



Redcar & Cleveland Publication Local Plan 2016

**Sustainability Appraisal Including
Strategic Environmental Assessment**

NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

On behalf of **Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council**



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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This report is the non-technical summary (NTS) of the combined sustainability appraisal (SA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Redcar & Cleveland Publication Local Plan 2016.
- 1.1.2 This non-technical summary is intended to provide an overview of the findings of the SA/SEA, with more detail of the process and outputs included in the main SA Report.
- 1.1.3 The main purpose of carrying out an SA is to assess what the impacts of development proposed in the Local Plan might be on the economy, the environment and society. The SA considers the objectives, strategy, policies and proposed allocations of the Local Plan, identifying where there may be the potential for sustainability effects both positive and negative.
- 1.1.4 Where the SA has identified potential negative effects on sustainable development the SA Report makes recommendations on how these effects can be mitigated. Similarly, the SA Report includes recommendations on how the Local Plan could help secure additional benefits for sustainable development. Mitigation recommendations include measures such as clarifications and amendments to policy or working with partners to implement other plans and strategies. These recommendations will be considered by the Council and plan-making team and, where suitable, taken into account through the successive stages of Local Plan preparation.

1.2 Reason for sustainability appraisal

- 1.2.1 It is a requirement of national policy that local authority development plans help promote more sustainable development in their plan areas. Therefore, carrying out an SA to ensure these considerations are taken into account is required as part of creating the planning policy document for the borough, in this case the Local Plan.
- 1.2.2 The SA of the Local Plan is also prepared to meet national policy and regulations under Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Under European legislation there is also a requirement for all plans that will set out a framework on which development decisions will be based, to undergo 'strategic environmental assessment' or SEA. SEA has the specific role of identifying environmental effects of the plan (rather than sustainability). In England the legislation that requires this is *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*. The two process both cover assessment of environmental effects, although for SA social and economic impacts are also considered. Therefore, the two types of assessment can be successfully combined into a single process that meets both the SEA and the SA requirements and reported in an SA Report, this is the case with the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan.
- 1.2.3 In England, the SA and SEA of development plans are usually combined into a single process and a single report that meets the requirements of both types of assessment. This has been the case with the Redcar and Cleveland Local Plan and this SA Report, meaning that the legislative requirements of the SEA Regulations and planning regulations can be met through a single process and report.

1.3 The sustainability appraisal

- 1.3.1 SA is a process and SA reporting documents the outputs of this process. This SA Report is of the Publication Local Plan 2016. The SA at this stage follows on from an earlier SA completed of the Draft Local Plan 2016 (May). This current SA Report shares much in common with that earlier version, although now updated to take into account the revisions to the Local Plan between the two versions. There was also a previous Local Plan preparation process, on which worked ceased in 2014 that was also subject to SA. Therefore, although there is now a revised Local Plan the SA draws on these earlier SA stages where it remains relevant.
- 1.3.2 The first stage in the SA of the current Local Plan was the preparation and consultation on an SA Scoping Report. This report was issued for consultation with the statutory consultees for the SEA process, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, and others in July 2015. The SA Scoping Report, prepared by an in-house team at RCBC, provided the context for the SA process, setting out matters such as the baseline character of the borough, other plans and strategies that should be considered in the SA and Local Plan, as well as an outline methodology for SA.
- 1.3.3 Comments received on the Scoping Report have been incorporated into the ongoing SA process and as part of an updated SA Scoping Report that is included as an appendix to the SA Report.
- 1.3.4 The SA process will continue at each stage of plan preparation, allowing findings of the SA to be taken into account as the Local Plan evolves to the final version for adoption.
- 1.3.5 The full SA Report is a public document and its purpose is to show the relationship between sustainable development and the content of the Publication Local Plan 2016. The SA Report allows readers of the plan to:
- get an understanding of how effective the Local Plan might be in delivering more sustainable development;
 - understand where there might be adverse impacts, including how these effects might be mitigated, and
 - identify where there is potential for the Local Plan to go further in seeking sustainable development.

2 Redcar & Cleveland: Baseline and Context

2.1 Baseline and Context Review

- 2.1.1 To provide context for the Local Plan and the SA, a review of relevant baseline information and plans and policies covering the plan area was completed by officers from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council as part of SA scoping. Understanding this context is essential to undertake the SA as it identifies:
- The aims and objectives set for sustainable development by other plans and strategies, including the aspirations by RCBC and the sub-region and should therefore be considered in identifying what the reasonable alternatives are for the RCBC; and
 - The sustainability baseline of the plan area and any predicted trends for change that helps identify those issues that the Local Plan should be helping to address.

2.2 Sustainability Framework

- 2.2.1 This baseline and context, as well as consultation responses received at Scoping, have been used to establish the sustainability framework for the SA. The sustainability framework is a set of objectives that help define what sustainable development means for the borough in relation to the role of the Local Plan. The framework provides a consistent definition of sustainability that is used in the SA as the basis for assessing strategy, policies and allocations.

Table 2.2: Sustainability Framework

	Headline issue	Sustainability Objective
Core Theme: Protecting, conserving and enhancing the borough's built, historic, cultural and natural environments		
1	Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity
2	Landscapes	Protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and setting of the area's seascapes and landscapes.
3	Historic and Built Heritage	Protect and enhance all heritage assets of special archaeological, historical and architectural interest
4	Air quality	Protect and improve local air quality
5	Water resources	Protect and improve water quality and water resources.
6	Energy	Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
7	Climate resilience	Reduce the impact of severe weather events and increase the resilience of the borough
8	Waste, minerals and land	Minimise waste and increase the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and efficient use of land.
9	Design	Encourage high quality design and sustainable construction in development

Core Theme: Delivering healthy, sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities		
10	Communities	Empowered and active communities who are proud of where they live
11	Housing	Improve the quality, availability and accessibility of housing in the borough
12	Safer communities	Create safer communities and protect people from harm
13	Health	Improve public health and provide opportunities for physical activity
Core Theme: Improving connectivity		
14	Accessibility	Improve the accessibility and quality of key services and facilities
15	Transport	Increase sustainable transport options and usage
Core Theme: Diversifying and strengthening the local economy		
16	Improve employment	Increase employment and improve the level of education, skills, jobs and training.
17	Economic growth and industrial excellence	Encourage sustainable economic growth, diversify and strengthen the local economy and encourage enterprise and encourage industrial excellence.
18	Leisure and tourism	Increase leisure and tourism opportunities

3 Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan to Date

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section summarises the process of Local Plan preparation and SA that has led to the current consultation version of the Plan.
- 3.1.2 The SA is a process that continues throughout the preparation of the Local Plan. So far the SA has been completed for the revised Local Plan are:
- The preparation of a SA Scoping Report setting out the background to the appraisal process and identify the sustainability issues that the Local Plan and appraisal should aim to address; and
 - SA of housing growth options;
 - SA of strategic distribution of growth;
 - SA Reporting on the Draft Local Plan 2016; and
 - Sustainability assessment of all reasonable housing sites.
- 3.1.3 In addition, as referred to in **section 1** of this NTS, the SA of this version of the Local Plan follows on from the earlier SA, which was completed as part of the preparation process of the previous version of the Local Plan, now withdrawn. Where relevant the SA of the former Local Plan preparation process has informed this revised SA of the new Local Plan.
- 3.1.4 It is up to RCBC if there are any further stages of consultation on the Local Plan before it is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination. Whatever stages do follow this one, even if it is minor modifications, will need to be reviewed to identify effect on sustainable development and further SA Reports prepared where required. These SA Reports will document the SA process and iterative feedback between plan making and SA.

3.2 Assessing reasonable alternatives

- 3.2.1 The SEA Regulations require that the environmental implications of alternatives to the preferred approach are assessed and reported, where there are any. The Regulations state assessment is needed to identify, “*the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*” (SEA Regulations 12(1)).
- 3.2.2 As set out in the quote from the SEA Regulations above is important that all the alternatives (or options) considered at this stage are *reasonable* for the Local Plan, and therefore the alternatives must be:
- **realistic**, in that they are plausible alternatives which could be implemented and they are realistic having regard to national policy;
 - **related** to the objectives of the plan; and
 - Within the **geographical scope** of the plan as they relate to the distribution of development specific to RCBC area.

3.2.3 For the SA of the Local Plan reasonable alternatives considered were on choices to be made on the strategic distribution of development, the level of housing growth, and the allocation of sites from a range of options – as well for some policies where reasonable alternatives were put forward during the plan preparation process.

Housing Growth Options

3.2.4 In order to identify a preferred level of housing growth for the borough several alternative scenarios were put forward for consideration. Each of the options was subject to SA to determine the relative sustainability implications of each, the information was used as part of the process of identifying the most suitable approach to take forward as the preferred option.

3.2.5 Housing growth options considered were:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| ▪ Option 1: Objectively Assessed Need (i.e. to meet household growth predictions based on current policy) | 132 dwellings per annum |
| ▪ Option 2: Historical Average Delivery | 186 dwellings per annum |
| ▪ Option 3: Sustainable Population Growth | 234 dwellings per annum |
| ▪ Option 4: Significant Population Growth | 290 dwellings per annum |
| ▪ Option 5: Aspirational Population Growth | 340 dwellings per annum |
| ▪ Option 6: Exceptional population growth | 404 dwellings per annum |

3.2.6 The preferred option in the Draft Local Plan is 'Sustainable Population Growth'. This option is assessed in the SA as being most likely to help deliver population growth in line with the aim of creating a more demographically balanced community than would be the case under lower growth options. The aim is that this preferred level of housing growth will help to enable delivery of homes that meet the needs of younger people and families, which may help retain and/or attract younger people to the borough to help maintain an active workforce and support a range of services.

3.2.7 Lower growth options may risk a more rapidly ageing population and higher growth options would result in greater land take and higher options may be overly ambitious in how much housing can actually be delivered in the borough by the market. The preferred growth options present a realistic level of delivery based on the market in the borough and to ensure that there is always a 5-year supply of deliverable housing sites as required by national policy. Having this 5- year supply in place is essential to support a sustainable spatial strategy.

Strategic Distribution of Growth

3.2.8 The overarching strategy of the plan is to seek 60% of all new housing growth in the urban/coastal area and 40% in the rural area. This approach was chosen from three alternatives:

- Urban/Coastal concentration: 70% to 30% rural;
- Preferred options: 60% to 40%; and
- Rural growth: 55% (urban/coastal) to 45% (rural).

3.2.9 The preferred option is appraised likely to be the most compatible with a creating a sustainable spatial strategy. This is by locating the majority of new housing in locations that can support regeneration and are well located for sustainable access to jobs and services, all part of a sustainable spatial strategy. The preferred option also allows housing growth in the rural areas that is necessary to support district and local centres and a rural workforce. In addition, it continues to support growth in Guisborough where there is a relatively strong housing market.

Choice of alternative sites for housing

3.2.10 Allocated housing sites in the Local Plan have been identified following a process of sustainability assessment of all reasonable sites identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (background housing evidence document for the Local Plan), as well as and other sites submitted to the Council for consideration in the Local Plan.. This site assessment process was completed by RCBC offices.

3.2.11 A test was applied to identify only those sites from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment that are considered as reasonable. These sites are those that are considered to fit with the general spatial strategy and have not been recently refused planning permission. In addition, sites were allocated where they are subject to recent (not expired) planning permissions where development has not yet started. The same set of criteria have been used for the assessment of all reasonable sites to ensure a consistent and comparable approach, the preferred sites are considered further as part of their allocation in proposed policy H.3 of the current version of the Local Plan.

4 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Publication Version Local Plan (November 2016)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has recognised that the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan has an important role to play in the sustainable development in the borough and over a wider area. The Local Plan sets out the overall strategy for delivering development in the borough including:

- the amount of development that needs to be planned for, especially housing growth;
- the distribution of this development around the towns and villages of the borough;
- The locations for housing growth, through allocation of land; and
- The policies to manage the delivery of development to encourage development and protect the character and quality of places.

4.1.2 The choices that are made in the Local plan will have a fundamental impact on long-term sustainability. For instance, the strategy could help to:

- deliver development in locations that help reduce the need to drive, reducing environmental impacts and making sure everyone has equal access to jobs, shops and services;
- identifying the growth needs of the towns and villages of the area to make decisions on the land that needs to be made available;
- putting policies in place to manage the delivery of large new development sites to make sure they do all they can to encourage healthy lifestyle choices and reduce the impacts from new development on existing communities;
- regenerating the town and local centres in the main urban area by concentrating more development in these settlements;
- avoiding putting new development such as shops and offices in locations that favour drivers, as with increasing costs of driving these may not be sustainable in the long term;
- delivering housing to meet everyone's needs, including affordable homes and a mix of housing types; and
- protect what is best about the borough's built and natural environment.

4.1.3 In addition, the proposed policies of the Local Plan will help protect the receiving natural and built environment from harm. There is also the potential to deliver a range of social sustainability benefits from supporting the communities of the borough. The policies also support the continued economic role of the borough, although the majority of employment land is on industrial sites.

The Spatial Strategy

4.1.4 The urban/coastal focus will have positive benefits for locating development where there is good access to services. However, to demonstrate how the development allocations have been located to meet more specific needs of specific towns or villages could be further explained in the Local Plan. This includes setting out the role of function of certain

settlements such as Skelton, Brotton, Guisborough and Loftus to help justify the quantity of housing that is directed to these locations.

- 4.1.5 The SA recommends that more detail is given on the distribution of development by the spatial strategy to sub-areas of the urban/coastal and rural area to reflect their role and function as set out in the Vision. In addition, the definition of villages should be refined to make it clear which of those have and do not have defined development limits and therefore can be focus of some housing growth.
- 4.1.6 The main strategy is to focus development within the development limits. However, development is also permitted away from the developed areas if it is on previously developed sites, which may not be compatible with sustainability objectives related to access and reducing car use if it comes forward in any significant quantity as it may increase car use or lead to rural isolation.

The SA of the Full Plan

- 4.1.7 The full SA Report and its appendices contain the SA of each policy and allocation and clearly show that the majority of sustainability objectives developed for the SA are met by one or more plan policies, a summary of which is contain in **sections 4.2 to 4.5** below. This also includes recommendations of the ways in which potential adverse effects could be mitigated and beneficial effects secured. For example, through amendments or additional criteria in policy or through the implementation of the plans and strategies of other of partner organisations.

4.2 Core Theme: Protecting, conserving and enhancing the borough's built environment

Biodiversity: Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity

- 4.2.1 No direct negative impacts are identified. However, there is the potential for development in the borough to have an adverse impact if the policies of the Local Plan are not used to mitigate potential adverse impacts. In addition, the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, which has been completed in parallel to the SA process will need to be taken into account in the delivery of sites to avoid and mitigate potential impact of the Local Plan.

Landscapes: Protect and enhance the quality, distinctiveness and setting of the area's seascapes and landscapes

- 4.2.2 No significant adverse impacts are identified with any certainty, although the potential for negative impacts remain if landscape effects are not properly mitigated or development occurs in areas of highly sensitive landscapes.
- 4.2.3 A few site allocations are in locations where landscape impacts could be experienced. In particular, this relates to sites on the urban fringe, where there will be a particular importance in using the site's natural topography, existing landscape features as well as new areas of landscaping to mitigate potential adverse impacts. Those sites in proximity to the National Park also must be designed in such a way as to avoid any significant adverse impacts on views to the countryside from the Park.

Historic heritage and the built environment: Protect and enhance all heritage assets of special archaeological, historical and architectural interest

- 4.2.4 No policies are identified that show a negative relationship with this sustainability objective. However, allocations and other sites will need to be delivered to ensure the heritage assets of the borough are protected and new development is sympathetic to the context. This will include those allocations that sit within conservation areas and development at Normanby Hall and regeneration at Kirkleatham Hall.

Air quality: Protect and improve local air quality

- 4.2.5 There is the potential for some adverse effects of implementing the Local Plan on air quality as it may lead to an increase in car travel and economic growth in polluting industries. However, it may be that the effects of the Local Plan can help secure a more sustainable layout of development by favouring development in more accessible locations with the majority of allocated sites close to shops, services or employment areas. Securing a 5-year land supply through allocated site can help in refusing permission to sites that fall outside these areas and may be contrary to a sustainable spatial strategy.

Water resources: Protect and improve water quality and water resources

- 4.2.6 The policies of the Local Plan should help to protect water resources in the borough. The delivery of new sites, particularly on urban brownfield land, will have to ensure that ground conditions are investigated with appropriate mitigation and remediation as necessary.

Energy: Reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions

- 4.2.7 The Local Plan will oversee the growth and development of the borough. Additional growth is likely to result in an increase in energy demand in the borough, contrary to this objective. However, it is likely that this increase demand would occur in any case, either in or outside the borough, therefore policies of the plan that help reduce overall energy demand will have a positive impact in relation to this sustainability objective. The Local Plan may help deliver new renewable energy development in the borough both as standalone large scale provision with policy providing some certainty where this type of development will be permitted and as part of new housing developments.

Climate resilience: Reduce the impact of severe weather events and increase the resilience of the borough

- 4.2.8 Significant adverse effects are unlikely. However, Local Plan policies must ensure that they comply with national policy and Environment Agency expectations for managing flood risk, from surface and tidal/fluvial sources. Several sites have known issues related to surface water flooding, including from sewers and culverts that restrict flows where mitigation will be required as set out in policy, as well as other sites where there is a need to ensure measures are in place to manage drainage and not increase run-off as a result of development that may have an impact off-site.
- 4.2.9 In addition, other policies or policy criteria could be included in the Local Plan to recognise other elements of climate change resilience, such as for biodiversity and design.

Waste and minerals: Minimise waste and increase the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste and efficient use of land

- 4.2.10 New development in the borough, directed by the Local Plan, will give rise to increase in waste. It could be that this increase in waste would occur in any case through growth in and outside the borough. Therefore, the Local Plan will not have a significant impact. The SA does recommend the Local Plan policy could include reference to construction waste to ensure its sustainable management.
- 4.2.11 This objective also relates to the efficient use of land. Policies are in place to encourage land is used efficiently by developing at higher densities. However, several sites would see quite low density development, which may conflict with the sustainability objective and result in greater demand for land.

Design: Encourage high quality design and sustainable construction in development

- 4.2.12 The design of new development will need to be managed on a site by site basis to ensure that that it helps contribute to a high quality built environment. Schemes must be of a high quality in the design of individual buildings and urban layout to avoid adverse impacts and help encourage the creation of sustainable communities. For instance, all schemes should be designed to encourage walking and be linked to nearby development using safe and direct footpaths. The impacts of Local Plan policy are likely to be largely positive if the Design of Residential Areas SPD is applied, although good design should not only be in residential areas.

4.3 Core Theme: Delivering healthy, sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities

Communities: Empowered and active communities who are proud of where they live

- 4.3.1 The impact of the policies on communities is not clear. There is the potential for both positive and negative effects. However, the full implementation of planning policy and subject to some recommendations of the SA, there is the potential for the plan to help grow new communities. With large scale new development, it is essential to ensure there is social and green infrastructure in place to meet the needs of new development from as soon as possible after first occupation in order to avoid adverse effects on new and existing resident. This may be particularly important where the level of growth results in a large proportional increase of population / households in a town or village, e.g. Guisborough, Brotton and Skelton.
- 4.3.2 New housing must be integrated into existing communities through its design and to create social links, including involving local people in masterplan development.

Housing: Improve the quality, availability and accessibility of housing in the borough

- 4.3.3 The Local Plan is likely to have a positive impact against this objective as it should secure housing growth to meet diverse needs in the plan area, including older people's housing. Full implementation of the policy on affordable housing should help deliver new homes in the borough to meet the needs of those on lower incomes. However, RCBC will need to have a strategy in place to ensure the timely delivery of affordable housing paid for by financial

contribution on sites of 11 to 14 and other sites not suited to on-site delivery. The mix of housing type of provided will need to reflect the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (or relevant future housing needs assessment). This should include homes for the rapidly ageing resident population in the borough, who may favour small homes including flats and bungalows, as well as developing the type of homes needs to retain and increase the number of families in the borough.

Safer communities: Create safer communities and protect people from harm

- 4.3.4 It is likely that the policies of the plan will have a positive relationship with this sustainability objective. This will be dependent on site risks being appropriately investigated and remediation or other mitigation completed as required. It will also be necessary to protect residents of the borough from the adverse impacts of noise pollution from existing traffic or traffic generated by a proposed development. The majority of large allocations already specify the need to retain a buffer between road edges and development for this reason. Suitable mitigation and avoidance measures will need to be included in all development adjacent to busy roads, for instance through site layout and use of appropriate glazing.

Health: Improve public health and provide opportunities for physical activity

- 4.3.5 There are many aspects of the Local Plan that should help ensure a positive impact on meeting this sustainability objective. However, an essential part of creating a healthy place will be encouraging more people to walk as part of their day to day trips, such as getting to work or school. Therefore, ensuring there are local services and facilities and attractive and safe places to walk will be one of the primary ways that the Local Plan can create a healthy place.
- 4.3.6 There is also the need to support healthy communities through ensuring there is good availability of public open space and playing fields, as well as community facilities. The reuse of these community sites for private housing must be justified by RCBC, demonstrating there are accessible local sites to meet needs for community uses and open space, taking into account population growth aspirations.

4.4 Core Theme: Improving Connectivity

Accessibility: Improve the accessibility and quality of key services and facilities

- 4.4.1 The Local Plan has the potential to have positive impacts against this policy by focussing development in the Urban Area and Coastal Area, where there may be a better range of local services compared to most parts of the Rural Area, as well as helping to protect and enhance existing services. Policies that encourage walking and cycling are also beneficial in meeting this objective. However, the choice and implementation of specific sites for development will also have an effect. The SA of sites does identify some instances where there is the potential for a negative impact, particularly where a site is allocated for new housing in peripheral locations to towns or larger villages or in smaller towns and villages with a limited range of services in the rural area, as such the 'Rural Service Centres' of Boosbeck and Loftus.

Transport: Increase sustainable transport options and usage

- 4.4.2 The transport policies of the Local Plan are likely to contribute to helping meet this objective, although some elements of delivery will be beyond the direct control of the plan. There is also the risk that some developments in less accessible locations for a significant quantity of new development will not be compatible with the objective, with possible adverse impacts, such as in the 'Rural Service Centres' or peripheral locations.

4.5 Core Theme: Diversifying and strengthening the local economy

Improve employment: Increase employment and improve the level of education, skills, jobs and training

- 4.5.1 The policies of the Local Plan show a strong relationship with the need to deliver new jobs on employment sites throughout the borough, although the largest employment area and employment landbank remains around the Teesport and Wilton Industrial sites in the north of the borough.
- 4.5.2 The review of housing site allocations does reveal that there are quite a few sites where no large employment sites are in close proximity; this is particularly the case where sites are the rural area. Therefore, to access a range of job opportunities future residents of these sites are likely to have to travel some distance to work, most likely by car, therefore putting those without a car at a disadvantage of securing employment.
- 4.5.3 The Local Plan will need to be ensure that there is a sufficient range of employment to support a diversified economy to help provide job growth in the borough.

Economic growth and industrial excellence: Encourage sustainable economic growth, diversify and strengthen the local economy and encourage enterprise and encourage industrial excellence

- 4.5.4 It is one of the roles of the Local Plan to support economic development in the plan area. Therefore, the plan should have positive impacts on achieving this sustainability objective. However, there is the risk that certain areas may have limited land available for economic growth. As with the objective for employment the Local Plan will need to ensure a suitable range of employment sites are available to support a diversified economy, which may not favour development on vacant industrial land.

Leisure and tourism: Increase leisure and tourism opportunities

- 4.5.5 The Local Plan should help deliver tourism and leisure development in the borough and should have a positive relationship with this sustainability objective. However, the SA does not the importance of securing a range of overnight accommodation to encourage higher visitor spend.

4.6 General Principles

- 4.6.1 The SA also identifies some general principles that may help ensure the Local Plan is effective in delivering more sustainable development. These are to:
- Ensure the policies are clearly and unambiguously worded, avoiding overlap between policies and policy criteria; and

- Ensure the delivery and implementation plan is suitably comprehensive to ensure that all it includes details of delivery and policies and allocations. This should include, where necessary, clarification of funding.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Next stages of the Sustainability Appraisal

- 5.1.1 The SA of the Local Plan will continue to adoption of the plan. Each consultation stage of the Local Plan will be accompanied by an updated SA Report that documents the appraisal process and the decisions that have been made.
- 5.1.2 It is up to RCBC to decide what the next stage of consultation will be. This may be the final stage of Local Plan preparation before submission to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination, unless there are major modifications required that would require further consultation. Future stages of the SA will need to take into account any representations received on the SA as well as the Local Plan in the assessment of effects.
- 5.1.3 At Examination the Inspector will consider the Local Plan, representations and the SA in identifying the need for further modifications to the plan. These modifications will be consulted on and it therefore may be necessary to consider if they require an update of the SA.
- 5.1.4 Once the Local Plan is found sound and modifications included it will be formally adopted by the Council. At the time of Adoption a 'Statement' must be published that sets out (amongst other things) 'the measures decided concerning monitoring'.

5.2 Monitoring

- 5.2.1 There is a requirement for monitoring of the sustainability appraisal. This provides a check of the Local Plan implementation on sustainable development. This will need to consider positive and negative impacts, triggering a review if necessary.
- 5.2.2 The sustainability framework provides a good starting point for developing targets and indicators for monitoring. However, monitoring for the SA can be part of the wider monitoring process for the Local Plan, using a subset of the overall monitoring objectives.