

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Economic Development Portfolio Holder

REPORT NO: PLA781

DATE: 7th September 2009

TITLE:	Sustainability Appraisal Report for Grantham Area Action Plan and Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document	
KEY DECISION OR POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL:	Key Decision	
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Councillor Frances Cartwright, Economic Development Portfolio Holder	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Penny Mould, Senior Planning Officer ext 6566	
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:	Carried out and Referred to in paragraph (7) below:	Full impact assessment Required:
Equality and Diversity		
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:	This report is publicly available via the Local Democracy link on the Council's website: www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

approves the statutory consultation necessary for the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for: Grantham Area Action Plan and Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT/DECISION REQUIRED

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Grantham Area Action Plan and Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) is a joint Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report. The joint report has been prepared in such a way as each DPD has developed its individual SA objectives which are then tested against the SA framework established for the Core Strategy. The joint report concludes with a series of jointly presented appendixes.

The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation of a plan. It can be used to highlight problem areas where a plan may not contribute to sustainable

development. By identifying these problems at an early stage as part of preparation of the plan, it can be changed to make it as sustainable as possible. The Scoping Report sets the context, and establishes the baseline sustainability objectives of the proposed plan. It provides a basis for consultation, describing the methodology and scope of future appraisal work and begins the process of collating baseline information, and for considering relevant plans and programmes.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to be applied in the development of Local Development Frameworks. It incorporates the process of “Strategic Environmental Assessment” which is legally required under European Law under “EC Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.”

The application of Sustainability Appraisal helps to ensure the planning policies developed for the LDF are sound, and derived through a systematic consideration of their potential effects (positive and negative) on the local authority area and on policy objectives already established in other relevant plans and programmes.

Scoping Report Structure

The SA Scoping Report identifies the economic, social and environmental issues which need to be considered in the promotion of sustainable development and sets out associated objectives against which policy options for the LDF will be tested in order to select and refine the final policies.

The Scoping Report itself presents a summary of the full scoping exercise and does not attempt to go into a great deal of detail about any particular aspect. Four appendices have been produced to present the full results of the scoping exercise and references. These comprise:

- Appendix 1 – Review of other plans and programmes objectives
- Appendix 2 – Baseline data summary of the District
- Appendix 3 – Baseline data spreadsheet
- Appendix 4 – Objective testing

The first section of the Scoping Report summarises the review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes at all levels from international to local. The purpose of this is to ensure that relevant economic, social and environmental protection objectives already established are taken into account.

The report then covers a review of the review of baseline information. This is used to highlight the main social, environmental and economic issues and problems that should be addressed in the LDF documents. The broadness of the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal means that an overall picture of the District/town and its key issues are presented, without going into fine detail into any individual area.

All of the work in the previous sections of the Scoping Report is then used to identify the Sustainability Objectives which will be used to test and refine the policies within each of the DPDs.

The final requirement of the Scoping Report under the European Directive requires consultation with stakeholders with an interest in the development of the LDF. The Scoping Report must therefore be made

available for consultation with the three statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency). It is also intended to make the report more widely available for comment via the Council's web-site.

4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for: Grantham Area Action Plan and Site Specific Allocations and Policies DPD is a regulatory requirement of the planning making process, not consulting on the report is not an option, as doing so would not only hold progress on the two development plans covered but also limit progress on the South Kesteven District Council Local Development Scheme. Therefore, supporting consultation on the scoping report will ensure that preparation of each DPD continues as timetabled.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the publication of the statutory document and postage costs can be accommodated within the existing Planning Policy budgets.

6. RISK AND MITIGATION (INCLUDING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND DATA QUALITY)

There are no identifiable risks associated with this report.

7. ISSUES ARISING FROM EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None in relation to this report.

9. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

The Council has a statutory obligation to undertake this work which forms part of the planning policies for the LDF. I can confirm that the costs associated with the publication of this consultation document can be met from within existing budgets.

10. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The Council are required by law, as detailed in the report, to consult on the Scoping Report. That consultation must include all those who may have an interest in the matter. The consultation with the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage are prescribed environmental consultees. The consultation with these bodies must be for a period of 5 weeks.

The results of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet as part of the report on the

11. APPENDICES:

Sustainability Appraisal Report for Grantham Area Action Plan and Site Specific Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document