

Overview of Sustainability Appraisal

Introduction

As you may be aware, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is in the process of producing a Local Development Framework that will gradually replace the Local Plan as the blueprint for development in the Borough.

The Local Development Framework will include the preparation of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. There is a statutory requirement to undertake sustainability appraisal of these documents.

What is Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) aims to ensure that the policies and proposals in the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents reflect the principles of sustainable development.

What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is defined as 'development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Specifically, sustainability looks at reconciling environmental, social and economic aims.

What is the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report?

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report describes the first stage (known as stage A) of the sustainability appraisal process. The Scoping Report covers the following steps: -

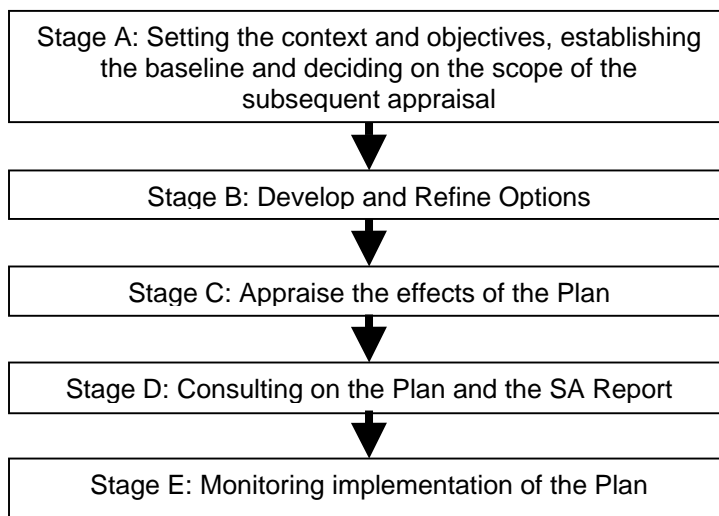
A1 – Identifies other relevant **plans, programmes and strategies** that will influence the Local Development Framework

A2 - Collects relevant social, environmental and economic **baseline information**

A3 – Identifies key **sustainability issues** for the sustainability appraisal / plan to address

A4 - Develops the **sustainability appraisal framework**, consisting of the **sustainability appraisal objectives**, sub objectives and indicators.

What are the other stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process?



What happens next?

The sustainability appraisal framework will be used as the basis to assess future Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Plan Documents, in terms of their sustainability.

It should be noted that the sustainability appraisal framework will need to be kept up-to-date, e.g. to reflect changes in baseline information, new sustainability issues, and other plans and programmes that may emerge. This up-to-date framework will be contained in the sustainability appraisal reports that will accompany each of the Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Plan Documents that the Council intends to produce.