



## Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

**Meeting:** Sustainability Commission  
**Date:** 1 November 2006  
**Report of:** Director of Environment  
**Subject:** Prioritising Sustainability Commission and Team work on Local Development Framework documents

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Commission about a proposal to prioritise its scrutiny of Sustainability Appraisals and their scoping reports within the Local Development Framework (LDF).

### 2. Recommendations

That the Sustainability Commission:

- 2.1 Agrees to prioritise its input on Sustainability Appraisals and their scoping reports as set out in Appendix 1.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The new planning system emphasises the need for sustainability to be at the centre of the plan preparation process. Each of the local development documents requires a sustainability appraisal (SA - and in some cases a strategic environmental assessment - SEA) with the exception of the Statement of Community Involvement. A scoping report is developed first for each SA.

- 3.2 On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005 the Commission agreed that it should have a key consultative and advisory role at the main stages of document preparation on SA matters:

- early scoping/ stakeholder and community involvement stage, to discuss issues and options for the sustainability appraisal
- the preferred options stage - when the consultation draft of the sustainability appraisal will be considered.

- 3.3 This consultative and advisory role applies to all local development documents requiring a sustainability appraisal.
- 3.4 Further refinement of this was felt by the Commission to be necessary and on 24 May 2006 the Commission agreed that it would help if City Planning provided a short summary of the documents being considered; and the Sustainability Team made recommendations to the Commission about any changes that should be made to the SA or Scoping report.
- 4. Further refinements to the Commission approach**
- 4.1 The Sustainability Commission and Team have grappled with a number of formats and suggestions about how to deal with often long and complex LDF documents.
- 4.2 It has become apparent to officers that with the very large number of Supplementary and Development Planning Documents being produced, further prioritisation is necessary.
- 4.3 This is because the Sustainability Team does not have sufficient resources to take on the full workload that the existing approach would require, due to increasing demands and workload in other areas (e.g. major projects, Carbon Management Programme, Water Action Plan, Sustainable Building Design SPD); and because Commission meetings might otherwise be heavily dominated by these reports.
- 4.4 It is also considered that a disproportionate amount of time would otherwise be spent reviewing some documents (e.g. writing a report about the scoping report of the sustainability appraisal of the Advertisement Control SPD) when it would be better spent on others.
- 4.5 It is therefore proposed that the Commission takes a view on the priority of having an input into forthcoming documents, based on their strategic significance, likely impact on sustainability, and whether or not it will have further opportunities to comment.
- 4.6 So it is proposed that while the Sustainability Team will always bring comments on Sustainability Appraisals of Development Plan documents to the Commission, scoping reports and SA's of SPD's will just be emailed to Commission members for comments.
- 4.7 The exception proposed is the Sustainable Building Design SPD, as this is regarded as one central to the future of sustainability in the city.

**5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The Sustainability Team and Planning Policy have been consulted on the report.

<b>Meeting/Date</b>	<b>Sustainability Commission, 1 November 2006</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Director of Environment</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Consultative role of the Sustainability Commission for the LDF</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Financial implications</b>	<p>Preparing and taking reports to the Sustainability Commission as proposed can be resourced within the existing City Planning budgets.</p> <p>Alasdair Ridley 20/10/06</p>
<b>Legal implications</b>	<p>"There are no legal implications in connection with the proposals for prioritising the work of the Sustainability Commission.</p> <p>The Council's principal planning duty in relation to sustainability arises from Section 39 of the 2004 Act. This requires local planning authorities when exercising their functions in relation to local development documents to exercise those functions with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The purpose of sustainability appraisals is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies in the local development documents from the outset of the process to ensure that decisions that are made accord with sustainable development."</p> <p>John Heys Principal Solicitor 18.10.06</p>

<b>Corporate/Citywide implications</b> The LDF will help to deliver the community strategy and city council strategies. It will facilitate the efficient use of land.	<b>Risk assessment</b> None identified.
<b>Sustainability implications</b> The new system makes sustainability central to planning policy making.	<b>Equalities implications</b> Community involvement and equalities issues are an important part of the new plan making system in terms of consultation and policy aims.
<p><b>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</b> Policies in the new local development documents and supplementary planning documents will aim to reduce opportunities for crime.</p> <p><b>Background papers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks</li> <li>2. Sustainability Commission Report - Local Development Framework - timetabling and linkages - 19<sup>th</sup> January 2005</li> <li>3. Sustainability Commission Report - Sustainability Appraisal: Clarification and Timetable - 24 May 2006</li> </ol>	

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Appendix 1

<b>Timetable and Proposals for considering Scoping Reports and Sustainability Appraisals coming to the Sustainability Commission.</b>	
<p><b>DPD Core strategy - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>            (DPD Site Allocations - Scoping Report is so similar that separate consideration would duplicate work)</p> <p><b>Municipal Waste Management Strategy - Scoping Report *</b></p> <p><i>SPD Advertisement control - Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></p>	<p>Nov 2006</p>
<p><b>SPD Sustainable Building Design - Scoping Report</b></p>	<p>Jan 2007</p>
<p><b>DPD Waste &amp; Minerals Core Strategy - Scoping Report</b>  <i>DPD Minerals Site Allocations - Scoping Report</i></p>	<p>Mar 2007</p>
<p><b>SPD Sustainable Building Design - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></p> <p><i>SPD Conservation features - Scoping Report</i>  <i>SPD Parking - Scoping Report</i>  <i>SPD Developer contributions - Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></p>	<p>June 2007</p>
<p><i>SPD Parking - Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></p>	<p>Sept 2007</p>
<p><i>SPD Conservation features - Sustainability Appraisal Report</i></p>	<p>Dec 2007</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>DPD Development Policies - Scoping Report</b></li> <li>▪ <b>DPD Development Policies - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></li> <li>▪ <b>DPD Site Allocations - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></li> <li>▪ <b>DPD Minerals Site Allocations - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></li> <li>▪ <b>DPD Waste &amp; Minerals Core Strategy - Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></li> </ul>	<p>Dates as yet unknown</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Sustainability Appraisal Report</b></li> </ul>	
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DPD = Development Plan Document (a core document of the LDF)  
 SPD = Supplementary Planning Document

**Bold indicates a report would be brought to the Sustainability Commission meeting.**

**Note: all DPDs would be brought to Commission meetings.**

*Italics indicates a review will be emailed to the Commission for comment and approval.*

*All SPDs will be e mailed.*

**SPD Sustainable Building Design – Scoping & Sustainability Appraisal Report**

A key objective of the SPD is to raise the level of sustainability in development across the city. The SPD will contain targets and thresholds for minimum standards for environmental performance in developments for (e.g.) renewable energy production and CO2 emission reduction targets. Given the Commission’s remit and previous recommendation on a renewables target, this Sustainability Appraisal Report will be brought to members for comment.

**\*Municipal Waste Management Strategy – Scoping & Sustainability Appraisal Report**

Although a Sustainability Appraisal of this Strategy is not a statutory requirement, and this is not an LDF document, Cityclean has commissioned a Sustainability Appraisal on this Strategy in order to follow best practice and to ensure consultation is thorough.

The scoping report is being brought to the Commission by the consultants involved, Ecosys.

