

# **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS TRANSPORT SCHEMES IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At the heart of the need to carry out a sustainability appraisal of Local Development Documents (LDDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) is the fundamental objective of the planning system to facilitate the delivery of the Government's objective of achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development and the objectives it seeks to achieve give us the opportunity to revisit some of the original principles of social equity, the management of economic impacts, and effective mitigation of and adaptation to the environmental consequences of development. The shift in ethos of the planning system from land use planning to spatial planning provides a useful platform for the planning system to contribute significantly towards sustainable development.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents is a requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and encompasses the provisions of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (SEA Directive), which require an assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. The key purpose of this European Directive is to provide adequate protection for the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation of plans and programmes.
- 1.3 The overall goal of the Stratford-on-Avon District Local Plan Review is "to make a significant contribution to the United Kingdom's sustainable development strategy by meeting the social and economic needs of communities throughout Stratford-on-Avon District whilst maintaining effective protection of the environment and ensuring the prudent use of resources". This goal acknowledges the important role that the Local Plan can play in supporting the socio-economic needs of local communities and promoting sustainable development.
- 1.4 The Local Plan Review underwent a thorough Sustainability Appraisal as part of its preparation. The appraisal was independently verified to ensure its objectivity and the soundness of its approach. It was therefore an influential piece of work in defining the social, economic and environmental objectives of the plan. In preparing the Sustainability Appraisal, the District Council was concerned to ensure that the provisions of the SEA Directive had been met.
- 1.5 The District Council carried out a Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD as an integral part of its production. This appraisal was provided as an appendix to the SPD when it was published in April 2007.

## **2. Sustainability Appraisal process**

- 2.1 As explained in para. 1.4 above, the District Local Plan was subject to a sustainability appraisal, including Policy IMP.5 that deals with developer contributions towards transport-related facilities. Given that the SPD as a whole is not being amended, only the List of Schemes, it is unnecessary to

carry out a fresh SA of the entire document. However, it is appropriate and necessary to assess the new schemes to be included in the List.

2.2 The manner in which the newly identified schemes contribute to achieving the sustainability objectives has been assessed and represented by a set of symbols:

- ++ significant positive effect
- + positive effect
- 0 no effect
- negative effect
- significant negative effect

2.3 This impact assessment is represented in the compatibility matrix at Appendix 1.

### **3. Key conclusions**

3.1 The purpose of the compatibility matrix is to find out the sustainability credentials of the amended set of schemes to be identified in the SPD. The appraisal demonstrates that each scheme has positive relationship with at least one sustainability objective. In particular, the schemes will assist in facilitating a shift from car based travel to environmentally sustainable alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport. Together, they will also help to reduce energy consumption and minimise pollution, improve access to local services and enhance the experience of visitors to the town.

3.2 There is no evidence to suggest that the implementation of the new schemes would lead to any significant negative impacts on sustainability objectives. The only negative effects identified relate to the impact of the proposed southern park and ride facility on the natural environment and the landscape setting of the town. This is a matter that will be addressed as part of a detailed proposal in order to minimise and mitigate such an impact. It is also unlikely that the scheme will be able to utilise brownfield land.

3.3 It is important to emphasise the following additional points:

- This Sustainability Appraisal does not exempt any of the schemes from further detailed environmental impact assessment where it is justified and relevant.
- This SPD is one of a number adopted by the District Council. They each have a role to play in delivering the objectives of the Local Plan. It is anticipated that the implementation of the totality of the Plan's policies and proposals and associated SPDs will help to achieve all the objectives of the Plan and significantly contribute towards achieving sustainable development in the District.

3.4 The implementation of the new schemes to be included in the SPD will also assist in delivering the objectives of the Local Plan Review. They will enhance the plan's drive towards sustainable development in the town. In particular, they will lead to a shift from car-based travel to more environmentally sustainable alternatives.

### Appendix 1: Assessment of new schemes to be included in the SPD against Sustainability Objectives

Scheme	Stratford Parkway Station	Birmingham Road traffic management	Rother Street junction enhancement	Southern Park and Ride	Stratford Cycle Projects	Stratford Station Accessibility Improvement	Stratford Station to Rother Market route enhancement	Historic Spine environmental improvement
Objective								
1. Provide opportunities for communities to participate in and contribute to decisions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Reduce crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3. Provide facilities for lifelong learning and training for all sections of the community	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0

Scheme  Objective	Stratford Parkway Station	Birmingham Road traffic management	Rother Street junction enhancement	Southern Park and Ride	Stratford Cycle Projects	Stratford Station Accessibility Improvement	Stratford Station to Rother Market route enhancement	Historic Spine environmental improvement
5. Tackle poverty and disadvantage, taking into account particular difficulties of those facing multiple disadvantage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Promote and improve access to services and opportunity and ensure access is equitable	+	0	0	+	+	+	0	0
7. Improve opportunities to participate in the cultural and recreational activities that the District can offer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Provide decent and affordable housing for all, of the right quantity, type, tenure and affordability for local needs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme  Objective	Stratford Parkway Station	Birmingham Road traffic management	Rother Street junction enhancement	Southern Park and Ride	Stratford Cycle Projects	Stratford Station Accessibility Improvement	Stratford Station to Rother Market route enhancement	Historic Spine environmental improvement
9. Balance the needs of local people and visitors and establish the District as both a self-sufficient District for residents and a high quality place for visitors	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++
10. Enhance, preserve, protect and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historic and cultural heritage importance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++
11. Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place, achieving high quality and sustainable design	0	0	+	-	0	0	+	++

Scheme  Objective	Stratford Parkway Station	Birmingham Road traffic management	Rother Street junction enhancement	Southern Park and Ride	Stratford Cycle Projects	Stratford Station Accessibility Improvement	Stratford Station to Rother Market route enhancement	Historic Spine environmental improvement
12. Value, enhance and protect the District's environmental assets, including the natural and built environment and environmental heritage	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	++
13. Value, restore, enhance and protect biodiversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14. Encourage development that optimises the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates high quality built environments	0	0	0	-	0	0	+	++
15. Encourage development that improves the quality of the urban environment in order to stem unsustainable decentralisation	0	+	+	0	+	+	+	+

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16. Encourage local stewardship of local environments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17. Minimise air, water and soil pollution levels	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0
18. Minimise the District's contribution to the causes of climate change while implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts	++	+	+	++	+	0	0	0
19. Reduce overall energy use through increasing energy efficiency and increase the proportion of energy from renewable sources	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Scheme  Objective	Stratford Parkway Station	Birmingham Road traffic management	Rother Street junction enhancement	Southern Park and Ride	Stratford Cycle Projects	Stratford Station Accessibility Improvement	Stratford Station to Rother Market route enhancement	Historic Spine environmental improvement
20. Conserve the use of natural resources such as water and minerals	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
21. Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable, resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
22. Ensure location of development makes efficient use of existing physical infrastructure and helps reduce the need to travel, especially by private car	+	○	○	+	+	○	○	○
23. Encourage modal shift from private car and reduce production of pollutants and congestion from transport while creating good accessibility	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	○

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<b>Objective</b>								
<b>24. Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from waste stream</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>25. Encourage local sourcing of goods and materials and rural economic growth</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>24. Achieve sustainable economic growth and prosperity for the benefit of all District's inhabitants</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>25. Create high quality employment opportunities suited to the changing needs of the local workforce</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>26. Promote investment in future prosperity</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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<b>Objective</b>								
<b>27. Encourage ongoing investment and engagement in learning and skills development</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>28. Encourage a culture of enterprise and innovation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>29. Promote and support the development of new technologies</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>30. Encourage corporate, social and environmental responsibility</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>31. Enhance the visitor experience and ensure Stratford in particular and the District as a whole establishes itself as a World Class place for tourists</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>++</b>

