

## Sustainability Statement: Development and Protected Species SPD

- A formal Sustainability Appraisal was carried out on the Development and Protected Species Supplementary Planning Document.
- The appraisal checked the protected species document against a set of sustainability criteria.
- The detailed findings from this appraisal have been documented in a Sustainability Appraisal Report.

### Key findings

- We found that the document would have several very positive impacts on environmental objectives such as biodiversity and landscape, because protecting species involves the preservation and enhancement of their habitats.
- We also identified a number of moderate positive impacts on social objectives, such as improved housing by encouraging sustainable urban design.
- We found that there were some minor negative impacts on economic objectives. For example, we thought that the plan could potentially make land unavailable for development, and prevent growth and investment. However, on balance, we thought that these negatives could be turned into positives over time. This is because the protected species planning document should speed up the planning process and lead to more sustainable developments, which in the long-term is likely to be an attractive proposition for further investment. There are also clear benefits from the document in contributing to the growth of the environmental services and technologies sector.

### Changes to the Protected Species document as a result of appraisal

- As a result of the appraisal we made several minor changes to the wording of the Protected Species Document.
- We also identified the need for the following monitoring indicator: **hectares of local nature reserve per person**.
- We also made several suggestions that will help us develop more proactive policies when we are developing our Core Strategy.

### Consultation

- The Sustainability Appraisal Report was made available for consultation alongside the Protected Species Document. There were no comments about the Sustainability Appraisal process or results gathered.

- The comments received about the Protected Species Document did not result in any significant changes to its content, and therefore did not affect the sustainability appraisal process or require the document to be reappraised.

### **Conclusion**

- The Development and Protected Species Planning Document is more sustainable than the identified alternative of “doing nothing”.