

Sustainability Appraisal Statement

The draft version of Supplementary Planning Document 7 (SPD7): Managing the Supply of Housing in Bury was subject to sustainability appraisal¹ during its preparation and a final report was published in January 2006. Within it, three options were considered and assessed, namely:

Option 1: Business as Usual or Do Nothing Approach - This would result in the Council continuing to grant planning permission for residential development regardless of the oversupply that currently exists within the Borough;

Option 2: Apply Regional Policy and Implement SPD - This option would impose the housing restrictions in the North West Regional Spatial Strategy, which would be supported by SPD with a number of exclusions and exceptions to help implement policy at a local level; and

Option 3: Apply Regional Policy with Complete Housing Embargo - This would mean that the Council would effectively put a complete end to granting planning permissions that contained any element of new housing, including those within regeneration areas or providing specialist housing.

Following this process it was concluded that Option 2 was the best available option. This was subsequently translated into the original adopted version of the SPD. Having considered the current scope and proposed changes to SPD7, it is considered that the proposed amendments to reflect national policy and the recently published Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS) constitute a modification to the SPD without significant changes to the overall strategy, previously subject to appraisal under both the SPD7 and the recent SA on the Preferred Options DPD.

PPS12 states that an SA is needed but must be proportionate to the document that is being produced. The amendments to the SPD are required to ensure conformity with the new RSS, which is now part of the development plan and underwent appropriate SA work as it was being published.

Accordingly, it was determined that additional appraisal of the SPD7 was not required for these reasons – i.e.:

- The amendments reflect the initial appraisal work undertaken as part of the SPD7 in that the SPD will continue to support the delivery of the UDP and RSS;
- It is appropriate to rely on the existing scoping report and SA framework utilised for the recent Preferred Options Core Strategy and the original SA work for the SPD; and
- the RSS has recently gone through rigorous SA work.

¹