship with other heritage assets - Policy T2 sets out the parking standards that would be required to support development (including this proposal) |
| Development at Picket Piece, Andover (COM6) has the potential to involve development within a flood risk zone and the loss of assets of biodiversity value | <p>The identified areas of flood risk should be avoided in terms of vulnerable uses</p> <p>The features of biodiversity value should be conserved and where possible enhanced</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting text to COM6 refer to the considerations in relation to flood risk referring to locating vulnerable development outside the areas at risk; policy E7 also requires compliance with national guidance on flood risk - Policy E5 relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including hedgerows and protected species |
| Development as an extension to Picket Twenty, Andover (COM6a) has the potential to have adverse effects on biodiversity (including on Harewood Forest) and to affect the landscape quality and setting of Andover | <p>Ensure that areas of biodiversity value, including those adjacent to the site are conserved</p> <p>Ensure that the development is planned so as to be sensitive to the landscape quality and setting of Andover</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy COM6a seeks to extend a buffer to Harewood Forest that has been provided as part of the existing Picket Twenty development - Policy E5 relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity - Supporting text to COM6a highlights the need for development to minimise visual impacts of the development, policies E1 and E2 would also be relevant |

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Development at Whitenap, Romsey (COM3) has the potential to result in adverse effects on biodiversity (including Beggarspath Wood and international designations) and buildings of local historic interest that fall within the site, there is a risk of a potential effect on the Broadlands Historic Park and Garden and the wider setting of Romsey</p> | <p>Ensure that areas of biodiversity value, including Beggarspath Wood, are conserved and where possible enhanced</p> <p>Make provision for appropriate mitigation for effects on international nature conservation designations (covered in more detail in Habitat Regulations Assessment)</p> <p>Seek to ensure development is planned in a way that is sensitive to the historic environment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E5 relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including SINCs - Policy COM3 includes a requirement to retain and enhance Beggarspath Wood and to provide mitigation measures - Policy E9 sets out requirements in relation to heritage assets – this covers non-designated assets and historic parks and gardens |
| <p>Development at Hoe Lane, North Baddesley (COM4) has the potential to result in the loss of public open space (Mountbatten Park) and a community facility (Scout Hut), it also has the potential to contribute to an in-combination effect on international nature conservation designations</p> | <p>The public open space and community facility within the site boundary should be retained</p> <p>Make provision for appropriate mitigation for effects on international nature conservation designations (covered in more detail in Habitat Regulations Assessment)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The map (B) associated with this proposal does not indicate any residential development in the location of the public open space and community facility - As noted above, policy LHW1 requires the retention of existing public open space provisions and policy COM14 seeks to retain community facilities - Policy COM4 seeks to secure mitigation measures regarding international nature conservation sites |
| <p>Development at Park Farm, Stoneham (COM5) has the potential to result in isolated development, with the potential of an adverse effect on biodiversity and heritage assets</p> | <p>This site should come forward as part of the wider site within Eastleigh Borough (land south of Chestnut Avenue)</p> <p>The features of biodiversity value should be conserved and where possible enhanced</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy COM5 and the supporting text to the policy identify the need for a comprehensive approach to development and that vehicular access should be through the proposed allocation within Eastleigh Borough - Policy E5 relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including |

| What is mitigation for? What is the impact of the policies? | Mitigation measures | How have the proposed mitigation measures been taken into account? |
|--|---|---|
| | Ensure that any development is planned in a way that is sensitive to the historic environment, recognise that there are likely to remain adverse impacts on the historic landscape in combination with the wider proposals in terms of the impact on the historic landscape | <p>SINCs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E9 sets out requirements in relation to heritage assets, including listed buildings and their setting, with policy COM5 also highlighting the need to have regard to historic features of interest |
| Development at Bargain Farm, Nursling and Rownhams for economic development and park and ride facilities (LE5 and T3) have the potential to have an adverse impact on heritage assets (including a listed building) | Ensure that any development is planned in a way that is sensitive to the historic environment, including the listed building and its setting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E9 sets out requirements in relation to heritage assets, including listed buildings and their setting - Policy LE5 includes a criteria seeking to ensure development respects the listed building (and its setting) or any other historic features of interest |
| Development at Ganger Farm, Romsey for formal recreation purposes (LHW2) has the potential to adversely affect biodiversity, including the foraging habitat of barbastelle bats associated with Mottisfont Bats SAC, and adversely affect the setting of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum (historic park and garden) | <p>Ensure that the site is planned sensitively to ensure features of biodiversity value are conserved and where possible enhanced, in particular this includes the need for further consideration of whether the site is used by barbastelle bats (reference Mottisfont Bats SAC) and the potential impact of any floodlighting (see HRA for more detail)</p> <p>Ensure that any development is planned in a way that is sensitive to the historic environment, including the setting of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy E5 relates to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, including international designations - Policy LHW2 identifies the need to avoid harm to biodiversity and to the Arboretum, with additional detail provided in the supporting text to the policy - Policy E9 sets out requirements in relation to heritage assets |

Appendix 4: Options for Scale / Location of Development considered as part of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Revised Local Plan Regulation 19 document

[This is only intended as an overview / summary, for full details see the Sustainability Appraisal report and associated appendices]

| Options Considered and Appraised | Preferred Options |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Scale of Residential Development</i> The following options were considered as reasonable alternatives for the Borough-wide requirement over the plan period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic scenarios: 6,444 to 8,730 dwellings over plan period • Long Term Economic Strategy (update) scenarios: 9,198 to 12,492 dwellings over plan period • Latest job growth forecast scenarios: 10,188 to 13,644 dwellings over plan period • Delivering housing need scenario: 15,012 dwellings over plan period | <p>In general terms, it was identified that the higher the housing number the greater the potential for delivering the housing need but also the greater the potential for adverse effects on the environment. Having regard to the outcomes of the appraisal process, the preferred option was based on the latest jobs growth forecasts, leading to 10,584 dwellings over the plan period.</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Sites for Residential Development – Northern Test Valley</i> Consideration given to broad areas of search around Andover, Stockbridge and the edge of Ludgershall (based on top 2 tiers of the settlement hierarchy). This was followed by consideration of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sites promoted for 50+ dwellings within the broad areas of search. This comprised of 26 sites in total.</p> | <p>Options for residential development at Picket Piece, Picket Twenty and George Yard / Black Swan Yard in Andover were identified in the Plan. The latter is linked to a mixed use proposal.</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Sites for Residential Development – Southern Test Valley</i> Consideration given to broad areas of search based around the edge of Southampton (including Nursling and Rownhams, and Chilworth), Romsey, North Baddesley and Valley Park (based on top 2 tiers of the settlement hierarchy). This was followed by consideration of SHLAA sites promoted for 50+ dwellings within the broad areas of search. This comprised 36 sites in total.</p> | <p>Options for residential development at Whitenap in Romsey, Hoe Lane in North Baddesley, and Park Farm in North Stoneham were identified within the Plan. The land at Whitenap (Romsey) also included an economic development allocation (see below).</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Sites for Economic Development – Northern Test Valley</i> Background evidence identified that there was no need for additional economic development land in Andover beyond the previous allocations. It recognised that an extension to the Walworth Business Park would support the rejuvenation of this site. It was also set out that a proposal for mixed use development in the town centre could support some economic development floorspace.</p> | <p>The option for the extension of Walworth Business Park was included in the Plan. A mixed use development at George Yard / Black Swan Yard is also included in the Plan, which recognises the potential for some commercial development.</p> |

| Options Considered and Appraised | Preferred Options |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Strategic Sites for Economic Development – Southern Test Valley</i> Consideration given to sites to contribute to the need for land for economic development uses as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East extension of Abbey Park, Romsey • Land at Whitenap, Romsey • Extension of the University of Southampton Science Park, Chilworth • Land at Bargain Farm, Nursling • Land to south of Brownhill Way, Nursling | <p>Multiple sites were required for economic development. As such, land at Whitenap at Romsey, an extension to the University of Southampton Science Park, land at Bargain Farm and land south of Brownhill Way were identified within the Plan.</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Sites for Retail Development</i> Background evidence gave consideration to the scale of need for retail floorspace for Andover and Romsey. For Andover, it was recognised that there were limited sites available to deliver retail floorspace, with only one location being large enough to provide for the scale of need. For Romsey, no sites were identified to be available / viable therefore no options were assessed for allocation in the town.</p> | <p>The option for a mixed use development, including retail floorspace, at George Yard / Black Swan Yard was included within the Plan. No retail allocations were in Romsey due to constraints on site availability.</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Site for Outdoor Sports Facility in Romsey</i> A deficit in outdoor sports provision in Romsey had been identified. Only one site had been promoted on the basis of providing this type of use, therefore no other locations were considered to be reasonable alternatives.</p> | <p>The option included within the Plan is for the provision of an outdoor sports facility at Ganger Farm in Romsey.</p> |
| <p><i>Strategic Green Infrastructure Provision</i> A Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) included provision of a forest park in Southern Test Valley focused on the woodlands adjoining the M27. Given the location had been identified in the PUSH Strategy no alternative locations were</p> | <p>The Forest Park proposal based on the PUSH Strategy was included within the Plan.</p> |
| <p><i>Park and Ride Facility, Nursling</i> Options considered comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bargain Farm, Nursling • South of Brownhill Way, Nursling • Land west of Romsey Road at Upton Triangle, Upton | <p>The option included within the Plan was land at Bargain Farm. This took account of consideration of the sites for economic development purposes and other factors linked to the intended purpose of the park and ride facility.</p> |