

Sustainability Appraisal

Second Stage Issues and Options Further Consultation March 2007

Havant Core Strategy

March 2007



Introduction

This document is intended to accompany the February 2007 consultation on Issues and Options for the Havant Borough Core Strategy. It provides information on the likely effects the options set out in the consultation paper will have for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development is often referred to as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Government requires that all local planning authorities test their plans using 'Sustainability Appraisal' to ensure that they do not conflict with the aims of sustainable development.

The Core Strategy sets out the spatial vision, spatial objectives and core policies for the development of the local planning authority area. The Core Strategy will be influenced by a number of documents including the *South East Plan* (which is the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East), and the vision for the Borough that is contained within *Stronger Together* (which is the Community Strategy for Havant Borough, 2005-08).

The Council is required to conduct a Sustainability Appraisal as part of the process to produce the Core Strategy. Sustainability Appraisal is a process where draft plans and programmes are repeatedly assessed to see how they contribute towards the aims of Sustainable Development. It is an integral part of the plan-making process and allows the likely social, economic and environmental effects of an emerging Plan to be assessed to ensure that sustainability considerations are taken into account at each stage.

Sustainability Appraisal incorporates requirements by EU Directive 2001/42/EC that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is carried out on all Plans likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Further information on the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment can be found in the ODPM document: Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/http://communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/sustainabilityappraisal>)

To comply with the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment the Council has produced a Scoping Report setting out the Council's approach to conducting the Appraisal.

It is not the case that the Council's final preferred option of the plan *must* be the most sustainable option identified by the final Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report. Instead, Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to be used during the preparation of a plan to inform the decision making process to ensure that sustainability considerations are taken fully into account.

Progress to Date

The Council carried out Sustainability Appraisals as part of the Leigh Park Strategic Framework and Havant Town Centre Supplementary Planning Documents. This work is now being developed further for the Core Strategy.

The Council commissioned consultants Entec to produce a Scoping Report for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy and other documents. This sets out the key sustainability issues for Havant Borough and sets out the economic, social and environmental objectives which should be addressed in the core Strategy and other Local Development Documents. The Scoping Report has been prepared in consultation with the statutory consultees (English Nature, English Heritage, the Countryside Agency and the Environment Agency) as well as representatives of Havant Community Partnership, the body responsible for the Community Strategy.

The Report identifies 16 key Sustainability Issues for Havant Borough. They are as follows:

Identified Sustainability Issues for Havant Borough

- a. Climate Change
- b. Biodiversity
- c. Landscape and Townscape
- d. Countryside
- e. Regeneration
- f. Housing
- g. Employment
- h. Skills/Education
- i. Resource Efficiency
- j. Waste
- k. Health and Well-being
- l. Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture
- m. Community Safety, Crime and the Fear of Crime
- n. Transport/Accessibility
- o. Anti-Poverty
- p. Equality

A description of each issue is contained in the full Scoping Report and the non-technical summary.

The Scoping Report then sets out 18 Sustainability Objectives for the Borough. The proposals in the Core Strategy will be tested against these Objectives to see if the Plan is contributing towards sustainable development.

Sustainability Objectives for Havant Borough

- 1. Housing
- 2. Health and Well-being
- 3. Equality, Poverty and Social Inclusion
- 4. Education and skills
- 5. Safety and Security
- 6. Liveability and Sense of Place
- 7. Accessibility/Transport
- 8. Flooding
- 9. Regeneration and Land Use
- 10. Air Quality
- 11. Climate Change
- 12. Biodiversity
- 13. Natural Landscape

14. Built and Historic Environment
15. Waste and Natural Resources
16. Water Quality and Quantity
17. Energy
18. Economy, Opportunity and Innovation

The Scoping Report has undergone a formal period of consultation with the four statutory consultees and Havant Community Partnership.

The full Sustainability Appraisal Report

Following the Scoping Report, the Council's next *statutory* requirement is to produce a final report along with the preferred options for the Core Strategy. This will include a very formal assessment of the Council's preferred options for the Core Strategy, measuring each policy against the 18 Sustainability Objectives. The assessment must show the likely short, medium and long term effects as well as any cumulative impacts and will necessarily be a very long document. The Scoping Report sets out the likely structure of the final report. An example of the detailed format of the proposed final report follows as an appendix to this paper.

The Purpose of this Report

At this stage in the process the Issues and Options are wide ranging and have yet to be refined into the Council's preferred option. Rather than be too detailed it is therefore appropriate that this report includes notes on the likely sustainability effects of each of the three options put forward by this consultation so that respondents can see an assessment of the implications of each option in sustainability terms.

Likely Sustainability effects of Options contained within the Issues and Options Paper

There now follows a discussion of the likely effects of each proposal under each of the three options.

They do not represent a full appraisal of each option but continue the process of evaluating the options for development in the Borough.

In addition to this, the overall broad effect of implementing all the proposals contained in each option is discussed. Of course, there are many different combinations of proposals which could be put forward. This appraisal merely shows the likely cumulative effects of all the proposals contained in each option – something that will have to be considered when we look at the Core Strategy as a whole.

Further work on developing the Council's Sustainability Appraisal and assessment of options will be undertaken as work on the Core Strategy progresses. As stated, a full Environment Report will accompany the Council's Preferred Options document.

For now, the likely positive and negative effects for each option have been noted, with reference to the 18 Sustainability Objectives listed in this paper and the Scoping Report. Where the potential effects are unknown or uncertain these have also been noted.

Option 1 Concentration on Havant and Waterlooville

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Likely Implications for Sustainable Development

| Options | Likely Positive Impacts | Likely Negative Impacts | Uncertain Impacts |
|--|--|---|--|
| Option 1 – Concentration on Havant and Waterlooville | | | |
| Option 1 – Concentration of employment at a single location in the Havant Gap. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should provide a range of additional services and facilities for business and employees. • Likely to have greatest impact in delivering new, knowledge-based employment. • Will maximise new employment opportunities next to areas with highest levels of deprivation. • Will minimise localised emission effects by ensuring traffic uses the strategic road network. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will do nothing to reduce commuting off Hayling Island or from Emsworth. • Will reduce the Havant Gap and separation of Havant and Waterlooville. • Likely to affect land currently covered by nature conservation designations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of countryside could be compensated by development delivering nature conservation and public access improvements in mitigation. • Larger developments could provide the opportunity for a decentralised energy supply from renewables or low carbon energy sources which could also be used by existing and proposed developments. |
| Option 1 – Concentration of new housing on Havant and Waterlooville. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All options will deliver homes to meet housing need in the Borough • Will maximise the new market and affordable housing in greatest area of housing need. • Will locate housing in areas closest to main services and facilities. • Concentration makes it easier to provide new public transport services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration of development will affect the Havant Gap and the separation of Havant and Waterlooville. • Lack of urban extensions will reduce opportunities for affordable housing in other communities. • Would almost certainly entail the loss of land between Havant and Waterlooville currently covered by nature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of countryside could be compensated by development delivering nature conservation and public access improvements in mitigation. • Larger developments could provide the opportunity for a decentralised energy supply from renewables or low carbon energy sources which could also be used by existing and proposed developments. |

| | | conservation designations. | |
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| Option 1 – Concentration of new shopping facilities at Havant and Waterlooville Town Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development in the town centres will promote their vitality and viability. • Will provide a wider range of facilities within the town centres. • Will promote development on brownfield land, improving efficiency in land use. • Promote high quality design and enhance the built environment. • Will maximise development at locations best served by public transport. • The west of Waterlooville Major Development Area will improve the vitality and viability of Waterlooville Town Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development may shift the centre of gravity of both centres impacting on existing businesses. • Will displace some existing employment uses. • Will not reduce the need to travel off Hayling Island for shopping. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development may lead to more traffic congestion in the town centres • Larger units may displace local independent retailers. • Infrastructure will be required to support public and private transport to the enlarged town centres |
| Option 1 - Concentration of tourism development on Hayling Island and the harbours. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional tourism will boost the Island's economy and employment. • Development on Hayling would promote its history and environment. • Development around the harbours would promote public enjoyment of nature conservation sites. • Development based on Hayling's windsurfing heritage could encourage sporting and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to Hayling Island is likely to be car-dominated. • Development along the harbours could potentially have serious impacts on European designated sites of nature conservation importance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of public access and recreation provision along the coast will be changed. • Development will need to be carefully managed to minimise the risk of flooding. |

| | recreational events. | | |
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| Option 1 – Cumulative effects of proposals for employment, housing, shopping and tourism. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will concentrate jobs and housing in broad area most in need of regeneration. • Provides best opportunities to secure decentralised energy supply from renewables or low carbon energy sources which could also be used by existing and proposed developments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most likely to secure infrastructure by way of mitigation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to affect the separation of Havant and Waterlooville and the retention of their identities as separate settlements. • No new retail or employment opportunities in Emsworth or Hayling Island, increasing the need to travel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements may exceed transport infrastructure capacity. |

Option 2 Focus on mainland

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Likely Implications for Sustainable Development

| Options | Likely Positive Impacts | Likely Negative Impacts | Uncertain Impacts |
|---|--|--|---|
| Option 2 – Focus on mainland | | | |
| Option 2 – Focus of employment on the mainland, with some on Hayling and at Emsworth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will provide employment opportunities at Emsworth and Hayling, reducing the need to commute from those areas. Will provide a diverse range of sites and locations and improve flexibility of work. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will entail the loss of land currently separating the mainland settlements in the Havant and Emsworth Gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of countryside could be compensated by development delivering nature conservation and public access improvements in mitigation. |
| Option 2 – Focus of new housing on Havant, Waterlooville and Emsworth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All options will deliver homes to meet housing need in the Borough. Will locate housing in areas served by a range of public transport modes. Will reduce the chances of having to develop on sites of importance for nature conservation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will reduce the amount of land which separates the mainland settlements in the Havant and Emsworth Gaps. Lack of urban extensions will reduce opportunities for affordable housing on Hayling Island. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger developments could provide the opportunity for a decentralised energy supply from renewables or low carbon energy sources which could also be used by existing and proposed developments |
| Option 2 – Focus of new shopping facilities at Havant Town Centre, Waterlooville Town Centre and out-of-centre development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development in the town centres will promote their vitality and viability. Will provide a wider range of facilities within the town | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of centre development could damage the viability of existing centres. Will not reduce the need to travel off Hayling Island for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport may be improved at out of centre sites. Larger developments could provide the opportunity for a decentralised energy |

| | centres. | shopping. | supply from renewables or low carbon energy sources which could also be used by existing and proposed developments. |
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| Option 2 – Focus of tourism development on Hayling Island, the harbours, Havant Town Centre and Havant Thicket Reservoir. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional tourism will boost the Borough's economy and employment. • Development on Hayling would promote its history and environment. • Development around the harbours would promote the natural environment. • Development at Havant Thicket would promote the natural environment and provide additional recreation facility. • Development at Havant Town Centre would promote business tourism and may encourage business growth in the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport to Hayling Island is likely to be car-dominated. • Development along the harbours could potentially have serious adverse impacts on European designated sites of nature conservation importance. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of public access and recreation provision along the coast will be changed. |

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| Option 2 – Cumulative effects of proposals for employment, housing, shopping and tourism. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater employment opportunities on Hayling would reduce the need to travel off the Island. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of centre location for retail least accessible from Emsworth and Hayling. • Will entail the loss of land currently separating the mainland settlements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified. |
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Option 3 Dispersal

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Likely Implications for Sustainable Development.

| Options | Likely Positive Impacts | Likely Negative Impacts | Uncertain Impacts |
|---|---|---|---|
| Option 3– Dispersal | | | |
| Option 3 – Dispersal of employment across the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will provide additional employment opportunities across the Borough, reducing the need to travel. Will reduce the impact on the separation of settlements in the Havant and Emsworth Gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller sites are unlikely to provide a range of additional services and facilities for businesses and employees. Smaller sites may struggle to attract the employers necessary for a diverse and knowledge-based economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of countryside could be compensated by development delivering nature conservation and public access improvements in mitigation. |
| Option 3 – Dispersal of new housing across the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All options will deliver homes to meet housing need in the Borough. Urban extensions will provide a balance of market and affordable housing to help meet the needs of communities throughout the Borough. Will reduce the impact on the separation of settlements in the Havant and Emsworth Gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional housing more likely to be reliant on the private car. More, smaller urban extensions will be less likely to support new public transport services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May entail the loss of land between Havant and Waterlooville currently covered by nature conservation designations. May help to sustain local facilities and services. |

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| Option 3 – Dispersal of new shopping facilities between Havant Town Centre, Waterloooville Town Centre and the District Centres. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will promote vitality and viability of the Borough's town and district centres. • Promoting the retail function of the Borough's centres reinforces their sense of place as focal points for local communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will assist the regeneration of the Borough's older urban areas. • Additional shopping on Hayling will reduce the need to travel off the island. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will displace existing commercial and residential uses. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development would have to be sympathetic to surroundings in the Borough's older shopping centres. • Larger units may displace local independent retailers. |
| Option 3 – Dispersal of tourism development across the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional tourism will boost the Borough's economy and employment. • Tourism development will promote the Borough and build on its history and distinctiveness. • Dispersal of development would promote a wider choice of tourist facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not provide the opportunity to reinforce a sense of place for the Borough and create a new destination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of new facilities will determine whether sustainable transport is encouraged. • Larger units may displace local independent retailers. |
| Option 3 – Cumulative effects of proposals for employment, housing, shopping and tourism. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves equal access to opportunities, services and employment for the various communities of the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less able to reduce the need to use the private car. • Will not deliver a change in the perception of the Borough as a destination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of new facilities will determine whether sustainable transport is encouraged. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less likely to have impact on sites of importance for nature conservation. • Lesser impacts on Havant and Emsworth Gaps. | for businesses or visitors. | |
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Appendix: The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

The full report that will accompany the Preferred Options document will include a formal assessment of each policy in the Core Strategy against all 18 Sustainability Objectives. It must assess the cumulative effects of the policies across short, medium and long term timescales. The final Appraisal will be produced in a table which will look something like this.

| Example: Assessment of Policy in Core Strategy | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|---|---------------------|
| 1. Housing: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a good quality, sustainably constructed and affordable home. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase the range and affordability (both upfront and over its lifetime) of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)? Will it ensure that appropriate services and facilities are in place for the new population? | ++ | ++ | + | Comments on effects |
| 2. Health and Well-being: To improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce inequalities in health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce health inequalities and improve health and well-being? Will it improve access to high quality public services (including health services and facilities)? | - | - | - | Comments on effect |
| 3..... Etc | | ? | ? | ? | Comments on effect |
| Overall Commentary | | | | | |

Where the following criteria apply.

| Likely effect | Description | Symbol |
|-----------------------|--|--------|
| Major Positive Impact | The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective. | ++ |
| Minor Positive Impact | The proposed policy contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly. | + |
| Neutral | The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective | 0 |
| Minor | The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly. | - |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|----|
| Negative Impact | | |
| Major Negative Impact | The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective. | -- |
| No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. | ~ |
| Uncertain | The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. | ? |