

Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework

Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA)

Adoption Statement

October 2026

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Newark & Sherwood District Council adopted the Amended Allocations & Development Management (AADM) Development Plan Document (DPD) on 20th October 2026. The AADM DPD sets out the updates to the Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document (ADM DPD), which was originally adopted in July 2013, and updates the Amended Core Strategy policies relating to affordable housing to reflect the latest guidance and research.

1.2 This statement and the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) that it supports have been produced and publicised in line with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) and Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012). As required, this statement addresses the following points:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- How the environmental report has been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed through public consultation (on the SEA and SA process) have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

2.0 Context

2.1 Section 19(5) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Authorities are to produce a SA for any new or revised plan or programme. This SA is intended to ensure that all plans and programmes are compatible with the aims of sustainable development, through the consideration of social, environmental and economic issues and the assessment of alternative approaches or options.

2.2 The SA of the Newark & Sherwood District Council AADM DPD was integrated with its Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment to produce an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA). For the purposes of this document, however, the IIA will often be referred to as the SA. This is because the SA (which typically incorporates the SEA) aspect of the IIA is the focus of this adoption statement. The IIA can be seen on the District Council's website:

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2.3 Articles 6(3) and (4) of Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (referred to as the 'Habitats Directive') are incorporated into UK legislation through Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the 'Habitats Regulations'). This requires an assessment of the impact of spatial plans on any 'European sites' which form part of the Natura 2000 network.

2.4 The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 introduced changes connected with the UK's withdrawal from the EU. These Regulations updated references to the SEA Directive and Habitats Directive, so they continue to operate in domestic law after the end of the Brexit transition period.

2.5 The Local Plan consists of the ACS and the AADM DPD which replaces the ADM DPD (see web links below).

The Amended Core Strategy: Amended Core Strategy

The Allocations and Development Management DPD: Allocations and Development Management DPD

The first IIA documents, which incorporate the SA, related to the ACS. The Amended Core Strategy and the Amended Allocations and Development Management DPD are part of the Newark & Sherwood Local Development Framework (LDF) (see web link below) which also includes Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which provide detail on policies, the Policies Map, the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) which records progress in implementing the LDF, and the Local Development Scheme (LDS) which is the timetable for LDF document production.

Local Development Framework

3.0 How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan

3.1 The first stage in the SA process involved the scoping of the main sustainability issues facing the District to establish an appropriate appraisal framework. This work led to the publication of a draft Scoping Report in October 2015 and a final version in December 2015. From this scoping work an Integrated Impact Assessment Framework was developed which is built around a range of objectives to assess policies against. These eighteen objectives reflect the equality, health, environmental and sustainability issues of key importance to Newark and Sherwood and are detailed below:

1. Housing - To ensure that the housing needs of the District are met;

2. Health - To improve health and reduce health inequalities;

3. Historic environment and cultural assets - To conserve and enhance the District's historic environment and heritage assets and setting including buildings, sites and features of archaeological, historic, architectural and cultural interest and their settings, as well as facilitating access to them;

4. Community safety – To improve community safety, reduce crime and lessen the fear of crime;

5. Sustainable communities - Development should be focused in sustainable locations where community facilities and services, housing and employment uses are integrated, promoting social cohesion and interaction, and facilitating healthy lifestyles;

6. Biodiversity - To increase biodiversity levels across the District and protect habitats;

7. Landscape and land use – To enhance the District's landscapes, prevent inappropriate development, facilitate access to green spaces and the countryside, and develop Green Infrastructure networks;

8. Natural resources – To maintain and enhance the quality of the District's natural resources including water, air, soils and minerals;

9. Waste - To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials;

10. Energy - To minimise energy usage and to facilitate the development of appropriately located renewable energy schemes, including community led initiatives;

11. Transport - To increase the efficiency and safety of the transport network, improve accessibility to jobs and services for all, reduce car travel and promote public transport, walking and cycling;

12. Employment - To create high quality employment opportunities, and encourage enterprise and innovation;

13. Education - To improve the education and skills of the population;

14. Climate change - To reduce the District's contributions towards climate change, increase resilience, and minimise harm to human health and the natural environment;

15. Deprivation - To reduce levels of deprivation and poverty;

16. Water management and flood risk - To direct sensitive development away from areas at risk of flooding and to assist in the positive management of the water environment;

17. Design - To promote good design throughout the District and ensure that new buildings, spaces and places are of a high quality; and

18. Equality - To ensure that there is equality of opportunity and that no individuals or groups are disadvantaged or discriminated against because of race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage or civil partnership, age, or social inequality.

3.3 Input into defining the objectives was sought from statutory environmental bodies and other interested parties through consultation. The resulting Framework provided the basis for the appraisal of the ACS and also the AADM DPD.

3.4 The process of Sustainability Appraisal was firmly embedded in the production of the Local Plan and has been a key element in its formulation. This process has been iterative with the outcome of appraisal informing each successive stage of the document, and has considered all reasonable alternatives.

3.5 The IIA that incorporates the SA to which this document relates was the seventh version.

- The first related the Local Plan Review consultation on the Preferred Approach – Strategy which took place from 29 July 2016 until 23 September 2016.
- The second element assessed the Preferred Approach – Sites & Settlements, which was out for consultation between 12 January 2017 and 24 February 2017.
- The third related to the Publication Amended Core Strategy which was put out for a period seeking representations between 17 July 2017 and 1 September 2017.
- The fourth related to the Options Report to the AADM DPD, which was out for consultation between 27 July 2021 and 21 September 2021.
- The fifth related to the Publication Draft AADM DPD, which was out for consultation between 14 November 2022 and 9 January 2023.
- The sixth assessed the 2nd Publication Draft AADM DPD which was out for consultation from 25th September 2023 until 5pm on 6th November 2023.
- The most recent IIA followed the Examination in Public of the Draft AADM DPD which took place in November 2024 and incorporates various stages of modification resulting from this.

3.6 The AADM DPD was also screened to identify likely significant effects on European sites and to, where necessary, consider potential avoidance measures. Habitats Regulation Assessment, including 'Appropriate Assessment' was undertaken and this is discussed further in section 4. An approach was followed which took account of

current guidance and best practice with input being sought from Natural England as well as other consultees.

4.0 How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

4.1 Each stage of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was put out to consultation, with input sought from statutory environmental bodies and other stakeholders. The information received has informed the production of the AADM DPD. The District Council's Regulation 22 Statement of Consultation (January 2024) sets out the methods of consultation and representation and main issues on a stage-by-stage basis:

Statement of Consultation (2024)

It was produced in accordance with Regulation 22(c) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in March 2015 set out its approach to consultation. The Statement can be seen on the District Council's website at:

Statement of Community Involvement

4.2 Following submission of the AADM DPD, examination hearings were held between Tuesday 5 November and Tuesday 12 November 2025. As part of the examination hearing the Inspector, Mr Hayden Baugh-Jones BA(Hons) DipLA MA CMLI, identified a number of Main Modifications to rectify issues of legal compliance and/or soundness with the AADM DPD. The Statement of Representation relating to the Main Modifications consultation can be seen on the District Council's website at:

Statement of Representation

4.3 The process of SA is iterative, meaning that an assessment of the sustainability and environmental effects was made at each stage of the AADM DPD's development. IIAs, incorporating SAs, were produced to appraise the approach taken and the potential effects identified. District Council officers preparing the AADM DPD took the SA findings and recommendations into account.

4.4 Figure 1, below, shows the relationship between SA and Plan preparation.

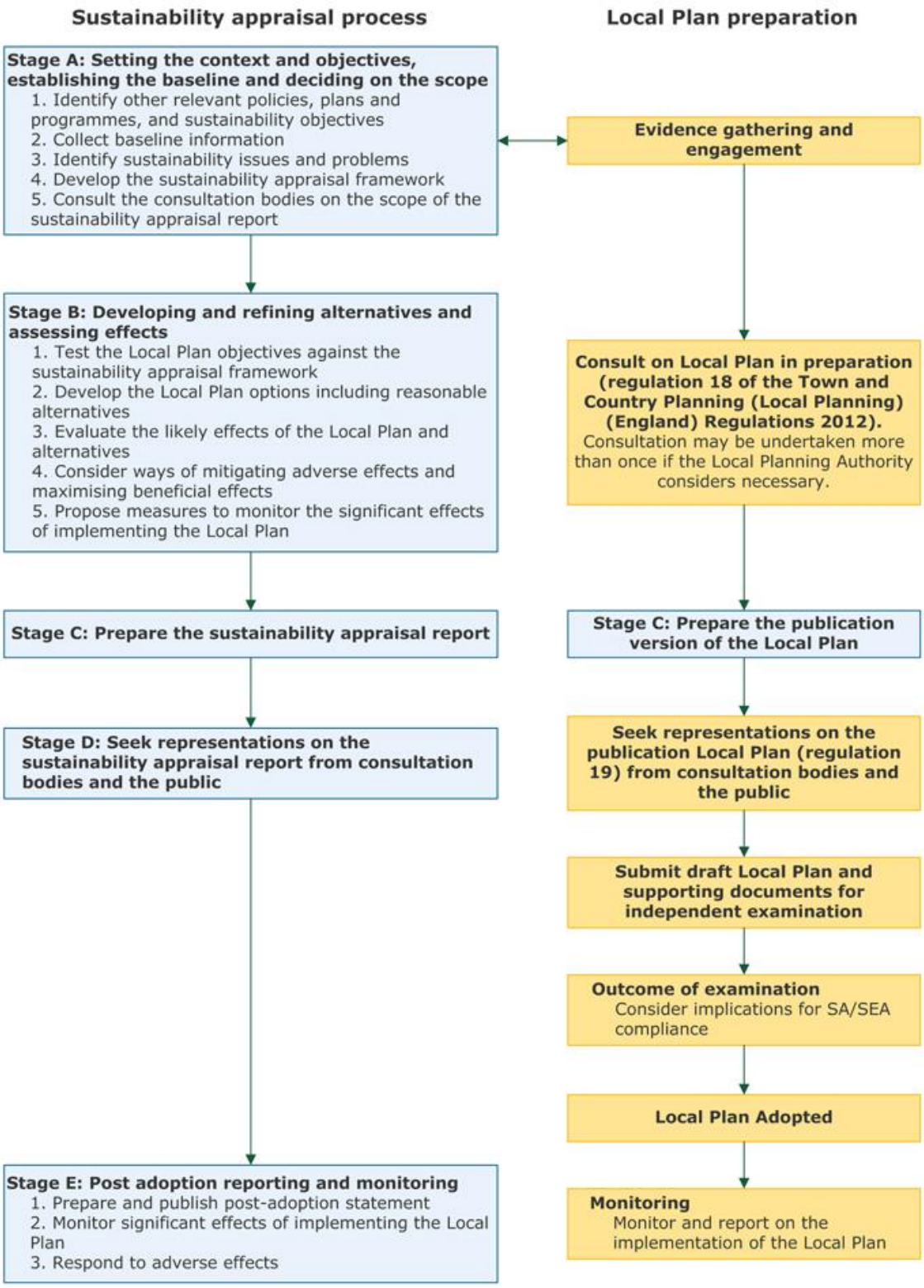


Figure 1: The relationship between SA and Plan preparation (Source: National Planning Practice Guidance 2015)

5.0 How opinions expressed through public consultation (on the SEA and SA process) have been taken into account

5.1 Appropriate consultation was undertaken at each stage of the production of the SA and the wider IIA in which it is incorporated. The IIA Scoping Report was first put out to consultation on 5 June 2015 and an updated version was put out to consultation on 5 October 2015. A final version was published in December 2015, including consultation responses and changes made in response to consultation responses.

5.2 The IIA of the AADM DPD was put out to consultation in September 2023. Subsequent IIAs were carried out on proposed modifications to the Local Plan, and were published in March 2025 and September 2025. These modifications IIA documents were combined into a single document and can be seen on the District Council's website:

AADM DPD Adoption Documents

6.0 The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

6.1 Sustainability Appraisal has been a key element in the formulation of the AADM DPD informing each successive stage of the document. Both preferred and alternative options were tested through the IIA, ensuring that all reasonable alternatives were considered. Assessment against the Framework identified the potential significant effects (both positive and negative) of the options. The information provided by the IIA, along with the evidence base and the results of public consultation informed the District Council in selecting its preferred approach.

7.0 The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan

7.1 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) will be the mechanism for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementing the AADM DPD and the progress being made towards the sustainability and other objectives of the IIA. The AMR will monitor implementation using the indicators set out in Appendix F of the Amended Core Strategy. Changes to these indicators will identify any unforeseen effects and facilitate a response to adverse effects. AMRs can be seen on the Council's monitoring web page at:

LDF Monitoring