

## Executive Summary Sustainability Appraisal

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”. The aim of sustainable development is to ensure the balance of different and often competing needs against a recognition of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) safeguards meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity.

The SA has been undertaken in parallel with the Local Plan Part 2 preparation process in line with the [2004 Environmental Assessment Regulations 11 and 12](#). These regulations incorporate the requirements of the European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, which the Government was bound to implement at the time.

Initially a Scoping Report was prepared as the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process and consultations for the draft SA report have been undertaken at each stage - in parallel with further consultations for the Local Plan itself.

The final Sustainability Appraisal report forms the basis of the evidence base for submission of the Local Plan. This is an iterative process, with the finalised report published as a submission document to accompany the Local Plan and relevant policies have been reviewed (and in some cases amended), in accordance with the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal; e.g. a significant element of the process has informed the selection of site specific allocations in the Plan.