

TRAFFORD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 4th March 2013
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Economic Growth and Prosperity

Report Title

TRAFFORD LOCAL PLAN: LAND ALLOCATIONS PLAN - SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

Summary

The Land Allocations Plan will set out the detailed proposals for the use of land in the borough, including new development sites and areas for protection. It will be produced in line with the Council's adopted Core Strategy.

The Land Allocations Plan will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout its preparation but it is a statutory requirement that an SA Scoping Report is produced ahead of the commencement of formal sustainability appraisal work. The SA scoping report will also provide a methodology for assessing individual policies and site allocations to ensure they are as sustainable as possible. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report sets out the framework for how this is done.

A Draft SA Scoping report was produced for consultation in August/September 2012 following endorsement Executive as part of the Land Allocations: Shaping the Plan Report (July 2012). This report seeks approval of the final Scoping Report.

Recommendation

That Executive :

- Approve The Trafford Local Plan: Land Allocations - SA Scoping Report as detailed in Appendix 1 (attached to this report as a separate document).

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Rob Haslam - Interim Strategic Planning Manager (ext. 4788).

Background Papers:

Trafford Local Plan: Land Allocations Plan - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: Consultation Draft (August 2012):

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the adoption of the Trafford Core Strategy (January 2012), the Council has embarked on the production of the Trafford Local Plan: Land Allocations Development Plan Document (LADPD). Initial consultation on a “Shaping the Plan” document was undertaken in August 2012. This document was accompanied by a draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a process used to assess how sustainable development is being addressed and included in plans and strategies prepared by organisations. It is a statutory requirement for the production of all Local Plans.
- 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) seeks to ensure that the five main principles agreed by UK government to achieve sustainable development are addressed:
 - Living within Environmental Limits
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
 - Achieving a Sustainable Economy
 - Promoting Good Governance
 - Using Sound Science responsibly
 (“Securing the Future – delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy” – DEFRA 2005)
- 1.3 The effects of a plan are measured against a set of social, environmental and economic objectives. These are set out in the SA Scoping Report together with a proposed structure for appraising the individual policies. It is a statutory requirement for all Local Plan documents to be appraised to see how sustainable they are.
- 1.4 The requirements of how Sustainability Appraisal should be carried out are set out in the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programme regulations 2004.
- 1.5 There are 5 key stages in preparing a Sustainability Appraisal:
 - Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope;
 - Stage B: Developing and refining options;
 - Stage C: Appraising the effects of the plan;
 - Stage D: Consulting on the plan and SA Report; and
 - Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the plan.
- 1.6 The scoping report covers Stage A which is divided into five subsections:
 - Stage A1: Identifying other relevant policies plans, programmes and sustainability objectives;
 - Stage A2: Collecting baseline information;
 - Stage A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems;
 - Stage A4: Developing the SA framework; and
 - Stage A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA.

1.7 The data and information has been collected using Government Guidance, the Trafford Local Plan: Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, Trafford's Annual Monitoring Report and the 2011 Census. Much of the information is monitored through the delivery of the Core Strategy and Land Allocations Plan.

2. SA Scoping Report

2.1 In August 2012 a draft SA Scoping Report, broadly based on that used for the Core Strategy, was consulted on for 6 weeks. It set out the methodology for undertaking the appraisal, but was tailored to include criteria to enable an assessment of sites suggested for allocation to be undertaken. The SA regulations require the Council to consult on its draft SA Scoping Report with three Statutory Consultees (English Nature, English Heritage, and the Environment Agency) for a 5 week period.

2.2 In addition to the above, and in line with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), wider consultation was undertaken alongside the Local Plan: Land Allocations 'Shaping the Plan' consultation. This consultation represented Stage A5 in the process described above and four responses were received which are summarised in Appendix 2.

2.3 In response to the comments received, the SA Scoping Report has been amended to reflect minor changes to the objectives, sub objectives and indicator information. Changes have also been made to the Appendix 3 of the Scoping Report which sets out the criteria for scoring sites to make it easier to use and more transparent. It is considered that no further changes are required to be made to the methodology and framework of the Scoping Report and therefore it is recommended that the Executive approve the final SA Scoping Report, as detailed in Appendix 1.

3. Other Options

3.1 The production of a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is a requirement of the planning legislation. The consequences of not publishing the SA Scoping Report could be that the Land allocations Plan may fail the test of soundness at Examination. Publication of this document is recommended to be used to appraise options and policies for the first draft Land Allocations Plan.

4. Consultation

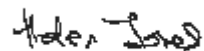
4.1 Consultation has been carried as detailed above.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 Agreement to the final SA Scoping Report for the Land Allocation Plan as set out above is needed so that it can be made available to the public and used to undertake sustainability appraisal work.

Finance Officer ClearancePC.....

Legal Officer ClearanceMJ.....



CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

Implications

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The SA Scoping Report for the Land Allocations DPD will contribute to a number of Corporate Priorities, in particular: Positive Environmental Impact; Better Homes; Strong Communities; Strong Economy and Health & Improved Quality of Life
Financial	The preparation of the SA Scoping Report is part of the work of the Land Allocations DPD. It is funded from the existing Strategic Planning & Developments budget within the EGP Directorate's overall budget.
Legal Implications:	Sustainability appraisal is required by S19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and should be an appraisal of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the plan. The SA Scoping Report has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None.
Sustainability Implications	The fundamental purpose of the Land Allocations DPD is to ensure that development in the borough is sustainable. The SA Scoping report will set the framework to ensure that the DPD allocates land within the Borough for sustainable development.
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	None
Risk Management Implications	The risk of not publishing an SA Scoping Report is that future Land Allocation work that needs to show sustainability criteria may fail soundness testing at future stages of inspection.
Health and Safety Implications	None.

Appendix 2 – Summary of representations received to Draft SA Scoping Report and Council response

Organisation	Summary of comment received	Summary of Council response
Environment Agency	We support the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report specifically where reference is made to the SFRA, and taking flood risk into consideration.	No change needed
Natural England	Overall we are satisfied with the information and scope of the report and we do not have any specific comments to make.	No Change needed
RLAM	Agreement that the baseline information collected is relevant, accurate and in sufficient detail to support the plan. A lot of detailed data has been collected, which relates well to the indicators, sub objectives and objectives of the SA. The use of local trends and comparison of local data against regional and national data is a useful benchmark.	No change needed
RLAM	Agreement that the proposed Sustainability Appraisal Framework is appropriate. Developing a set of criteria based on the SA objectives and sub objectives is appropriate and in keeping with the guidance on carrying out an SEA. Support for the involvement of SEA early in the process i.e. during the initial appraisal of potential sites.	No change needed
RLAM	Although the objectives and sub-objectives identified are in keeping with the legislation and suitable to the area of Trafford a number of detailed amendments are suggested, such as Objectives S2 and S3 are very similar, therefore thought should be given to merging these two.	Wording to S3 changed and indicators changed to S2 and S3 to make the differences clearer and more distinctive.
RLAM	Noise related emissions should be considered in addition to air quality emissions in Objective E1.	Wording Changed to E1 sub objectives and indicators
RLAM	Objective E9 could be reworded to include archaeology in the title.	Wording added
RLAM	Objective E9 could be reworded to include archaeology in the title.	Wording added
RLAM	Objective EC3 could be reworded to remove the word business because the sub-objective and indicators relate to tourism.	Wording changed
RLAM	It is suggested that the sub objective related to S5 "reduce the number of low income families" be reworded as "improve the financial position of low income families".	Wording changed
RLAM	It is unclear what is meant by the reduce motorised traffic Sub Objective for E1 in relation to its associated indicators.	Sub objective and indicators changed to make clearer
RLAM	It is unclear why the Sub Objective for E4 is just focused on flooding. If this is correct, the Objective title should be amended to reflect this.	Flooding is the main issue that can presently be measured as a result of climate change but other effects may arise, such as temperature increases, as research progresses so the wording has not been changed
RLAM	It is suggested that the word "homes" be replaced with "development" in the second Sub Objective for E6 because all development built on previously built land could be beneficial.	Wording changed and new indicator added to cover employment land

RLAM	It is suggested that water bodies need to be considered in addition to "rivers, canals and groundwater" in the Sub Objective for E7.	Wording changed
RLAM	Protection/improvements in relation to noise sources should be considered in relation to the Sub Objective for E8.	Noise sources added to E1
RLAM	In relation to the Sub Objective for E9 the ability to enhance a site of archaeological importance is questioned. It is also suggested that listed buildings and conservation areas could be together in to one sub-objective with a separate one for archaeology. It is also suggested that Scheduled Monuments should be included.	Listed buildings and conservation areas still different sub objectives but scheduled monuments added
RLAM	The Sub Objective for EC4 refers to enhancing town centre vitality, it is suggested that more information is required to explain what is meant by this.	It is considered the indicator explains what is meant by this
RLAM	The number of objectives and sub-objectives appear to be reasonable and relevant to the wide ranging sustainability issues associated with land allocations in the Borough.	No change needed
RLAM	In relation to minimising educational inequality (Objective S7), the need for two very similar indicators relating to the achievement of GCSEs is queried.	One indicator deleted
RLAM	The measurability of the indicators related to Objective S8 is queried. In particular the smoking indicator; the percentage of adults taking part regularly in sport and; the number of participants in arts and cultural development.	The Council measure this data through the Health and Well being team
RLAM	In relation to Objective E2 it is suggested that the number of other locally designated sites such as Local Nature Reserves could be included in addition to SBIs. Also it is queried why there is only an indicator which focuses on priority bird species; other protected species should be included. Also habitat types other than woodland which is to be conserved and enhanced should be included.	LNRS have been added as an indicator. Priority bird species are the only protected species presently able to be measured
RLAM	In relation to Objective E3 – the method for the measurement of emissions from the domestic sector is queried. It is suggested that this could only be applied to new build homes rather than the existing housing stock in the Borough. In such cases there could be a requirement for developers to incorporate energy saving technologies into their schemes. In terms of the indicators relating to the average annual domestic sales of gas and electricity, it is queried whether these will be measured per person or per household.	Indicators reflect available data from Department of Energy and Climate Change
RLAM	The time period over which the two indicators under Objective E5 will be measured is queried.	This reflects available data
RLAM	It is considered that the indicators currently listed under the "Economic Theme" do not go far enough to promote economic growth in the Borough. The New Trafford Economic Development Plan is not properly reflected in the SA. Accordingly, the following measurable Indicators should be included within the SA: The number of employment opportunities created by new developments in the Borough; The number of highly-skilled jobs created by new development in the Borough; The availability of Grade A B1(Business) space in the Borough	Indicators added where data available
RLAM	In terms of population and health the following data sources (and possible indicators) could be of use: Infant mortality rates and; Recorded crimes per 1,000 population.	this data will be added if and when available

RLAM	Although in general, the criteria look comprehensive and suitable for appraising potential allocations a number of specific comments are offered in relation to the criteria: In SA Objective 1 the fact that Altrincham Town Centre has been singled out in the very positive (++) score is queried.	The ++ reflects the Councils priorities in the Core Strategy vision which identifies Altrincham as the principle town centre.
RLAM	SA Objective 15 - it is suggested that the threshold of 5 hectares could be lower to capture smaller landholdings which have been remediated.	5 hectares has been used in other authorities' appraisals. It enables impact of scale to be recognised. Sites smaller than 5 hectares remediated would still be given a +
RLAM	SA Objective 18 - the setting of a listed building is only mentioned in very negative (--) criteria, it is suggested that this could also be included in the other classifications too e.g. when an improvement is made to a listed building's setting.	Wording changed
RLAM	SA Objective 23 - It is suggested that clarification is needed to specify the term non-ethical trading.	Wording added
RLAM	Clarification is sought as to whether the 23 topic areas listed in Table 2 and Appendix 3 relate to the overall sustainability objectives identified in Table 1. It is suggested that instead of listing them 1 to 23, it might be more appropriate to match them to the objective i.e. S1, S2, E1, E2, EC1, EC2 etc, to ease cross reference.	Numbers changed
TFGM	The Key Sustainability Issues in 3.5 should include a need to encourage active travel. For example this issue could be re-worded to "Need to improve usage of public transport and the level of walking and cycling"	Wording Changed
TFGM	In relation to Objective S2, a PTAL score is thought to be a better measure.	This measure can be added if supplied by TFGM
TFGM	Objective S3 has no sub objective to improve disabled access. Additionally some of the indicators could be improved. For example, the number of new completed public transport improvement schemes or cycle route improvement schemes is not very informative. Instead there should be an indicator to establish the effect on the number of users (public transport or cycling). Travel to work data is only updated every 10 years. Instead of cycle flow figures, a better road safety indicator could look at number of casualties in deprived areas.	Sub objective and indicators changed where data available
TFGM	Objective E1 – the sub objective to manage traffic flows to reduce congestion could also be an economic sub objective to improve journey time reliability. The indicator would be improved by using Traffic master as the source linked to KPI 4d and the congestion on these routes. Metrolink and heavy rail patronage should be replaced by KPI2d, annual average vehicle km.	Sub objective and indicators changed where data available
TFGM	The Economic indicators seem underplayed. They could include access to key employment sites particularly from deprived areas or access to airport as a sub objective with mode split or journey time reliability as an indicator	Sub objective wording changed and indicators added where data available
TFGM	Objective EC4 – suggestion that a mode split indicator is used for journeys to Altrincham.	Indicator added