

## **Appendix Q - Sustainability Statement: Wigan Core Strategy**

- A formal sustainability appraisal was carried out on the Core Strategy.
- The appraisal checked the options, locations and policies against a set of sustainability criteria.
- The detailed findings from this appraisal have been documented in a Sustainability Appraisal Report. You can download this via the council's website [www.wigan.gov.uk](http://www.wigan.gov.uk)

### **Key Findings**

- We noted that the borough would still develop in the absence of the Core Strategy but there would clearly be areas of concern that would prevent it from developing in a more sustainable way. The absence of a number of the policies contained within the Core Strategy would be detrimental to progress in a number of key areas covering all aspects of sustainability – economic, environmental and social.
- We found that there were a range of positive and negative impacts associated with bringing forward the different policies and locations and these are outlined in the Sustainability Appraisal Report and subsequent revisions, addendums and appendices.
- The proposed preferred options consist of the most sustainable locations.

### **Changes to the Core Strategy as a result of appraisal**

- It is not the purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal to make decisions in the Core Strategy but to influence and inform them.
- As a result of the appraisal we made several minor changes to the wording of the Core Strategy document.
- As a result of appraisal the wording of some policies was amended to ensure consistency with the sustainability objectives
- The appraisal has played a role in influencing the bringing forward or not of certain sites as part of the preferred options.

### **Consultation**

- The Sustainability Appraisal Report followed the correct procedure for carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal. This also incorporated meeting the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- The Sustainability Appraisal Report including the scoping stage was made available for consultation alongside the Core Strategy. There were no concerns raised about the appraisal process but findings and opinions have been challenged.
- Where findings and opinions have been challenged, the appraisal has been revisited, amendments made where appropriate and a response provided to the submitter of the representation. An updated Sustainability Appraisal Report has also been published.