



# **Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework**

## **Draft Householder Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

### **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCREENING REPORT**

**July 2014**

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## **Sustainability Appraisal Screening Report**

### **Householder Development Supplementary Planning Document**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The District Council has produced a draft Householder Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to supplement the policies within the Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a tool that is used to improve the sustainability of LDF documents. It uses a range of sustainability objectives and indicators to test whether the plans, policies and proposals can deliver sustainable development. SA can be viewed as a yardstick against which the social, economic and environmental effects of the plan can be tested. Integrated into the SA are the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>1</sup>. However, the SA covers wider social and economic effects of plans, as well as the more environmentally-focused considerations in the SEA Directive.
- 1.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required that all Local Development Documents, including DPDs (now local plans) and SPDs be subject to SA prior to publication. Alterations to Section 19(5) of the 2004 Act under the Planning Act 2008 removed the requirement for local authorities to produce an SA for SPDs. The rationale behind this is that SPDs do not contain any new policies, but provide supplementary guidance relating to policies set out in overarching local plans that have been subject to SA.
- 1.4 A SPD may, however, occasionally be found likely to give rise to significant effects which have not been formally assessed in the context of a higher-level planning document. Therefore, local authorities need to screen their SPDs to ensure that legal requirements for SA are met where there are impacts that have not been covered in the appraisal of the parent plan or where an assessment is required by the SEA Directive.
- 1.5 The District Council does not believe that a SA/SEA is likely to be required for the purpose of the draft Householder Development SPD as outlined in this report and sets out the assessment on which the Council's screening opinion is based.

<sup>1</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC transposed into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

#### **2. Householder Development SPD**

- 2.1 The draft Householder Development SPD should be read alongside other LDF documents, particularly the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Allocations & Development Management DPD. The primary purpose of the new SPD is

to guide the determination of Householder Development proposals by Officers and Members and to support applicants in bringing forward high quality schemes.

- 2.2 The SPD provides guidance on the interpretation and implementation of adopted LDF policies. Spatial Policy 4B 'Green Belt Development', Spatial Policy 7 'Sustainable Transport', Core Policy 9 'Sustainable Design', Core Policy 10 'Climate Change', Core Policy 12 'Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure', Core Policy 13 'Landscape Character' and Core Policy 14 'Historic Environment' from the Core Strategy are referred to in the SPD. From the Allocations and Development Management DPD, Policy DM5 'Design', Policy DM7 'Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure', Policy DM8 'Development in the Open Countryside', Policy DM9 'Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment', Policy DM 12 'Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development' and in particular Policy DM6 'Householder Development' are relevant to the SPD. Policy DM6 sets out the criteria against which householder development proposals will be assessed and refers to the SPD, and therefore DM9 should be regarded as the primary enabling policy that the SPD expands upon.

### **3. Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 3.1 Firstly, the screening process ascertains whether the draft Householder Development SPD gives rise to significant environmental effects, using the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 3.2 Paragraph 10 of the SEA Directive only requires SEA for plans which 'determine the use of small areas at a local level' or, which are 'minor modifications' to plans, when these are determined to be likely to cause significant environmental effects. Therefore the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as listed in SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Annex II and the Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 have been reviewed to determine whether the exception applies to the draft Householder Development SPD.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 sets out the assessment of the contents of the draft Householder Development SPD against the SEA criteria. The results of the assessment clearly demonstrate that the SPD should not be subject to a SEA. The SPD merely provides further guidance on existing policies from LDF documents which have already been subject to SEA.

### **4. Sustainability Appraisal**

- 4.1 Government guidance (Office of Deputy Prime Minister - Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (2005)) suggests that where the authority has made a determination that the plan is unlikely to have any

significant environmental effects (and is therefore exempt from the SEA directive) it must consider whether there are likely to be any significant economic or social effects.

- 4.2 Secondly, the screening process therefore considers whether the draft Householder Development SPD gives rise to significant social and economic effects. If these have been formally assessed in the context of the higher-level policies in local plans, it is unlikely that significant social and economic effects arise from the draft Householder Development SPD.
- 4.3 The Allocations & Development Management DPD, which contains the primary enabling policy for the SPD, as well as the Core Strategy DPD, were appraised during their preparation and the appraisal results were reported in Sustainability Appraisal Reports. The SAs for those plans assessed their policies against a range of social, economic and environmental ‘sustainability objectives’ using a range of indicators to consider the contribution that each policy makes towards the achievement of each sustainability objective.
- 4.4 The results of the Appraisal for Policy DM6 are summarised below. The social and economic effects of the LDF policy that the draft SPD draws from primarily have been considered against the sustainability objectives of the Allocations & Development Management DPD Sustainability Appraisal.

Policy	Commentary
Policy DM 6 – Householder Development	This policy was assessed against the 14 Sustainability Objectives set out in Appendix 2. The assessment shows that the policy contributes positively overall to the Objectives. For five of them, the assessment was that the policy supports the objective, but the beneficial impact may be minor. For nine of them, the policy had no impact or the effect was neutral. Policy DM6 is clearly in line with the priorities that underlie the Objectives.

## Conclusion

- 5.1 The draft Householder Development SPD does not determine the use of land or constitute a minor modification to a plan. Based on the assessment in Appendix 1, it is demonstrated that the draft SPD does not give rise to significant environmental effects.
- 5.2 The draft Householder Development SPD does not give rise to significant social and economic effects. Based on the review in Appendix 2, it is demonstrated that social and economic effects that are likely to arise from the draft SPD have been formally assessed in the context of the Core Strategy and the Allocations and Development Management DPD, and no significant environmental effects have been identified that have not already been mitigated.

## Appendix 1

<b>Schedule 1 Criteria</b>	
<b>The characteristics of the Draft Householder Development SPD having regard to</b>	
<p>(1a) The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>The SPD does not introduce new policy, but rather provides guidance on the interpretation and implementation of existing LDF policies. These policies are set out in the Core Strategy and the Allocations &amp; Development Management DPDs, both of which have been subject to Sustainability Appraisals (including SEA assessment). The SPD is merely supplements the LDF; it is the existing LDF policies, as well as national policies and regulations, which set the framework for projects and other activities.</p>
<p>(1b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p>	<p>The SPD will provide detailed guidance on householder development in accordance with local and national policies and regulations. It is influenced by other higher tier plans rather than influencing other plans itself.</p>
<p>(1c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The SPD has relevance to the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development in so far as it sets out the methods by which the criteria of Policy DM6 will be assessed.</p> <p>Sustainable development can be viewed as having three aspects: environmental, social and economic. The appropriate assessment of householder development applications within the District could be seen as contributing to all three of these aspects.</p> <p>The purpose of the SPD, however, is to provide additional guidance on the policies within the Council's Core Strategy and Allocations &amp; Development Management DPDs. District policies aimed at addressing</p>

	environmental matters, in particular those aimed at promoting sustainable development, are set out within these documents. The SPD provides additional guidance on the application of these policies, but the requirement for integrating environmental considerations is set in the LDF.
(1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The SPD itself only supplements adopted policy and does not introduce new policy. Policies seeking to address environmental problems within the District are set out in the Core Strategy and Allocations and Development Management DPD. There are no environmental problems that are specifically relevant to the SPD only.
(1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The draft SPD is limited in its scope to providing guidance on Householder Development, in the light of existing policies.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to</b>	
(2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The draft SPD provides guidance on householder development. There are many existing and proposed houses in the District so if the SPD can be said to have effects, the probability is high. The consideration of frequency and duration is of little relevance. Any building can be rebuilt the reversibility is high.
(2b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	The cumulative effects of the SPD, if any, will be to influence householder development within the District.
(2c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The effects of the SPD are likely to be limited to the District.
(2d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The guidance contained within the SPD presents no risks to human health or the environment. The guidance may make a small contribution to improving the environment by promoting good design.
(2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The population of the District is approximately 115,000 and its area is around 65,181 hectares. The SPD provides guidance on existing policies

	rather than introducing policy, so any effects could be seen as being effects of the wider LDF rather than the SPD.
<p>(2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</li> <li>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or</li> <li>(iii) intensive land-use; and</li> </ul>	<p>The District is in places both valuable and vulnerable due to special natural characteristics, cultural heritage or a combination of the two. The District includes the Birklands &amp; Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation, the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites. The District also contains heritage assets including Conservation Areas, listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and registered historic parks and gardens. The guidance contained within the SPD is likely to make a positive contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of special natural characteristics and cultural heritage, where its application is relevant to this.</p> <p>The guidance within the SPD is unlikely to have any relevance to issues around exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values. Therefore there is no area likely to be affected by the guidance within the SPD that is valuable or vulnerable for these reasons. Similarly, the guidance within the SPD is unlikely to have any relevance to issues around intensive land use so there is no area likely to be affected by the guidance within the SPD that is valuable or vulnerable for this reason.</p>
<p>(2g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or protection status</p>	<p>The SPD only supplements and provides additional guidance on the policies contained in the Core Strategy and Allocations and Development Management DPDs which have been subjected to Sustainability Appraisals. The application of the guidance in the SPD is not expected to have significant effects on protected or locally</p>

	important natural areas or landscapes. The effects of the guidance in the SPD will be to promote good design in householder development, which may if relevant, lead to the maintenance and enhancement of the appearance of Conservation Areas.
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## Appendix 2

### Sustainability Appraisal of Policy DM6 of the Allocations and Development Management DPD:

#### Key performance:

- +++ Strong and significant beneficial impact
- ++ Potentially significant beneficial impact
- + Supports objective, but beneficial impact may be minor
- 0 Policy has no impact or effect is neutral
- ? Uncertain or insufficient information on which to base the assessment at this stage
- Conflicts with objective and may have adverse impacts
- – Potentially significant adverse impact
- – – Strong and significant adverse impact

Objective:	
To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of the District	+
To improve health and reduce health inequalities	0
To provide better opportunities for people to value and enjoy the District's heritage	+
To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime	+
To promote and support the development and growth of social capital across the District	0
To increase biodiversity levels across the District	0
To protect and enhance the rich diversity of the natural, cultural and built environmental and archaeological assets of the District	+
To manage prudently the natural resources of the District including water, air quality, soils and minerals	0
To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials	0
To minimise energy usage and to develop the District's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources	+
To make efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure, help reduce the need to travel by car, improve accessibility to jobs and	0

services for all and to ensure that all journeys are undertaken by the most sustainable mode available	
To create high quality employment opportunities	0
To develop a strong culture of enterprise and innovation	0
To provide the physical conditions for a modern economic structure, including infrastructure to support the use of new technologies	0

