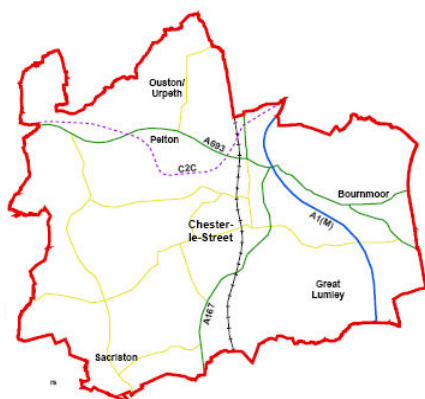


Non-technical summary



Overview

This document is the non-technical summary of the Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of Chester-le-Street Districts' Local Development Framework (LDF). It outlines the major issues and problems for sustainable development in the District and describes how the appraisal process will be undertaken.

What is the Local Development Framework?

The Government has reformed the planning system with the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The aim is to create a planning system that is more responsive to changing circumstances and achieves effective community involvement. Under this new system, District Local Plans have been replaced by Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF comprises a folder of documents (Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents) which will set out the long term vision for the District, allocate sites for development and set out criteria for determining planning applications.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a means of informing the decision making process at every stage of the plan process to ensure a commitment to sustainable development.

Sustainable Development can be described using the widely-used and accepted international definition:

'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' (Brundtland Commission, 1987).

The Sustainability Appraisal follows stages, each stage being used to inform the LDF process to assess the social, economic and environmental effects of strategies and policies. It will also assess the extent to which implementation of the LDF will achieve sustainability objectives. The key aspects of the Sustainability Appraisal are that it should:

- ensure long term sustainable forms of development;
- develop plans that are more sustainable;
- reflect global, national, regional and local concerns;
- provide more informed decisions;
- develop sounder plans through continual input.

The Scoping Report is the first stage of the appraisal process, establishing the baseline; the current economic, social and environmental status of the District.

Why Sustainability Appraisal?

Like the Local Development Framework, the Sustainability Appraisal is statutory. The appraisal process incorporates the requirements of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment as well as assessing economic and social effects of strategies, plans and policies.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report addresses the following key issues and problems that have been highlighted for Chester-le-Street District:

- housing
- economic regeneration
- environmental
- landscape
- health
- social
- population
- transport

The above key issues and problems, together with the baseline information on the District and review of plans and policies from the Scoping Report will result in a set of Sustainability Appraisal objectives. This is a key outcome of the Scoping Report.

Next stages of the process

Sustainability Appraisal is an ongoing process that is taking place in parallel with the Local Development Framework. The next stage involves proposed policies and strategies of the Local Development Framework being assessed against these Sustainability Appraisal objectives developed in the Scoping Report. This is to ensure that final documents are 'sustainable'. Hence, each Local Development Framework document will be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal. A Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published for each of the following type of documents;

- Core Strategy
- Development Plan Documents (DPDs)
- Supplementary Plan Documents (SPDs)

The baseline data compiled in the Scoping Report will be reviewed annually to monitor the effects of the policies and strategies on sustainability aspects of Chester-le-Street required as the final stage of the Sustainability Appraisal.

How to comment on the Sustainability Appraisal

To comment on the sustainability issues and problems identified in the Scoping Report for Chester-le-Street please contact [the Planning Policy Team at Chester-le-Street District Council at the address below](#). The report is [available on the Council's website and copies maybe found at libraries, etc](#).

[Planning Policy Team, Chester-le-Street District Council, Civic Centre, Newcastle Road, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3UT.](#)

[Email:](#)

[Deadline](#)