

Bedford Development Framework Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document

ADOPTION SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document was adopted by the Council as a supplementary planning document on 17th December 2008. *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI.1633)* requires the Council to prepare a statement concerning –

- how environmental considerations have been integrated into the document
- how the environmental report has been taken into account
- how opinions expressed in response to public consultation have been taken into account
- the reasons for choosing the document as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with
- the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the document.

This statement has been broadened to cover the other sustainability considerations addressed in the Council's sustainability appraisal of the Plan as well as environmental issues. These matters are considered below.

The integration of sustainability considerations and how the sustainability appraisal report has been taken into account

Sustainability appraisal has been built-in to the process of preparing of the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 (SI.2204)*. The consideration of sustainability effects followed the Government's guidance (*Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, ODPM 2005*) and included specific consideration of environmental effects. As a result, during the preparation of the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document appraisals have been carried out in relation to its overall sustainability effects and recommendations were made to the authors. These recommendations were taken into account when preparing the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document. A sustainability appraisal report of the final Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document has been published which concludes that the Document will have mostly positive and some neutral effects. It will have no negative effects.

The account taken of opinions expressed in response to public consultation

An Interim Sustainability Report was published, which gave preliminary consideration of matters for inclusion in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This set out baseline information, objectives and indicators for the sustainability appraisal and the results of the appraisal of options.

Consultation was undertaken on the Interim Report with the consultation bodies specified in the Environmental Assessment Regulations, with the specific consultation bodies specified in the Local Development Regulations and the general public. The responses received are summarised in the final Sustainability Report. No changes were made to the way in which the sustainability appraisal was carried out as a result of the consultation although minor changes were made to improve clarity and update data. A final Sustainability Report was then published which, in addition to the coverage of the Interim Report, appraised the complete draft Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document. Further consultation with the above bodies was undertaken on the final Sustainability Report. No changes were made to the way in which the sustainability appraisal was carried out as a result of the consultation although minor changes were made to the report and the opportunity was taken to update data. These were included in the Revised Final Sustainability Report. This Revised Final Sustainability Report is the environmental report for the purposes of the Environmental Assessment Regulations and the sustainability appraisal report for the purposes of the Local Development Regulations.

The consideration of reasonable alternatives

In addition to appraising the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document, a 'do-nothing' alternative was appraised, in other words, an assessment of the effect of not producing the Document. This was considered to be the only reasonable alternative to consider. The appraisal of this option showed that the preparation of the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document was more sustainable than a 'do-nothing' alternative.

The monitoring of significant effects

It is intended that the monitoring of significant environmental effects will be incorporated into existing monitoring arrangements and be included in the Annual Monitoring Report. Where monitoring identifies unforeseen adverse effects it will be appropriate to consider in the Annual Monitoring Report whether remedial action is needed. This could include reviewing the Climate Change and Pollution Supplementary Planning Document or making recommendations on the implementation of specific measures.