

Sustainability Appraisal of Access for All SPD

Background

This Access For All SPD supports and supplements the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) which was subjected to a sustainability appraisal in January 2003.

The background to sustainability appraisal and the methodology and outcomes of the sustainability appraisal of the UDP are described in Chapter 5 and Appendix 7 of the Replacement UDP (April 2006). These two UDP extracts form the basis for the sustainability appraisal of this Access for All SPD and should be read in conjunction with it. (They can be found on the Council's website at www.wigan.gov.uk/pub/planning/pages/udpreview.htm).

The aim of conducting a sustainability appraisal of Access for All SPD was to discover how, if at all, the introduction of the SPD might influence the sustainability assessments made in 2003 of the relevant UDP policies and proposals.

Process

The sustainability appraisal of the Access for All SPD took place on Wednesday 1 February 2006. It was conducted by four officers from the Planning and Regeneration Department: Dave Walker (Chief Assistant Planning Officer), Kathryn Barker (Planning Officer - Access Officer), Mike Jones (Planning Technician) and Janet Withington (Sustainability Co-ordinator).

In order to ensure compatibility with the original (2003) UDP sustainability appraisal, a consistent methodology was used to assess the sustainability impact of the Guide. First, the UDP policies which are relevant to the Guide were listed. Then the original (2003) assessment of each of these policies against 19 sustainability criteria was revisited with the content of the Guide in mind.

A judgement was then made about whether the introduction of the Guide influenced these original assessments and, if so, in which direction (positively or negatively). Wherever it was considered that the Guide *would* have an impact on the original assessment, the reasons why were recorded alongside the new "score".

The scoring method used was the same as that used for the sustainability appraisal of the UDP in 2003, namely:

- + Significant positive impact
- O Neutral or no impact
- ? Lack of knowledge makes judgement difficult (or, it will depend on how the policy is translated into action)
- Significant negative impact

Conclusions

The Access for All SPD was found to make the sustainability impact of the relevant UDP policies significantly more positive, with 9 changes of score in a positive direction in the following areas:

- social inclusion
- skills and knowledge
- community involvement
- economic prosperity

No negative sustainability impacts were found.

A full breakdown of these conclusions (showing the UDP policies in question, the 19 sustainability criteria used to assess the policies, the original 2003 appraisal “scores”, the 2006 appraisal “scores” and the reasons for any changes made to the scores) is available on the Council’s website at www.wigan.gov.uk/pub/planning/pages/spd.htm.

A paper version of relevant website documents may be requested from the Planning and Regeneration Department.

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(Shaded boxes show where a change has been made)

UDP POLICIES →	SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA ↓																	
	A1 Accessibility		A1C Access For All		A1S Parking in New Development		EV3A Design of New Development		EV3C Design of Frontages to Shops and Commercial Premises		A1D Walking		C1A Community Facilities		C1B Open Space, Sport and recreation Provision		C1E Greenway Network	
Criterion 19 – Economic Prosperity	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Reason for change :</i>	A1C : SPR 8 – Entrances To Existing Buildings. SPR 11 – Shops and other buildings open to the public. SPR 13 – Change of Use.																	
Criterion 18 – Health	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Criterion 17 – Poverty	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 16 – Community Involvement	?	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	?	?
<i>Reason for changes :</i>	A1 and A1C : SPR 11 – Shops and other buildings open to the public. A1 and A1C : SPR 14 – Urban and Rural Landscapes. Page 35 : “A park can very easily become a central point where inclusive and sustainable communities can develop”. A1 and A1C : SPR 15 – Sports and Recreation Facilities. Page 37 : “The development of sports facilities should provide an inclusive environment for every person wishing to participate in a sport, all spectators wishing to view events and all members of staff”. A1S : SPR 4 and SPR 5 – Car Parking. EV3A and C1A : (whole document). Page 3 : “Creating an accessible environment : An accessible environment is one that is easily used, safe, predictable, well designed and can be used by all regardless of age, gender or disability”. C1B : SPR 14 - Urban and Rural Landscapes and SPR 15 – Sports and Recreation Facilities.																	
Criterion 15 – Skills and Knowledge	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
<i>Reason for change :</i>	A1C : SPR 11 - Shops and other buildings open to the public.																	
Criterion 14 – Social Inclusion	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Reason for change :</i>	A1 : (whole document). Page 3 : “Creating an accessible environment : An accessible environment is one that is easily used, safe, predictable, well designed and can be used by all regardless of age, gender or disability”.																	

UDP POLICIES →

SUSTAINABILITY CRITERIA ↓

	A1 Accessibility		A1C Access For All		A1S Parking in New Development		EV3A Design of New Development		EV3C Design of Frontages to Shops and Commercial Premises		A1D Walking		C1A Community Facilities		C1B Open Space, Sport and recreation Provision		C1E Greenway Network	
Criterion 13 – Crime and Disorder	0	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	+	+
Criterion 12 – Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 11 – Built Environment Conservation	0	0	0	0	?	?	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 10 – Waste Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 9 – Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 8 – Natural Resources	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 7 – Climate Change	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+
Criterion 6 – Pollution	+	+	?	?	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	?	?	?	?	0	0
Criterion 5 – Bio-Diversity	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 4 – Image	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Criterion 3 – Environmental and Social Responsibility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criterion 2 – Sustainable Transport	+	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Criterion 1 – Sustainable Regeneration and Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	+