

Sustainability Appraisal and SEA of North Hertfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options

Appendix 3: Appraisal of Objectives

November 2014

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Appraisal of Objectives

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7. Leisure and Community Facilities **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

7.1 Provision of sports pitches and facilities **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

7.2 Developers' contribution towards community facilities and services **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Overview and document summary

As part of the SA process, the Plan objectives are tested against the SA objectives to check for compatibility and potential conflicts. This was initially undertaken in August 2005 as part of the appraisal of the Core Strategy and Development Policies.

However, the Local Plan objectives were significantly changed to reflect the requirements of the NPPF, so these were reappraised in September 2014. The appraisal matrix and conclusions is shown overleaf.

Appraisal of Objectives

The following table shows the appraisal of the objectives outlined in the Local Plan.

Key: positive compatibility√; conflict X; uncertain ?; neutral 0.

SA Objectives	Plan objectives (paragraph numbers)				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	√	√	√	√	?
2a	X	0	0	0	?
2b	?	0	√	√	√
2c	?	√	√	√	√
3a	X	0	0	0	√
3b	X	?	0	0	√
3c	X	?	0	0	√
3d	X	?	?	0	√
4a	X	√	√	√	√
4b	?	?	?	?	√
5a	√	√	√	√	0
5b	?	√	√	√	0
5c	?	√	√	√	0
5d	√	0	0	0	?
5e	?	?	?	?	0
5f	X	√	√	√	√
5g	0	√	√	√	0
5h	0	√	√	√	0
6a	?	?	?	?	√
6b	?	?	?	?	√
7	?	√	√	√	0

Conclusions

- The appraisal reflects the reality that the provision of new housing to meet the District's needs is likely to have significant negative effects on a number of the appraisal criteria, including use of greenfield land, biodiversity, landscape, the historic environment, greenhouse gas emissions, pollution and human health (the last two because of the likely increase in ambient noise).
- These issues are covered in general by the last paragraph of the objectives, which aims to "minimise impacts on the environment and seek to enhance the wider environment". This last paragraph is very general, although is linked in the Plan to the NPPF paragraph which refers to "climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscapes". Also neither specifically mention the

issue of water resources, which is a key sustainability issue for the District.

Recommendation

- Consider rewording the final paragraph to highlight climate change and resources use, which are key sustainability issues for the District. For example it could say “Minimise the impacts of growth and development on the environment, climate emissions and natural resources, and use the opportunities provided to seek to enhance the wider environment”.

NHDC Response

The objective has been amended to take into account the recommendation.