

Summary of Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report to accompany planning policies for the Borough of North Warwickshire

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

Completing an SA is a legal requirement of plan making and its purpose is to promote sustainable development during process. The key part is to assess the emerging plan, when compared with reasonable alternatives. It will help to achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. It sets out a Framework for all future planning policies to be assessed.

The SA process comprises several stages from evidence gathering, to assessment and monitoring the effects of the plan once completed. The Scoping Report sets out the framework of SA objectives and related assumptions which will be used to assess the plan and alternative strategy/ policy options. It also lists the existing plans, policies, programmes, evidence, and sustainability issues to create the SA Objectives.

What is a Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal?

The Scoping Report explains the steps North Warwickshire Borough Council (NWBC) will take to ensure future planning policies deliver sustainable development. This Summary outlines the background to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and the next steps.

Consultation

We are consulting the general public and a range of stakeholders on the SA Scoping Report for a period of six weeks. There are two key questions which are shown below. When answering these questions please provide as much information for your reasons and provide any evidence you may have as this will help us to understand your response.

Key Questions

Question 1 Do you agree with the key issues and objectives identified in the proposed scoping report?

Question 2 Are there any other issues and/or objectives that need to be considered in the report?

Key Parts of Sustainability

Sustainable development is where economic, social and environmental factors are balanced against each other. The National Planning Policy Framework and the North Warwickshire Local adopted in Sept 2021 have sustainable development at their heart. Going forward, any planning policies prepared for North Warwickshire will continue to do so but the SA will help in achieving this by looking at the keys factors from the economic, social and environmental factors.



Proposed Approach

Sustainability issues will need to be addressed by planning policies, to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. These issues and problems relate to the following broad themes in the plan-making process: population change, crime, health, housing and regeneration, economy and skills, transport, historic environment and heritage, water, pollution, climate change, natural environment, biodiversity, minerals, and waste.

To assess if the planning policies will deliver sustainable development, a list of SA Objectives has been created. These will be used to test the economic, social, and environmental impacts of development strategies and planning policies. Table 1 below contains the list of SA Objectives.

Table 1: Sustainability Objectives

Topic 1 Housing (including Gypsy and Traveller)	1) To meet housing needs of the current and future resident and by providing decent affordable homes of right quality and type.	
2a) To promote safer communities and reduce the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. 2b) To reduce Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to address poverty and help improve access to facilities and services for disadvantaged individuals and communities 2c) Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and opportunities. 2d) Support, empower and connect communities to create a healthier society.		Topic 2 Equality, Diversity and Community Development
Topic 3 Health and Wellbeing	3a) To improve the health of the population and reduce health inequalities 3b) To improve access and availability of sports and recreation facilities 3c) To improve access and availability to open spaces	
4a) Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery 4b) To ensure a sustainable and efficient use of natural resources such as water and minerals		Topic 4 Waste and Resource Use
Topic 5: Economy and Employment	5a) Achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy and prosperity for the benefit of all of North Warwickshire residents 5b) To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and growth throughout the Borough 5c) To improve educational skills of the overall population 5d) To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and retail centres	
6a) Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air 6b) Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the major urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure		Topic 6 Air Quality
Topic 7: Water Quality	7) Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water	

Sustainability Objectives Continued

- 8a) Minimise soil pollution levels and create good quality soil
- 8b) Encourage land use and development that creates and sustain well-designed, high quality distinctive and sustainable places
- 8c) Encourage the efficient use of previously developed land and buildings and encourage efficient use of land

Topic 8: Land and Soil

Topic 9: Achieving Zero Carbon Living

- 9a) Minimise North Warwickshire's contribution to the cause of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources
- 9b) Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource
- 9c) Reduce carbon emissions from transport to contribute to the Council's decarbonisation

- 10) To reduce vulnerability to climatic events and flooding

Topic 10: Flooding

Topic 11: Historic Environment

- 11) Value, protect, enhance North Warwickshire's built and historic and archaeological environment and landscape

- 12) Value, protect and enhance North Warwickshire's natural landscape

Topic 12: Natural Landscape

Topic 13: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 13a) Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire
- 13b) Valuing, enhancing and protecting the geodiversity of North Warwickshire

- 14a) Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure
- 14b) Ensure development reduces the need to travel and reduce the negative impacts of transport on the environment
- 14c) Reduce carbon emissions from transport to contribute to the Council's decarbonisation commitment

Topic 14: Accessibility and Transport

Topic 15: Light

- 15) North Warwickshire is a rural area, whose character and distinctiveness arises from the lack of urban developments and characteristics associated with urban landscapes. Lighting is often seen as intrusive, indicative of increasing "urbanisation"

Sustainability Objectives Continued

16) Finding the qualities of places which generate tranquil feelings and protecting those locations and attributes is vital for a country pressured by development. Hartshill Hayes Country Park is shown on the tranquillity mapping carried out during 2006 by Northumbria University, commissioned by CPRE. It builds on previous methodology led by individual feelings about tranquil places with a simpler quantitative consultation approach, giving a 'national' understanding of the concept of tranquillity.

Within North Warwickshire the areas least disturbed by the presence of noise and visual intrusion from major infrastructure such as motorways and A roads, urban areas and airports lies south of Baxterley, north of Meriden covering the central rural area of North Warwickshire. This is shown on the natural England maps indicating change in the extent of intrusion and the resulting fragmentation of the undisturbed countryside from the early 1960s to the early 1990s to 2007

Topic 16: Tranquillity

Topic 17: Energy

- 17a) Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources
- 17b) Ensure development maximises the potential for sustainable on-site generation while minimising the negative impacts of energy use and generation on the environment
- 17c) Seek to reduce carbon emissions from energy production and use by the Council (where relevant) and by development within the Borough to contribute to the Council's decarbonisation commitment

Next Steps

Following the end of the consultation, we will review all comments received and make changes to the proposed SA Framework where relevant, in line with national policy and legislation. We will then use the SA Framework to assess future planning policies and will publish a report detailing how this has taken

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping
Report



Further information

Please contact the Forward Planning Team using any of the following methods if you have any queries or require any further information:

Email: planningpolicy@northwarks.gov.uk

Telephone: 08127 719499/719451

Scan the QR Code to take you to the online form

More information can be found on our website at

www.northwarks.gov.uk/planningconsultations



North Warwickshire
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