



**Allocations and Development Management
Local Plan**

**Integrated Assessment Scoping
Report**

September 2015

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Scoping Report is the first stage of the integrated assessment process to accompany the production of the emerging Wigan Allocations and Development Management Local Plan (short title: the Allocations Plan). The process is explained later in this report.
- 1.2 The Allocations Plan will form part of a suite of Local Plan documents overseen by the Wigan Core Strategy which was adopted in September 2013.
- 1.3 The Allocations Plan will cover specific sites and areas across the whole borough. It will allocate specific sites for development, provide detailed guidance for developers and specify what infrastructure works are required. It will safeguard land for strategic transport infrastructure. It will also safeguard areas from inappropriate development. It will focus on a range of land uses, including:
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Retail and centres
 - Open space, sport and recreation
 - Transport
- 1.4 The Allocations Plan will also include development management policies on a range of topics to assist the council in making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.5 If we opted to not prepare an Allocations Plan this could reduce the opportunities for sustainable development within the borough. The council would not be working proactively to bring forward land for new housing and other development and proposals for development would be less easily coordinated with the protection of other interests such as open space, wildlife and historic environment conservation, as well as the provision of associated infrastructure. This is because specific areas have a number of complex, inter-related issues. Without a detailed plan, prepared jointly with key partners, these issues cannot be addressed in a comprehensive way.
- 1.6 Without a detailed and up-to-date Allocations Plan, it is likely that uncertainty in planning for specific sites will exacerbate the lack of targeted investment and development within the borough, leading to less sustainable patterns of development being created.

2. Purpose of the Scoping Report and Proposed Integrated Assessment Method

Integrated Assessment

- 2.1 As the Allocations Plan is developed, it will be subject to an integrated assessment to ensure that sustainability, environmental, health and equality issues are taken fully into consideration when preparing the plan. The integrated assessment process will enable us to ensure that the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan can be identified and considered.
- 2.2 This scoping report represents the first stage of the integrated assessment process for the Allocations Plan. The purpose of the report is to set out the initial context for the integrated assessment and the proposed approach to be taken for assessment.
- 2.3 The aim is to ensure that the assessment is comprehensive and addresses all relevant issues and objectives, taking account of input from key stakeholders and consultation bodies at an early stage in the process. It also serves to focus on the significant issues in relation to the Allocations Plan.
- 2.4 The scoping report:
- Reviews the environmental, social and economic issues and objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Allocations Plan.
 - Provides baseline information on the environmental, social and economic characteristics relevant to the Allocations Plan.
 - Identifies the key sustainability, health and equality issues for the Allocations Plan, based on an assessment of the baseline information.
 - Sets out the likely objectives of the Allocations Plan.
 - Invites comments from statutory consultees and other stakeholders.
- 2.5 The integrated assessment of the Allocations Plan is not intended to replicate the sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy but to focus on significant issues in relation to site appraisal. It is also not intended to be an Environmental Impact Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, or Equality Impact Assessment for each site; although the findings will ultimately be useful should development at one of the sites be screened in as an environmental, health or equality impact assessment.

Proposed Integrated Assessment method

- 2.6 Our proposed approach to the integrated assessment of the Allocations Plan is based on government guidance and has five stages. These will run in parallel to the preparation process for the Allocations Plan.
- 2.7 Table 2.1 lists the proposed integrated assessment stages and tasks.

Table 2.1: Stages and tasks of the Integrated Assessment process

Pre-production: evidence gathering	
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
A1:	Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives (contextual review).
A2:	Collecting baseline information.
A3:	Identifying sustainability and equality issues and problems.
A4:	Developing the sustainability framework and outlining what happens next.
A5:	Consulting on the scope of the integrated assessment.
Production – preparing the draft Allocations Plan	
Stage B: Developing and refining the options and assessing the effects	
B1:	Testing the Wigan Allocations Plan objectives against the IA framework.
B2:	Developing options and alternatives for the Wigan Allocations Plan.
B3/B4:	Predicting and evaluating the effects of the draft Wigan Allocations Plan.
B5:	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
B6:	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Wigan Allocations Plan.
Stage C: Preparing the Integrated Assessment Report	
C1:	Preparing the Integrated Assessment Report.
Stage D: Consulting on the draft Allocations Plan and Integrated Assessment Report	
D1:	Public participation on the draft Allocations Plan and Integrated Assessment Report
D2:	Appraising significant changes.
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Allocations Plan	
E1:	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
E2:	Responding to adverse effects.

3. Components of the Integrated Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) applies to a range of plans and programmes including development plan documents such as the Allocations Plan.
- 3.2 It stems from a European Directive (2001/42/EC) and came into force in the UK on 21 July 2004. It is a method for predicting, evaluating and mitigating the likely environmental impacts of a policy, plan or programme.
- 3.3 Sustainability appraisal extends the concept of strategic environmental assessment to fully encompass economic and social concerns. It is required under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) for new or revised development plan documents, and this includes the Wigan Allocations Plan.
- 3.4 Sustainability appraisal is a continuous process that informs firstly the evidence gathering stage of a plan's preparation, and subsequently consideration of alternative options and the preparation of the preferred strategy. It enables potential adverse impacts to be identified at an early stage and where possible avoided, or the impacts reduced by mitigation.
- 3.5 Government guidance advocates the use of an integrated approach to appraisal, combining the legal requirements of strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal into a single, unified process. This has been further developed at a regional level for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to include an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) and a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 3.6 EqIA is designed to ensure that policies and plans meet the requirements of equality legislation in the UK, notably the Equality Act 2010, and to ensure that discrimination does not occur in the plan or policy making process. The Equality Act imposes a duty on public bodies that shape policy, deliver services and/or employ people, which requires them to advance equality of opportunity, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, and foster good relations between different groups of people. The IA therefore needs to consider in its scope the likely effects on discriminatory practices; this will add value and depth to the assessment process.
- 3.7 The Equality Act sets out a series of 'protected characteristics' to enable public bodies to better understand which groups of people (or individuals) may suffer discrimination:
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment

- Marriage and civil partnership
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
- 3.8 The council currently carries out 'Customer Impact Assessments' on its strategies, plans and proposals. This process involves several stages, with a more thorough investigation and assessment required when negative impacts are identified.
- 3.9 The integrated assessment is designed to complement the customer impact assessment and avoid duplication of effort. By integrating the EqIA with the SA we envisage that the outcome will incorporate essential elements of the customer impact assessment process, helping to identify impacts that require more detailed appraisal. Therefore, if the integrated appraisal through the initial screening process does not identify policies that have an adverse impact on those with 'protected characteristics', we are confident that a more detailed equality assessment is not necessary.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

- 3.10 The sustainability appraisal framework for the Core Strategy incorporated a number of health objectives and sub-questions, following a review by a Health Impact Group for Wigan (consisting of Public Health and Council officers), to help integrate the assessment process with sustainability appraisal.
- 3.11 As outlined in Chapter 4, the sustainability framework for the Allocations Plan is informed by this review. We are confident therefore that the sustainability appraisal of the Allocations Plan will incorporate full and up to date health impact information relevant to the area.
- 3.12 There is no statutory requirement to include HIA as part of the plan-making process however there is benefit and value to gain from including the impacts of health alongside environmental, sustainability and equality considerations in the integrated assessment to ensure that plans and policies minimise negative and maximise positive impacts.

4 Scoping Approach

- 4.1 The role of this scoping report is to fulfil the requirements of Stage A (tasks A1-A5) of the integrated assessment process, as set out in Table 2.1.
- 4.2 In order to develop the sustainability framework it is important to review plans and programmes that may be relevant to the sustainability appraisal and the Allocations Plan as a whole in order to identify any social, environmental and economic objectives contained within them that should be reflected in the integrated assessment process.
- 4.3 Wigan Council adopted the approach of producing a general scoping report for the initial Wigan Local Development Framework. This was supported by a series of 13 Core Strategy topic papers which summarise the evidence base for the core strategy and sustainability appraisal.
- 4.4 For the Wigan Allocations Plan, the evidence base summarised in the Core Strategy is being updated, where appropriate, by new evidence documents. This ensures that all relevant and up-to-date evidence is available to support the plan preparation process and sustainability appraisal. This evidence review is a continual process but the latest documents are being finalised and will be published shortly alongside the Allocations Plan itself. As this evidence also provides the information for the Wigan Allocations Plan evidence base, it is more detailed in places than is actually necessary for the integrated assessment.
- 4.5 By drawing on all these sources, we aim to ensure that the contextual review, baseline information, evidence and analysis for the integrated assessment of the Wigan Allocations Plan are as comprehensive and up-to-date as possible. All of these elements will be continuously kept under review and updated as necessary throughout the integrated assessment process.
- 4.6 This scoping report will inform the drafting of the Wigan Allocations Plan and the development of proposed allocations and policies. These will be tested against the integrated assessment framework, which will, in turn, be informed by (and, where necessary, revised in response to) the plan preparation process as new evidence emerges.
- 4.7 This scoping report also scopes out those issues not considered significant for the Allocations Plan. This may be because it is not applicable on a site-by-site basis or it has been covered sufficiently by the Core Strategy.

Task A1: Review of relevant policies, plans and programmes

- 4.8 The general scoping report for the original Wigan Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal and the associated Core Strategy topic papers incorporated a comprehensive review of plans, strategies, guidance and legislation which relate to sustainability.
- 4.9 This has been updated to take into account new policies, plans and programmes of relevance to the Wigan Allocations Plan that have been issued in the intervening period. These reviews are summarised in the Evidence Papers which accompany the Allocations Plan.
- 4.10 Table 4.1 shows an example of how each document has been reviewed for the Evidence Papers. Each review details why the document is relevant to the Wigan Allocations Plan and identifies the key messages and requirements arising from the document in question. Each review also examines any specific opportunities, issues or constraints which may be highlighted and how the Allocations Plan can respond.

Table 4.1: Example extract of evidence review

Table RC2 RETAIL AND CENTRES	
Title	National Planning Practice Guidance: Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres
Proponent body	DCLG
Status (e.g. statutory, non-statutory)	Statutory Guidance
Date produced	6 March 2014
Why is it relevant to the Allocations and DM Plan?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides up to date planning guidance on Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres 	
Key messages / requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local planning authorities should plan positively, to support town centres to generate local employment, promote beneficial competition within and between town centres, and create attractive, diverse places where people want to live, visit and work. Local planning authorities should assess and plan to meet the needs of main town centre uses in full, in broadly the same way as for their housing and economic needs, adopting a 'town centre first' approach and taking account of specific town centre policy. In doing so, local planning authorities need to be mindful of the different rates of development in town centres compared with out of centre. This positive approach should include seeking to improve the quality of parking in town centres (in line with the National Planning Policy Framework) and, where it is necessary to ensure the vitality of town centres, the quantity too. A positive vision or strategy for town centres, articulated through the Local Plan, is key to ensuring successful town centres which enable sustainable economic growth and provide a wide range of social and environmental benefits. Any strategy should be based on evidence of the current state of town centres and opportunities to meet development needs and support their viability and vitality. 	
How could the Allocations Plan respond?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate suitable sites for development within the plan period that meet identified needs Set out policies that promote town centre vitality and viability 	

Task A2: Collecting baseline information

- 4.11 The Strategic Environment Assessment Directive requires information to be gathered on “the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment, and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme” together with the “environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be most significantly affected”. This information enables the effects of the proposed options and policies to be predicted, evaluated and monitored.
- 4.12 The collection and assessment of broad baseline information about the current and likely state of the sites identified within the Allocations Plan will be used within the integrated assessment. It will help predict the effect of the Allocations Plan and also identify the sustainability, health and equality issues and problems in the area.
- 4.13 Overall baseline information has been produced for the Allocations Plan and more detailed baseline information is set out in the Evidence Papers. The Evidence Papers will be published shortly and will support the Wigan Allocations Plan and integrated assessment together.
- 4.14 Area-specific baseline information in the Evidence Papers includes information from the thirteen Core Strategy topic papers. This is because they include many elements which are relevant to the area covered by the Wigan Allocations Plan.
- 4.15 In preparing the Evidence Papers, enough information will need to be collected to answer a series of questions about the area, including:
- How good or bad is the current situation?
 - Do trends show that the current situation is improving or getting worse?
 - If applicable, what are the relevant targets / thresholds and how far from these is the current situation?
 - Are the problems reversible, irreversible, permanent or temporary?
 - How does the situation compare with the regional and national pictures?
- 4.16 It may be necessary to revisit the collection of baseline data during the assessment process because new information and issues emerge all the time. We will therefore collect and update baseline data at appropriate instances in the future.

Task A3: Identifying Sustainability and Equality Issues and Problems

- 4.17 The sustainability issues and problems of most relevance to the Allocations Plan are the same as for the Core Strategy, as the purpose of the Allocations Plan is to allocate specific sites to meet the policies within the Core Strategy. The key sustainability issues facing the borough are set out in Table 5 of the 'Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal' (June 2013) with relevant links to the evidence base. These were identified through contextual review, baseline studies and stakeholder/community engagement.
- 4.18 These sustainability issues informed the development of a sustainability framework which was underpinned by 18 headline objectives. This framework was used to sustainability appraise the policies in the Core Strategy.
- 4.19 In preparing the integrated assessment framework to appraise the proposed policies and allocations in the Allocations Plan, we have considered the parameters of the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal in the context of the Allocations Plan SEA and scoped them in or out. This is set out in Table 4.2 below.
- 4.20 The test for whether an issue was scoped in or out was as follows:
- Was it more appropriately dealt with at Core Strategy level? If yes, it should be scoped out.
 - If no, is it more a function of the details of a development itself than the location? If yes, it should be scoped out.
 - If no, it should be scoped in.

Table 4.2: Scoping the SEA parameters

Core Strategy SEA Parameter	Scope In or Out?	Relevant SEA Directive Receptor(s)	Justification
Social issues			
Accessibility and transport	In	Population	This is likely to be a significant issue when allocating land – ensuring accessibility for local populations and helping develop links across the borough.
Health and wellbeing	In	Human health, material assets	New development can help to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of local residents. For example, the effective regeneration of a poor quality site can uplift an area as a place to live in, work in, visit or pass through, improving wellbeing. Furthermore, new development can promote healthier lifestyles by making it easy to walk and cycle for access, including access to open space and recreation and healthcare facilities.
Housing	Out	Population, material assets	The purpose of the Allocations Plan is to allocate land for housing. Sites are selected on the basis of being suitable to deliver housing in accordance with Government guidance (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments). The SEA of the Core Strategy has already covered this issue at the appropriate level.

Recreation	In	Human health, population	A key objective of the Wigan Local Plan is to protect and enhance the borough's high quality and valuable open spaces and to increase opportunities for people to access them for active recreation. The allocation of land for new development provides both opportunities and threats to this. As such it is appropriate to consider this issue at this stage.
Community safety / crime	Out	Population	This is not considered a significant issue at this stage having been appropriately considered in the Core Strategy SEA. The responses to crime are necessarily development-specific focusing on design.
Neighbourhoods	Out	Population, air, landscape	Impacts of any significance are expected to be development specific. Key issues affecting local population are likely to be highlighted elsewhere in the SEA such as accessibility/transport or landscapes.
Community development	Out	Population	This is not considered a significant issue at this stage having been appropriately considered in the Core Strategy SEA.
Environmental issues			
Biodiversity	In	Biodiversity, flora, fauna, soil	Development at certain sites may affect species and habitats and there may be wider impacts on designated sites
Air quality	Out	Air, human health, population	Having been considered for the Core Strategy in terms of impacts of developments on the whole borough from a strategic point of view, this appears to be more appropriately addressed at project level. This is because it has more significance as a result of the development than the development location.
Soil and minerals	In	Soil	Protection of mineral resources as well as identification of soil issues is significant and should be highlighted when allocating land rather than waiting for the development stage.
Water	In	Water, human health	Managing the borough's water resources and ensuring that development does not impact detrimentally on both water resources and infrastructure is a significant issue.
Landscapes	In	Landscape	It is appropriate to consider this as part of land allocation on a strategic level as well as the development stage.
Built environment and heritage	In	Cultural heritage	By its very nature, development impacts on the built environment. Conserving and enhancing the best of our built environment, including our heritage assets and their settings, is important to quality of life and helps make places that people want to live, work and visit and where businesses want to invest. As such, considering the impact of proposed allocations on the built environment and heritage assets is appropriate.
Waste	Out	Human health, air	The broader issue of how the borough deals with its waste arising from developments has been addressed at Core Strategy level and in the GM Waste Plan. The key issue for the developments themselves will be during construction phase and this will be covered through the development control process.

Energy and climate change	In	Material assets, climatic factors	A key objective of the Wigan Local Plan is to ensure the borough has a secure supply of energy to meet current and future needs and to minimise climate change. Some sites, notably as a result of their location and/or setting, have opportunities to generate energy from renewable sources e.g. wind, solar or heat networks.
Economic issues			
Education and skills	In	Population	Providing good access to higher and further educational establishments is important if the educational and vocational achievements of the borough are to be improved.. The distance of new sites, primarily for housing development, is therefore a key sustainability issue that should be considered at the land allocation stage.
Sustainable economy	Out	Population, material assets	The type of economic development is not appropriately considered at allocations stage having already been considered strategically for the Core Strategy.
Economy and employment	In	Material assets	The quality of the site and its location from an investment perspective is a significant consideration in allocating employment land. As such, this issue is appropriately considered at this stage.

4.21 The following issues have therefore been scoped in for the purposes of the integrated assessment of the Allocations Plan:

- Accessibility and transport
- Health and wellbeing
- Recreation
- Biodiversity
- Soil and minerals
- Water
- Landscapes
- Built environment and heritage
- Energy and climate change
- Education and skills
- Economy and employment

4.22 In addition to the parameters scoped in from the Core Strategy, the following issues have been included to meet the requirements of the integrated assessment:

- Equality and diversity

Task A4: Sustainability and Equality Objectives and Developing the Integrated Assessment Framework

4.23 Our proposed sustainability and equality objectives are listed in Table 4.3 below. These have been drawn up based on:

- A review of plans, programmes and legislation
- Baseline information
- Key issues arising - what was scoped in?
- The objectives within the sustainability appraisal of the Wigan Core Strategy.

Table 4.3: Proposed sustainability and equality objectives

Objectives	
1.	To develop the transport and ICT infrastructure so as to encourage efficient patterns of movement, less need to travel and improvements in the choice and use of sustainable transport modes.
2.	To improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, by enabling healthier lifestyles and providing access to healthcare facilities.
3.	To improve opportunities for active recreation.
4.	To protect and enhance the borough's biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
5.	To maintain and enhance the borough's soil and mineral resources.
6.	To ensure sustainable and integrated management of the borough's water resources.
7.	To preserve and enhance the borough's green infrastructure: landscapes, countryside and green spaces.
8.	To ensure high quality, sustainable design in all developments while respecting, enhancing and capitalising on the borough's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.
9.	To ensure the borough has a secure supply of energy that meets current and future needs and minimises our contribution to climate change.
10.	To improve educational and vocational achievement, ensuring a culture of lifelong learning that allows people to fulfil their duties and potential in a global society.
11.	To ensure a thriving and prosperous borough of high employment and economic activity that benefits everyone.
12.	To promote equality of opportunities and eliminate discrimination.

Compatibility of the objectives

- 4.24 We have carried out a compatibility exercise to check whether these sustainability objectives are compatible with one another. The results of this exercise are shown in Table 4.4 below.

Table 4.4: Compatibility of the objectives

	Accessibility and transport	Health and wellbeing	Recreation	Biodiversity	Soil and minerals	Water	Landscapes	Built environment and heritage	Energy and climate change	Education and skills	Economy and employment	Equality and diversity
Accessibility and transport												
Health and wellbeing												
Recreation												
Biodiversity												
Soil and minerals												
Water												
Landscapes												
Built environment and heritage												
Energy and climate change												
Education and skills												
Economy and employment												
Equality and diversity												

Key

	Likely to be compatible
	Potentially incompatible
	Uncertainty
	Likely insignificant link

SEA implication

	Should be addressed in IA
	Should be addressed in IA
	May be explored in IA
	Unlikely to be addressed in IA

- 4.25 Overall, there is a high level of compatibility between objectives. Where there is uncertainty or potential incompatibility between objectives, this should be explored on an individual basis during the appraisal process, site by site or policy by policy.

Developing the Integrated Assessment Framework

- 4.26 Table 4.5 sets out the Integrated Assessment Framework that will form the basis for the appraisal of the Allocations Plan. The sustainability of each site considered for allocation will be assessed against the objectives and sub-objectives identified in the framework. Indicators are provided for each objective to provide a means by which the sustainability of each site can be tested.
- 4.27 The framework may need to be updated to reflect changes in baseline information, new sustainability issues and other policies, plans and programmes that may emerge.

Table 4.5: Integrated Assessment framework

Theme	Objective	Sub-objective	Indicator
Accessibility and transport	To develop the transport and ICT infrastructure so as to encourage efficient patterns of movement, less need to travel and improvements in the choice and use of sustainable transport modes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will development help to increase the amount of journeys taken by sustainable modes and consequently reduce private motor vehicle traffic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to railway station • Rail service frequency • Distance to nearest bus stop • Bus service frequency • Distance to town, local or neighbourhood centre • Distance to A road junction • Distance to motorway junction • Distance to supermarket • Distance to primary school • Distance to secondary school • Accessibility to key destinations by safe cycling routes • Broadband capacity
Health and wellbeing	To improve physical health and wellbeing, by enabling healthier lifestyles and providing access to healthcare facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it promote healthier lifestyles? • Will it improve access to healthcare facilities? • Will it promote wellbeing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to GP surgery • Distance to NHS hospital • Distance to public open space/park • Quality of existing site
Recreation	To improve opportunities for active recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase opportunities for active recreation? • Will it result in the loss of high quality and valuable open space? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to accessible countryside • Access to sports centre • Access to township park • Access to playing fields • Access to allotments • Access to equipped play space • Impact on high quality and valuable open space

Biodiversity	To protect and enhance the borough's biodiversity and wildlife habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will development impact on areas of conservation importance? • Will development conserve and enhance natural/semi-natural habitats, woodland and wildlife corridors? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation • SSSI • Sites of Biological Importance • Local Nature Reserve
Soil and minerals	To maintain and enhance the borough's soil and mineral resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it impact on the borough's best and most versatile agricultural land? • Will it ensure protection of mineral resources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural classification • Mineral Safeguarding Areas
Water	To ensure sustainable and integrated management of the borough's water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce or manage flooding? • Is development within a groundwater source protection zone? • Will development impact on the water quality of inland resources such as rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands and groundwater? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Zone area • Surface water flooding • Critical drainage area • Groundwater source protection zone • Impact on water quality of inland resources
Landscapes	To preserve and enhance the borough's green infrastructure: landscapes, countryside and green spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it preserve and enhance landscape quality and distinctiveness? • Will it reduce pressure on building in the countryside? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape quality and distinctiveness • Urban site
Built environment and heritage	To ensure high quality, sustainable design in all developments while respecting, enhancing and capitalising on the borough's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance the character and appearance of archaeological sites, historic buildings, townscape, landscape, parks and gardens and their settings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Area • Ancient Monument on site • Registered Park/Garden • Listed Building • Building of Local Interest on site
Energy and climate change	To ensure the borough has a secure supply of energy that meets current and future needs and minimises our contribution to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there opportunities to generate energy from renewable sources, (including wind, solar, heat)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to generate renewable energy

Education and skills	To improve educational and vocational achievement, ensuring a culture of lifelong learning that allows people to fulfil their duties and potential in a global society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase the levels of participation and attainment in education? • Will it reduce unemployment, especially in low performing areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance to further/higher education
Economy and employment	To ensure a thriving and prosperous borough of high employment and economic activity that benefits everyone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the development be attractive to the market and attract new business investment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractiveness of the site to the business market
Equality and diversity	To promote equality of opportunities and eliminate discrimination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it ensure equality of opportunity and equal access to facilities and infrastructure for all? • Will it ensure no discrimination based on the 'protected characteristics' defined in the Equality Act 2010? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Integrated Assessment will be supported and accompanied by an EqIA screening assessment. Indicators and monitoring are subject to the outcome of the screening assessment.</i>

5. Appraisal Methodology for the Site Allocations

- 5.1 This section sets out how the detailed testing of all the potential site allocations will be undertaken. The first methodology is for possible housing and employment sites. An alternative approach is proposed for all other development uses.

Housing and employment allocations

- 5.2 Table 5.1 below sets out the scoring mechanism for each indicator to assess the sustainability of each potential housing and employment site. This consists of 5 sustainability bands A-E to give a clear indication as to how a site performs in relation to each indicator and to be able to easily compare the performance of each site. Band A denotes the most sustainable and Band E the least sustainable. Table 5.2 identifies how the overall band for each site will be determined.

Table 5.1: Sustainability and Equality Indicators and Scoring Mechanism

IA Obj	Indicator	Site Performance and Band				
		A	B	C	D	E
Accessibility and transport	Distance to railway station	Up to 0.8km	0.81 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Rail service frequency	4 or more/hour/direction	2-3 trains/hour/direction	Hourly service	Less than hourly service	No services
	Distance to nearest bus stop	Up to 0.4km	0.41 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.2km	1.2 to 1.6km	Over 1.6km
	Bus service frequency	6 or more/hour/direction	2-5/hour/direction	1/hour/direction	Less than 1/hr/direction	No services
	Distance to town, local or neighbourhood centre	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Distance to A Road junction	Up to 0.4km	0.4 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 3km	Over 3km
	Distance to motorway junction	Up to 1.6km	1.6 to 3km	Over 3km	-	-
	Distance to supermarket	Up to 0.4km	0.4 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 3km	Over 3km
	Distance to Primary School	Up to 0.4km	0.4 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 3km	Over 3km
	Distance to Secondary School	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 3.2km	3.2 to 5km	Over 5km
	Accessibility to key destinations by safe cycling routes	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very poor
Broadband capacity	Capacity	-	-	No capacity	-	
Health and wellbeing	Distance to GP surgery	Up to 0.4km	0.4 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 3km	Over 3km
	Distance to NHS general hospital	Up to 2km	2 to 5km	5 to 10km	Over 10km	-
	Distance to public open space/park	Up to 0.4km	0.4 to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.2km	1.2 to 1.6km	Over 1.6km
	Quality of existing site	Very poor	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Recreation	Access to accessible countryside	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Access to sports centre	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Access to township park	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Access to playing fields	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Access to allotments	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Access to equipped play space	Up to 0.8km	0.8 to 1.6km	1.6 to 2.4km	2.4 to 3km	Over 3km
	Impact on high quality and valuable open space	None	Very low	Low	Moderate	High
Biodiversity	Special Area of Conservation	Outside	-	Part outside part within	-	Within
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Outside	-	Part outside part within	-	Within
	Site of Biological Importance	Outside	-	Part outside part within	-	Within
	Local Nature Reserve	Outside	-	Part outside part within	-	Within
Soil and minerals	Brownfield or greenfield	100% brownfield site	Around 75% brownfield	Around 50% brownfield	Around 75% greenfield	100% greenfield
	Agricultural land classification	Non-agricultural	-	Agricultural (Grade 3b+)	Less than 25% best and most versatile (Grade 1-3a)	Best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1-3a)
	Contamination from existing or previous uses	Highly unlikely	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Highly likely/known
Water	Flood Zone area	All Zone 1	Part Zone 2	All Zone 2	Part Zone 3	All Zone 3
	Surface water flooding	Very low	Low	-	Intermediate	High
	Critical Drainage Areas	Outside	-	Part outside / part within	-	Within

	Groundwater source protection zone	Outside	-	Part outside / part within	-	Within
	Impact on water quality of inland resources	Likely to improve	Potential to improve	No impact	Potential to pollute	Likely to pollute
Landscapes	Impact on landscape quality and distinctiveness	Low	-	Moderate	-	High
	Development pressure on countryside	Urban site	-	Edge of urban	-	Open countryside site
Built environment and heritage	Conservation Area	Outside	Part outside part within	Within	-	-
	Scheduled Ancient Monument on site	No	-	No but one nearby	-	Yes
	Registered Park or Garden	Outside	-	Part outside part within	-	Within
	Impact on Listed Building or Structure	None	Within curtilage	Grade II on site	Grade II* on site	Grade I on site
	Impact on potential Local Listed Building or Structure	None	Within curtilage	Yes	-	-
Energy and climate change	Potential to generate renewable energy	High	-	Moderate	Low	-
Education and skills	Distance to further/higher education	Up to 1.6km	1.6 to 3.2km	3.2 to 5km	Over 5km	-
Economy and employment	Attractiveness of the site to the business market	Very strong	Strong	Moderate	Weak	Very weak
Equality and diversity	Equality of opportunities and elimination of discrimination	Positive		Neutral		Negative
Deliverability Indicators	Access to sewer system	All yes	-	-	-	Any No
	Access to water					
	Access to gas					
	Access to electricity					
	Existing road access					
	At risk from hazardous installations	No	-	-	-	Yes

Table 5.2: Determining the overall band

Band	Minimum performance to achieve band
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than half of the indicators fall within Band A • No more than 5 indicators fall within Band C • No indicator falls below Band C.
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than half of the indicators fall within Band B or above. • No more than 5 indicators fall below Band C.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than half of the indicators fall within Band C or above. • No more than 5 indicators fall within Band E.
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than half of the indicators fall within Band D or above.
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is not deliverable; or • Site or policy will have a negative impact on equality or diversity; or • Site is deliverable but more than half of the indicators fall within Band E.

5.3 An example of the proforma that will be used to test the sustainability of each site is set out in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Housing & Employment Site Assessment Proforma

Site Ref	
Address	

IA Obj	Indicator	Site performance	IA Comments
Accessibility and transport	Distance to railway station		Social:
	Rail service frequency		
	Distance to nearest bus stop		
	Bus service frequency		
	Distance to town, local or neighbourhood centre		
	Distance to A Road junction		
	Distance to motorway junction		
	Distance to supermarket		
	Distance to Primary School		
	Distance to Secondary School		
	Accessibility to key destinations by safe cycling routes		
Health and wellbeing	Broadband capacity		Environmental:
	Distance to GP surgery		
	Distance to NHS general hospital		
	Distance to public open space/park		
Recreation	Quality of existing site		
	Access to accessible countryside		
	Access to sports centre		
	Access to township park		
	Access to playing fields		
	Access to allotments		
	Access to equipped play space		
Biodiversity	Impact on high quality and valuable open space		
	Special Area of Conservation		
	Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)		
	Site of Biological Importance		
Soil and minerals	Local Nature Reserve		
	Brownfield or greenfield		
	Agricultural land classification		
Water	Contamination from existing or previous uses		
	Flood Zone area		
	Surface water flooding		
	Critical Drainage Areas		
	Groundwater source protection zone		
Landscapes	Impact on water quality of inland resources		
	Impact on landscape quality and distinctiveness		
Built environment and heritage	Development pressure on countryside		
	Conservation Area		
	Scheduled Ancient Monument on site		
	Registered Park or Garden		
Education and skills	Impact on Listed Building or Structure		
	Distance to further/higher education		
Economy and emp.	Impact on potential Local Listed Building or Structure		
Equality and diversity	Distance to further/higher education		
Deliverability Indicators	Attractiveness of the site to the business market		Economic:
	Equality of opportunities and elimination of discrimination		
	Access to sewer system		
	Access to water		
	Access to gas		
	Access to electricity		
Deliverability Indicators	Existing road access		Equality and diversity:
	At risk from hazardous installations		

Overall Site Performance

Band Spectrum:

--

Overall Band:

--

Other proposed allocations

5.4 Other development uses proposed for allocation in the Allocations Plan will include:

- Town centre uses
- Open space, sport and recreation facilities
- Gypsy and Traveller sites

5.5 We propose to assess the sustainability of these potential allocations using the Site Assessment Proforma below. This will assess the short, medium and long term effects of development on achieving the sustainability objectives. A summary of the social, environmental and economic effects will be assessed which will inform whether we consider the site is sustainable, unsustainable or has potential to be sustainable through appropriate mitigation measures.

Table X: Site Assessment Proforma

Key			
✓	Minor positive	✓✓	Major positive
X	Minor negative	XX	Major negative
0	Neutral	/	No link

Site Ref	
Address	

IA Objective	IA Effects			Comments
	Short term	Medium term	Long term	
Accessibility and transport				
Health and wellbeing				
Recreation				
Summary of social effects				
Biodiversity				
Soils and minerals				
Water				
Landscape				
Built environment and heritage				
Summary of environmental effects				
Education and skills				
Economy and employment				
Summary of economic effects				
Equality and diversity				
Recommendation:				

6. Appraisal methodology for the proposed Development Management Policies

6.1 In addition to appraising the proposed site allocations, the Integrated Assessment will also appraise the sustainability and equality of the proposed Development Management Policies. The methodology we will use will be consistent with the approach taken to sustainability appraise the policies in the Core Strategy. This will involve appraising each policy against the 12 sustainability and equality objectives (identified in Table 4.3) using the appraisal matrix set out below.

Appraisal matrix

6.2 Each development management policy will be appraised against each of the sustainability objectives, taking into consideration the sub-questions identified in the Integrated Assessment Framework listed in Table 4.5. The impact of the policy will be assessed over the short, medium and long term, and then its residual impact following any potential mitigation / enhancement. The appraisal matrix is shown in Figure 6.1 for two of the 12 objectives.

Figure 6.1: Appraisal matrix

SA Obj.	Nature of impacts	Impacts over time			Mitigation / enhancement	Residual impacts		
		Short	Med	Long		Short	Med	Long
1. Accessibility and transport	Summary of the impacts / comments							
		Green	Red	Green	Red		Green	Red
		Impacts identified				Impacts identified		
2. Health and wellbeing	Summary of the impacts / comments							
		Green	?	Green	?	Green	Red	
		Impacts identified				Impacts identified		

6.3 The matrix requires assigning each policy both a positive and negative impact 'score' which allows multiple impacts to be identified for each policy. Carrying out the appraisal with this methodology will allow us to present the results in a way that clearly illustrates the strengths and weaknesses of each policy in terms of sustainability, as shown in Figure 6.2 below.

Figure 6.2: Example - Summary of appraisal scores for Policy X

1. Accessibility and transport												
2. Health and wellbeing												
3. Recreation												
4. Biodiversity												
5. Soil and minerals												
6. Water												
7. Landscapes												
8. Built environment and heritage												
9. Energy and climate change												
10. Education and skills												
11. Economy and employment												
12. Equality and diversity												

Major positive impact
 Moderate positive impact
 Minor positive impact

No fill = negligible impact / not relevant
 ? = unknown

Minor negative impact
 Moderate negative impact
 Major negative impact

7. Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the Integrated Assessment

- 7.1 The SEA Directive requires that the Scoping Report should be referred to the three statutory consultation bodies with environmental responsibilities, which are Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, to comment on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the IA Report for a period of 5 weeks. This consultation was undertaken from 4 August to 8 September 2014. United Utilities were also consulted on the Scoping Report. Chapter 6 of the report, which sets out the appraisal methodology for the proposed development management policies, was added following this consultation therefore we re-consulted on this chapter for an additional 5 weeks from 20 October to 24 November 2014. The comments received during these consultation periods are included in Appendix A.
- 7.2 All comments have been taken into consideration in this scope and necessary amendments have been made. The comments will also be taken into account in subsequent stages of the integrated assessment process.
- 7.3 The aim of the consultation was to:
- Ensure the integrated assessment is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the Wigan Allocations Plan.
 - Seek advice on the completeness of the contextual review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate.
 - Seek advice on the suitability of the key sustainability issues and objectives.
- 7.4 Following the release of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Integrated Assessment Scoping Report, we have made a decision to further amend the Sustainability Appraisal to integrate health and equality considerations with the SA and SEA requirements. To achieve this, amendments have been made at paragraphs 3.6 to 3.12 and tables 4.4 and 4.5.
- 7.5 We are now consulting on the revised Scoping Report with the three environmental consultation bodies for an additional 5 weeks from 1 September to 6 October 2015.

Wigan Council website

- 7.6 All relevant documents that are produced as a result of the integrated assessment process for the Wigan Allocations Plan will be made available to view and download on the council's website at: www.wigan.gov.uk/allocationsplan

Statement of Community Involvement

- 7.7 The integrated assessment process set out in this scoping report is designed to meet the guiding principles for community involvement set out in the Statement of Community Involvement.

8. Other requirements

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 8.1 The Allocations Plan does not include locations within sites designated as part of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar networks. However, some sites will be close to the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation. Some sites are within the 5km buffer zone recommended by the Environment Agency for considering effects on European sites arising from diffuse or distal water and air pollution. Outside of the buffer zone most operations with potential direct water and/or air pollution impacts are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of any European site.
- 8.2 Greater Manchester Ecology Unit has advised that Habitats Regulation Assessment is required and will be produced alongside the final SEA and Allocations Plan.

9. What Next?

- 9.1 In the first instance, work will continue on finalising the evidence base for the Allocations Plan and the IA. This may result in some changes to the sustainability objectives but they are not expected to be significant.
- 9.2 Work will also continue on producing the various stages of the Allocations Plan whilst it is assessed against the sustainability objectives. This will be a reiterative process meaning that the final IA report is a lighter document – identifying impacts whilst not necessarily suggesting new policies or approaches (as they will have been incorporated). If this is the case, the final IA report will document the integration process.
- 9.3 In accordance with the integrated assessment stages and tasks identified in Table 3.1, the following steps will be carried out for the remaining stages of the IA process:
- Comparing the objectives of the Allocations Plan with the sustainability objectives (task B1)
 - Identifying options and alternatives (task B2)
 - Predicting and evaluating the effects (*direct, secondary, cumulative and synergistic*) of the Allocations Plan and proposing mitigation and enhancement measures where necessary (tasks B3, B4 and B5). As identified above, this is an iterative process and may be documented in process terms.
 - Proposing monitoring arrangement (task B6)
- 9.4 The Draft Allocations Plan will then be published alongside the draft Integrated Assessment report for consultation (stages C and D). Once representations have been considered and any necessary amendments proposed, the Allocations Plan supported by the SEA will be proposed for adoption.
- 9.5 In the longer term, the Allocations Plan will be monitored for significant effects with responses proposed for adverse effects (stage E).

Appendix A: Comments received from specific consultation bodies

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- English Heritage
- United Utilities

Environment Agency:

Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Planning Policy
Civic Buildings (4) New Market Street
Wigan
Lancashire
WN1 1RP

Our ref: SO/2006/000257/OR-05/PO2-L01

Your ref:

Date: 20 August 2014

FAO: David Kearsley

Dear Sir

REVISED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT (FOR THE WIGAN ALLOCATIONS PLAN)

Thank you for referring the above consultation to the Environment Agency for comment. We would like to advise the following.

SA Objective - Water

Under the objective for water there is reference to the consideration of water quality throughout the document, however the only listed method (table 5.1) of assessing impacts from development on water quality is the proximity to a '*groundwater protection zone*'.

More consideration needs to be made on the assessment of this indicator as currently this would not support the sub objective listed in table 4.5 which specifically asks:

'Will development impact on the water quality of inland resources such as rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands and groundwater?'

In our previous response we had advised that reference should be made to the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) which applies to all surface waters and groundwaters. It requires member states to prevent deterioration of water bodies and to improve or maintain them with the aim to meet 'good status' or 'good ecological potential' in all water bodies.

Proximity to other waterbodies should also be considered as part of the appraisal process and opportunities for improvement in status should be recognised in later stages of the allocations plan.

I trust you will find these comments useful, should you wish to discuss anything in further detail please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Helen Telfer
Planning Liaison Officer

Direct dial 01925 542525
Direct fax 01925 415961
Direct e-mail helen.telfer@environment-agency.gov.uk

From: Telfer, Helen [helen.telfer@environment-agency.gov.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2014 16:27
To: Kearsley, David
Subject: RE: Wigan SA Scoping Report - Comments sought on additional content

Hi David

I have reviewed the additional chapter which only consist of two pages (is this correct?). At this stage we have no further comments to raise.

Kind regards

Helen

Helen Telfer
Planning Advisor
(Manchester, Salford, Trafford and Wigan)

Environment Agency
Sustainable Places Team
Richard Fairclough House
Knutsford Road
Warrington
WA4 1HT

Tel: 01925 542525
Email: helen.telfer@environment-agency.gov.uk
Team Email: SPPlanning.RFH@environment-agency.gov.uk

Natural England:

Date: 09 April 2014
Our ref: 114521
Your ref: J Noakes

j.noakes@wigan.gov.uk
BY EMAIL ONLY



Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 8GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Noakes

Wigan Allocations Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Opinion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 03 March 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

When preparing your Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping report we would request full consideration of the natural environment including biodiversity; geodiversity; landscape character and quality; green infrastructure; access to the countryside and other open space and the protection and enhancement of soils.

Landscape - The Local Authority should take landscape character into account when assessing the sustainability of allocation sites for development. Particular consideration should be given to impacts on designated landscapes (National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Heritage Coasts) and NPPF policies should be adhered to. Impacts on National Trails should also be considered.

A landscape character approach should be used to underpin and guide decisions on all development and set out criteria based policies for different landscape character areas in order to maintain and enhance local character and distinctiveness. New development should build-in landscape features and reflect the landscape context of the development. Landscape assessments should be undertaken for all proposed site allocations.

Biodiversity - Biodiversity is a core component of sustainable development, underpinning economic development, and has an important role to play in developing locally distinctive and sustainable communities.

The Local Authority may find the [Nature on the Map](#) website useful to source information on conservation sites and important habitats.

We advise that allocation sites should avoid designated sites, avoid damage to existing biodiversity features, and create opportunities for enhancing biodiversity through the delivery of Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) targets.

LBAPs identify the action required at a local level to deliver UK and regional targets for habitats,



Page 1 of 2

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species, public awareness and involvement. They also identify targets for other habitats and species of importance in the more local context of their geographical area. Further information about Biodiversity in the UK is available on the JNCC website, including details relating to [UK BAP priority species and habitats](#).

Geodiversity - Local authorities should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to the geodiversity interest of designated sites as well as geodiversity interests within the wider environment, and maximise opportunities to include geodiversity in and around developments as part of the design process. Further information on geodiversity is available on [Natural England's website](#).

Soils - Early consideration should be given to the quality of soil resource affected by potential allocation sites.

Local authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, local authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality (NPPF, paragraph 112).

Land quality varies from place to place. The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. It helps underpin the principles of sustainable development. Further information is provided on Natural England's [website](#).

Green Infrastructure - Green Infrastructure (GI) should be an integral part of the creation of sustainable communities. One important function of GI is the provision of new opportunities for access to open space. Natural England's 'standards for accessible natural greenspace' ([ANGSt](#)) should be used to ensure new and existing housing has appropriate access to nature. More information can be found on Natural England's publication, '*Nature Nearby, Accessible Greenspace Guidance*' (March 2010), available on our [website](#), publication reference NE265.

The CABE Space Guidance '*Start with the Park*' (2005) outlines the importance of planning around green spaces, with consideration being given to the context of local landscape character and contribution to the wider GI network. The provision of new GI should be considered at an early stage to ensure it is deliverable at plan stage.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Janet Baguley using the details below. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Janet Baguley
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire Area
Janet.baguley@naturalengland.org.uk
Tel - 03000601772



From: Forward Planning Land Use Ops (NE) [ForwardPlanningLandUseOps@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 18 November 2014 12:16
To: Kearsley, David
Subject: FW: 2014-11-24 135258 Wigan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Comments sought on additional content

Attachments: logoemail.gif; SA Scoping Report - Allocations Plan _Chapter 6_.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Dear David,

Natural England have no comments to make in relation to the Wigan SA Scoping Report additional content.

Kind regards

Janet Baguley
Lead Adviser – Greater Manchester & Merseyside;
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire Area
Natural England
2nd floor, Arndale House, Manchester Arndale
Manchester, M4 3AQ

Landline: 0300 060 1772 Mobile: 07900 608264

My working days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

www.naturalengland.org.uk

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

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If you are trying to make a request for a copy of your personal information under the Data Protection Act 1998, or a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004, please contact the Enquiry Service on 0845 600 3078 or email foi@naturalengland.org.uk.

English Heritage:



ENGLISH HERITAGE

NORTH WEST

By email: d.kearsley@wigan.gov.uk

Our ref: 1454

Your ref:

Date: 22/8/14

Dear Sirs,

WIGAN SA SCOPING REPORT

Thank you for consulting English Heritage about the above document.

Draft SA Scoping Report

English Heritage has produced a document, which you might find helpful in providing guidance on the effective assessment of the historic environment in Strategic Environmental Assessments. This can be found at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/>.

English Heritage recommends that a scoping report should:

- Review the objectives of relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Establish the baseline for the historic environment, including any trends and targets and gaps in the existing information;
- Identify sustainability issues and opportunities for the historic environment and heritage assets;
- Develop sustainability appraisal objectives;
- Identify indicators and targets;
- Consider how alternatives will be assessed;
- Provide sufficient information on the proposed methodology for the appraisal to assess whether effects upon the historic environment will be properly addressed.

English Heritage suggests that scoping reports are tailored to the type, purpose and level of plan under consideration. This accords with the NPPF, which requires that local plans are based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence about the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area.

Context

The report should identify the built environment and its character and distinctiveness and refer to the historic environment. There is the potential for undesignated assets and

archaeology on some sites, and these should be referred to within the baseline information.

Relevant Plans, Programmes and Policies

In terms of the plans and policies identified, this needs to cover all those relevant at an international, national and local level that would have a direct bearing for the historic environment. Page 5 and 6 of our guidance provides a list of the most relevant ones and the Scoping Report should be amended to include these.

Baseline information

Baseline information should describe the current and future state of the historic environment, providing the basis for identifying sustainability issues, predicting and monitoring effects and alternative ways of dealing with them. It can use both quantitative and qualitative information and should be kept up to date. It is important that meaningful conclusions can be drawn from the baseline information; what it means for the Local Plan and how the historic environment is to be dealt with.

The baseline information in the scoping report on the historic environment should include all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged. This not only involves undesignated (or local heritage assets) but the potential for unrecorded archaeology, and historic landscape character areas for example. Appendix I of our guidance provides a list of other data sources available, which covers a wide variety of the historic environment and Page 8 provides a list of the recommendations that should be used to determine the adequacy of the baseline information.

The NPPF recognises the importance of undesignated heritage assets and therefore this should be included within the baseline data. The source of this information should be included within the Scoping Report and reference made to them and recognise the opportunities for their enhancement and contribution to for example, well being, local identity and tourism.

The importance of local character and identity including the landscape and townscape of an area is an important consideration. The Scoping Report should recognise the importance of this and the source of this information should be included within the Scoping Report and reference made to them in key issues and opportunities.

SEA Objectives

It is important that the role the historic environment plays in sustainable development and the contribution it makes to delivering social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits is recognised. The historic environment underpins sustainable development and therefore, it may warrant including in other objectives including the need for specific reference to landscape character. Our guidance provides further assistance in the various ways the historic environment can be incorporated into the objectives in the scoping report.

English Heritage strongly advises that you engage conservation, archaeology and urban design colleagues at the local and county level to ensure you are aware of all the relevant features of the historic environment and that the historic environment is effectively and efficiently considered as part of the Local Plan, the allocation of any site and in the preparation of the SEA. They are also best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR). They will be able to provide you with the Historic Environment Records for the area including any relevant studies, and ensure a joined-up and robust approach is undertaken.

Finally, we should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your letter of 4th August 2014. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the Plan) where we consider that, despite the SA/SEA, this would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

English Heritage would like to work with you in the production of your local plan. If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Hrycan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Emily Hrycan

Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)

Telephone: 0161 242 1423

E-mail: Emily.hrycan@english-heritage.org.uk



ENGLISH HERITAGE
NORTH WEST

Places, Economy, Waste and Infrastructure
Wigan Council
Planning Policy
PO Box 100
Wigan
WNI 3DS

Our ref: 1518
Your ref:
Date: 20th November
2014

FAO: d.kearsley@wigan.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

SA Scoping Report – Allocations Plan – Chapter 6 additional content

Thank you for consulting English Heritage about the above amendment.

English Heritage has produced a document, which you might find helpful in providing guidance on the effective assessment of the historic environment in Strategic Environmental Assessments. This can be found at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/>.

English Heritage welcomes the proposals to appraise the sustainability of the Development Management Policies. The methodology is consistent with that used to appraise the policies in the Core Strategy, using the defined sustainability objectives identified in the report.

English Heritage strongly advises that you engage conservation, archaeology and urban design colleagues at the local and county level to ensure you are aware of all the relevant features of the historic environment and that the historic environment is effectively and efficiently considered as part of the Local Plan and in the preparation of the SEA. They are also best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR). They will be able to provide you with the Historic Environment Records for the area including any relevant studies, and ensure a joined-up and robust approach is undertaken.

Finally, we should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you in your email date 20th October 2014. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the Plan)

1

SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1
5FW

Telephone 0161 242 1400 Facsimile 0161 242 1401
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Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
Correspondence or information which you send us may therefore become publicly available



where we consider that, despite the SA/SEA, this would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

If you have any queries about this matter or would like to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hrycan

Emily Hrycan

Historic Environment Planning Adviser (North West)

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2

SUITES 3.3 AND 3.4 CANADA HOUSE 3 CHEPSTOW STREET MANCHESTER M1
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www.english-heritage.org.uk

*Please note that English Heritage operates an access to information policy.
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available*



United Utilities:

From: Sherratt, David [David.Sherratt@uuplc.co.uk]

Sent: 03 April 2014 11:08

To: Noakes, James

Cc:

Subject: RE: Strategic Environmental Assessment of Wigan's Allocations Plan [DC/14/927]

James

Thank you for your consultation and seeking the views of United Utilities Water PLC in this process.

We have no comments to make at this stage, but wish to be included in further consultations and where necessary, the development of your Allocation Plan and supporting policies, to ensure we can facilitate the delivery of the necessary sustainable infrastructure in line with your delivery targets, whilst safeguarding our service to customers.

We would like to be notified of your decision on whether to accept our comments and the future progress of your Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and Allocation Plan.

If you wish to discuss this in further detail please do not hesitate in contacting me or Jenny Hope.

Regards

Dave

Dave Sherratt

Local Development Framework Assessor

Developer Services and Planning

Business Operations

United Utilities

T: 01925 731311 (internal 31311)

unitedutilities.com

Copy of emails sent by Wigan Council inviting comments on the Scoping Report:

From: Kearsley, David

Sent: 04 August 2014 12:33

To: 'Janet.Baguley@naturalengland.org.uk'; 'stephen.gill@environment-agency.gov.uk'; 'david.sherratt@uuplc.co.uk'; 'emily.hrycan@english-heritage.org.uk'

Subject: Consultation - Wigan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (for the Wigan Allocations Plan)

Attachments: SA Scoping Report for Wigan Allocations Plan (August 2014).pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are consulting on our revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Wigan Allocations and Development Management Local Plan for 5 weeks until **5pm on Monday 8 September** - attached.

We previously consulted Natural England, Environment Agency, English Heritage and United Utilities on our original Scoping Report on 3 March 2014, but have revised the scope to make our sustainability framework more robust.

The aim of the consultation is to:

- Ensure the sustainability appraisal is both comprehensive and robust enough to support the Wigan Allocations Plan.
- Seek advice on the completeness of the contextual review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate.
- Seek advice on the suitability of the key sustainability issues and objectives.

We therefore welcome your comments and advice on this basis and hope that the scoping report is sufficiently robust and comprehensive to proceed.

Feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Regards

David

David Kearsley

Principal Planning Officer (Planning Policy)

Places: Economy, Waste and Infrastructure

Wigan Council

Planning Policy

PO Box 100

Wigan

WN1 3DS

Tel: 01942 489223 (Internal extension 89223)

Email: d.kearsley@wigan.gov.uk

From: Kearsley, David
Sent: 20 October 2014 16:20
To: 'Baguley, Janet (NE)'; 'Gillian.Laybourn@english-heritage.org.uk'; 'helen.telfer@environment-agency.gov.uk'; 'David.Sherratt@uuplc.co.uk'
Subject: Wigan SA Scoping Report - Comments sought on additional content

Attachments: SA Scoping Report - Allocations Plan _Chapter 6_.pdf

Dear Janet, Gillian, Helen, David

Thank you for your comments on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Wigan Allocations and Development Management Local Plan, that you submitted in August/September. We are currently in the process of considering these comments and making any necessary amendments to the Scoping Report and our proposed sustainability process.

I propose to add the attached chapter to the scoping report. This sets out our appraisal methodology for the proposed Development Management Policies. Your views on this additional chapter are sought by 5pm on **24th November 2014** (5 weeks) although an earlier response would be appreciated if possible.

As stated in the new chapter, our proposed appraisal methodology for the Development Management policies is consistent with the approach taken when assessing the policies in the now adopted Core Strategy. The new chapter will be inserted at Chapter 6 of the Scoping Report. I have taken the decision to send the new chapter on its own, as you have already read and commented on the remainder.

However, if you wish to see the rest of the document, please let me know and I can resend it.

Feel free to contact me if you have any queries, and thank you in advance for your further comments.

Many thanks
David

David Kearsley
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Based: Wigan Life Centre (Healthy Living Zone): [Click here for map/directions](#)

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