

## **APPENDIX I**

*Report of Stakeholder Workshop 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003*



**Strategic Environmental  
Assessment/  
Sustainability Appraisal of  
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan  
Review**

**Report of Stakeholder Workshop  
24<sup>th</sup> October 2003**

**Prepared for  
Hertfordshire County Council  
by  
Land Use Consultants**

**November 2003**

43 Chalton Street  
London NW1 1JD  
Tel: 020 7383 5784  
Fax: 020 7383 4798  
[luc@london.landuse.co.uk](mailto:luc@london.landuse.co.uk)



# CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>1. Introduction</b> .....   | <b>3</b>  |
| Background to the Event .....  | 3         |
| Structure of the Report.....   | 3         |
| <b>2. Scope of the SEA/SA Objectives Session</b> .....                         | <b>5</b>  |
| Structure of the SEA/SA Group Sessions .....                                   | 5         |
| <b>3. Key outcomes from the SEA/SA objectives session</b> .....                | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Social Progress which meets the Needs of Everyone</b> .....                 | <b>7</b>  |
| Recreation objective.....  | 7         |
| Health and amenity objective .....   | 7         |
| Community involvement objective .....  | 7         |
| Accessibility objective .....  | 8         |
| Awareness and education objective.....   | 8         |
| Additional objective regarding deprived areas .....                            | 8         |
| Additional objective regarding environmental crime.....                        | 8         |
| <b>Effective Protection of the Environment</b> .....                           | <b>8</b>  |
| Biodiversity objective .....   | 8         |
| Pollution objective .....  | 8         |
| Transport objective .....  | 9         |
| Heritage and landscape objective .....   | 9         |
| Environmental standards objective .....  | 9         |
| <b>Prudent Use of Natural Resources</b> .....                                  | <b>9</b>  |
| Energy and climate change objective .....                                      | 9         |
| Water objective.....   | 9         |
| Soil objective .....   | 9         |
| Prudent use of land objective.....   | 10        |
| <b>Maintain High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment</b> ..... | <b>10</b> |
| Employment and economic growth objective .....                                 | 10        |
| Investment and developing markets objective.....                               | 10        |
| Producer responsibility objective.....   | 10        |
| Use of recycled products objective .....                                       | 10        |
| <b>Prioritisation of objectives</b> .....                                      | <b>11</b> |
| <b>4. Next steps</b> .....   | <b>15</b> |

## TABLES

Table 3.1 Revised SEA/SA Objectives ..... 11

## APPENDICES

Appendix I Note on SEA/SA included in information pack sent to stakeholders in  
advance of the October 2003 Stakeholder Workshop

# I. INTRODUCTION

---

## BACKGROUND TO THE EVENT

- I.1. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) are in the initial stages of reviewing the Waste Local Plan (WLP) and are progressing this in line with a full sustainability appraisal (SA), following the Government's guidance on strategic environmental appraisal (SEA)<sup>1</sup> and HCC's recent publication Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal<sup>2</sup>. HCC have commissioned Land Use Consultants (LUC) to undertake the first stages of the SEA/SA as presented in the guidance documents. These stages (Review of Relevant Plans and Programmes, Definition of Sustainability Objectives, Collection of Baseline Information, Appraisal of Options for the Plan) will be presented in a Scoping Report to be published alongside HCC's Key Issues document for consultation early in 2004.
- I.2. HCC held a Stakeholder Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003 to discuss the key issues for the WLP review, along with the sustainability appraisal objectives for the SEA/SA of the WLP. The purpose of the event was to gain an early input from those groups and organisations likely to be interested in or affected by the Plan review.
- I.3. The workshop was divided into two discreet sessions: WLP issues in the morning facilitated by HCC; and SEA/SA objectives in the afternoon facilitated by LUC. The WLP Issues have been reported separately, by the Council. This report presents a record of the SEA/SA objectives session held in the afternoon and discusses the key outcomes from that session.

## STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

- I.4. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:
  - **Section 2 Scope of the SEA/SA objectives session:** outlines the organisation of the event and the structure of the SEA/SA session.
  - **Section 3 Key outcomes from the SEA/SA objectives session:** provides an overview of the discussions on the SEA/SA objectives and the key outcomes of these three sessions.
  - **Section 4 Next steps:** outlines the next steps in the SEA/SA process to be undertaken.

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. ODPM, October 2003.

<sup>2</sup> *Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal*. Environment Board, Hertfordshire County Council, April 2003.



## 2. SCOPE OF THE SEA/SA OBJECTIVES SESSION

---

- 2.1. The stakeholder workshop was held at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield Business Park in Hatfield on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003. The workshop was divided into two discreet sessions: WLP issues in the morning facilitated by HCC; and SEA/SA objectives in the afternoon facilitated by LUC. There can be a lot of overlap between plan issues and the objectives for the sustainability appraisal of the plan, thus stakeholders were asked in the afternoon session to temporarily leave behind the morning's discussions on WLP issues, and concentrate just on the SEA/SA objectives.
- 2.2. An information pack was sent to all stakeholders in advance of the workshop, which contained an explanatory note on SEA/SA and the work undertaken by LUC to date. The note on SEA/SA is included in **Appendix I**.

### STRUCTURE OF THE SEA/SA GROUP SESSIONS

- 2.3. Jon Grantham of Land Use Consultants introduced the strategic environmental assessment/sustainability appraisal process, and how it fits into the WLP review to the whole group. The stakeholders were then split into four groups to discuss SEA/SA objectives under the Government's four themes of sustainable development<sup>3</sup>:
- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
  - Effective protection of the environment;
  - Prudent use of natural resources;
  - Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
- 2.4. LUC had prepared a set of draft SEA/SA objectives as the basis for discussion (included in the information pack sent to delegates, see **Appendix I**), drawing on the review of relevant plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives previously undertaken as part of the SEA/SA process. Particular consideration was given to the sustainability objectives in the East of England Regional Sustainable Development Framework<sup>4</sup>, and sustainability criteria developed in the HCC Sustainability Appraisal Guidance. The SEA/SA objectives will be used at a later stage to assess whether the WLP Review meets, or is working towards, the sustainability topic in question. Each group was asked to look at the draft SEA/SA objectives for their sustainable development theme, and to discuss if the objectives were:
- (i) necessary;

---

<sup>3</sup> A Better Quality of Life – A strategy for sustainable development for the United Kingdom. DETR, 1999.

<sup>4</sup> A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England. East of England Regional Assembly, October 2001.

- (ii) suitably worded;
  - (iii) relevant to the WLP; and
  - (iv) sufficiently local (i.e. relevant to Hertfordshire).
- 2.5. The groups were then asked to try and prioritise the objectives within their sustainable development theme. This exercise was undertaken to see if stakeholders considered any of the objectives particularly important in terms of achieving a sustainable WLP, or in terms of Hertfordshire. Those objectives could then be given more weight when the sustainability appraisal of the WLP Review is undertaken.
- 2.6. The four groups came back together for a final feedback session. A reporter from each group summarised the group's discussions, and identified suggested changes to objectives. The key outcome from the SEA/SA session is a set of revised objectives, and these are discussed in Section 3.

### **3. KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE SEA/SA OBJECTIVES SESSION**

---

- 3.1. This section summarises the group discussions of the SEA/SA objectives within each sustainable development theme, and presents the key recommendations for the SEA/SA objectives from each group. The principal outcome from the SEA/SA objectives discussions was a revision of the draft SEA/SA objectives according to stakeholder recommendations. The revised SEA/SA objectives are shown in **Table 3.1**.
- 3.2. It should be noted that two of the groups agreed specific wording changes for the objectives ('Effective protection of the environment' and 'Maintain high and stable levels of economic growth and employment'). The other groups made suggestions for which objectives needed to be re-worded, or where objectives needed to be added, thus the revisions to objectives for the other sustainable development themes have been made by LUC and attempt to incorporate the stakeholders views and discussions.

#### **SOCIAL PROGRESS WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF EVERYONE**

- 3.3. Stakeholders in the group discussing social progress objectives, covered many issues ranging from local environmental impacts (such as odour and lighting; thus, the light pollution issue raised in the 'prudent use of natural resources' group is covered in this section by the objective addressing health and amenity of local residents), to disabled access to facilities and environmental crime (e.g. fly tipping). They were generally satisfied with most of the draft objectives (except for the points discussed below). However, they felt that there needed to be additional objectives addressing deprived areas, and environmental crime.

#### **Recreation objective**

- 3.4. No changes were suggested for this objective.

#### **Health and amenity objective**

- 3.5. The group discussed the impacts of light and odour from waste management facilities in addition to the dust, noise and traffic impacts already stated in the draft objective.

#### **Community involvement objective**

- 3.6. There was some discussion around the term 'empowerment', and how this could be achieved. The group recommended that consultation needs to be undertaken using methods that anyone can understand (e.g. using pictures and non-technical language), and suggested that 'involve' should be used instead of 'empower'. There was also some discussion regarding 'disadvantageness' whereby those sectors of the community that may not

have the knowledge, ability or means to voice opinions about locations of waste management facilities end up having facilities located near them.

#### **Accessibility objective**

- 3.7. The stakeholders discussed the need to ensure disabled access to recycling facilities, and also adequate signage and language should be used to ensure no one is excluded from using the facilities.

#### **Awareness and education objective**

- 3.8. It was suggested that this objective could be combined with the objective 'To involve all sections of the community...'

#### **Additional objective regarding deprived areas**

- 3.9. The group recommended that there be an additional objective to cover the issue of 'disadvantageness' and new waste management facilities being located in deprived areas.

#### **Additional objective regarding environmental crime**

- 3.10. The group also felt that there needed to be an additional objective regarding reducing the incidence of fly tipping and illegal dumping of waste.

### **EFFECTIVE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

- 3.11. The stakeholders first discussed the need for baseline data to enable objectives to be drafted, and indicators for measuring performance of the WLP against SEA/SA objectives. LUC explained that our method is to define the SEA/SA objectives first, and subsequently develop indicators related to the objectives and collect relevant baseline information (this approach follows the Government's SEA Guidance).

#### **Biodiversity objective**

- 3.12. The group decided that the 'designated habitats' referred to in the fourth environmental protection objective would be more relevant to the first objective regarding biodiversity, and would make the objective easier to measure, as there is already a list of designated sites, and the creation of new sites can be recorded.

#### **Pollution objective**

- 3.13. Stakeholders noted that using 'to reduce' in an objective made the requirement for baseline data even more essential, thus they suggested alternative wording for the second environmental protection objective regarding pollution. In addition, the group discussed the fact that waste management processes will invariably impact on air, water and soil quality. Therefore, it would be over-ambitious to seek to improve their quality, and suggested instead that it would be sufficient to ensure compliance with current pollution legislation, and to avoid any further adverse impact.

### **Transport objective**

- 3.14. The group discussed the need for the transport objective to include water as well as rail, as there are some canal systems in Hertfordshire. However, they noted that there are potential problems with rail transport in Hertfordshire due to the rail links only being from north to south, and new rail depots would be needed. They also decided that ‘encourage efficient use’ was not strong enough and suggested ‘to increase efficient use’ instead.

### **Heritage and landscape objective**

- 3.15. The stakeholders agreed with the intention of the fourth objective, however, suggested that it should only refer to Hertfordshire’s most valuable assets, and not the whole region’s. Also, ‘designated habitats’ needed to be removed as it will now be referred to in the first objective (as discussed in para. 3.12 above).

### **Environmental standards objective**

- 3.16. Finally, the group did not think that the fifth objective regarding environmental standards and management principles was necessary, as its intention will be covered by the other four environmental objectives.

## **PRUDENT USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Energy and climate change objective**

- 3.17. The stakeholders in the group discussing prudent use of natural resources felt that the first and second objectives (for energy and water) needed to be divided into two separate objectives. They suggested that the energy objective be split into one objective addressing renewable energy sources, and one objective regarding climate change. Stakeholders also wanted to see reference made to mitigation measures for climate change such as tree planting.

### **Water objective**

- 3.18. The group decided that the water objective was a bit vague due to the use of the wording ‘wise use’ and ‘unacceptable impacts’. They also decided that it could be separated into one objective addressing water use and re-use, and another one addressing opportunities for collecting water.

### **Soil objective**

- 3.19. Stakeholders discussed the need for a definition of soil, and thought that the soil objective could be broadened to include geology as a whole. The group also decided that most of the soil objective was related more to protection of soil quality rather than prudent use. However, they felt that opportunities for improvement of soil quality could be included in the objectives.

### **Prudent use of land objective**

- 3.20. The fourth draft objective regarding prudent use of land and other resources was also thought to be too vague by stakeholders. They suggested that it should refer to brownfield sites, and include reference to energy use, re-use of demolition and excavation materials and use of recycled materials.

### **Additional objectives**

- 3.21. The group discussed the need for additional objectives regarding air pollution, light pollution (affecting adjacent communities, and animals e.g. bats) and vegetation. Air pollution is covered in the 'Effective protection of the environment' objectives, and light pollution affecting communities has been added in to the health and amenity objective of the 'Social progress' objectives. Two new vegetation objectives have been included in this section, and a general objective covering light pollution has been included in the 'Effective protection of the environment' objectives.

## **MAINTAIN HIGH AND STABLE LEVELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT**

- 3.22. The stakeholders discussed the potential role of the waste management industry as an employment generator and contributor to the local economy. The group recognised that the field of waste management is growing and changing, with new methods of collection, sorting, and processing all creating employment opportunities. However, they questioned how large an employer the waste industry is currently in Hertfordshire.

### **Employment and economic growth objective**

- 3.23. The group decided that this objective needed to be reworded to address the fact that waste should be viewed as a resource and asset, and that it may not necessarily provide high levels of employment.

### **Investment and developing markets objective**

- 3.24. Stakeholders discussed the need for businesses and industries to work together, particularly because other industries rely on the waste sector. Waste producers, processors and users influence each other and partnerships should be formed. The group felt that this objective did not need to change much, except to refer to Hertfordshire.

### **Producer responsibility objective**

- 3.25. The stakeholders generally agreed with this objective.

### **Use of recycled products objective**

- 3.26. The group was generally happy with this objective, although they felt that 'green procurement' should be mentioned. The stakeholders did question whether Hertfordshire might deter large businesses from investing in the County if they were being enforced to be 'green'. Conversely, the group suggested that this might actually encourage some investment.

## PRIORITISATION OF OBJECTIVES

- 3.27. Each of the groups were also asked whether they felt any of the objectives were particularly important and should be prioritised over the others during the sustainability appraisal of the WLP Review.
- 3.28. Most of the groups felt that the objectives within their sustainable development theme were all of equal importance and should not be prioritised. There was also concern that it was too difficult to make priority decisions regarding the objectives as there was not yet enough background information in place. The 'Effective protection of the environment' group did have a go at prioritising their objectives, but there was debate among the wider group regarding their prioritisation order, and it was decided that none of the SEA/SA objectives should be given more weight than others.

**Table 3.1 Revised SEA/SA Objectives<sup>5</sup>**

| SEA topic <sup>6</sup>                                   | Revised objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan  |
|--|--|
| <b>Social progress which meets the needs of everyone</b> |  |
| Population and human health                              | To protect and enhance recreation opportunities for all, including access to the countryside.  |
| Population and human health                              | To protect the health and amenity of local residents/communities (e.g. from the impacts of noise, dust, <u>odour, light</u> and traffic).  |
| Social inclusiveness and Material assets                 | <del>Incorporated in 'Economic Growth' objective.</del> <u>To achieve an equitable distribution of waste management facilities within Hertfordshire.</u>   |
| Social inclusiveness                                     | To <del>empower</del> <u>involve</u> all sections of the community <del>to participate</del> in waste planning decision making and local action, <u>by promoting waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community,</u> and to ensure the public understand the importance of the waste management industry. |
| Additional waste related topic                           | To promote easily accessible recycling systems <u>for all members of the community,</u> and to ensure clear and understandable signage and <u>language is used.</u>  |
| Other  | <u>To reduce the incidence of environmental crime associated with waste (e.g. fly-tipping and illegal dumping of large volumes of waste).</u>  |
| <b>Effective protection of the environment</b>           |  |
| Biodiversity, flora and fauna                            | To protect <u>designated habitats in Hertfordshire</u> and <u>seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity in Hertfordshire where no designation exists.</u>   |
| Air, Water and soil                                      | To <del>reduce</del> <u>ensure compliance with current pollution legislation,</u> and <u>avoid any further adverse impact on air, ground and surface water, and geology and soil pollution</u> and ensure their quality continues to improve.  |

<sup>5</sup> Text shown as struck through indicates deletions suggested by the stakeholders. Underlined text indicates additional recommendations for objectives made by stakeholders, or specific amendments to wording.

<sup>6</sup> The SEA topics are the topics identified in Figure 6 of the Draft SEA Guidance and reflect the requirements of the Directive and government guidance on sustainable development. The Draft SEA Guidance lists possible objectives and recommends that they be adapted to take account of local circumstances and concerns of specific plans. For this reason, several objectives that have been included, do not link to any specific SEA topic and have been labelled 'Other' or 'waste related'.

| <b>SEA topic<sup>6</sup></b>   | <b>Revised objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan</b>  |
|--|---|
| Air  | To reduce reliance on road freight movements and <u>seek to increase the encourage efficient use of rail and water where appropriate.</u>   |
| Cultural heritage and landscape  | To protect and maintain Hertfordshire's most valuable <del>regional</del> assets such as <del>designated habitats</del> landscapes of natural beauty, historic built heritage, and greenspaces.   |
| Other  | <del>To ensure waste management facilities adhere to environmental standards and management principles.</del>   |
| <u>Additional objective</u>  | <u>To protect dark skies from light pollution, and promote low energy and less invasive lighting sources, considering the balance between safety and environmental impact.</u>  |
| <b>Prudent use of natural resources</b>  |   |
| Climatic factors   | To <del>reduce demand for energy and increase the proportion of energy efficiency-generated and consumed in Hertfordshire from renewable sources.</del> Reduce demand for energy (to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming).                      |
| <u>Climatic factors</u>  | <u>To address the causes of climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation measures (e.g. tree planting).</u>  |
| Water and soil   | To <del>promote the wise use of</del> <u>reduce demand for water and increase the efficient use of</u> ground and surface water resources and <del>safeguard against unacceptable impacts.</del>  |
| Water and soil   | To develop and promote local water recycling initiatives for <u>development and buildings, and encourage rainwater harvesting to reduce new development water needs.</u>  |
| <del>Water and soil-Geology</del>  | <del>To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. To safeguard reserves of exploitable minerals from sterilisation by waste management-related development.</del>            |
| Other  | To <del>ensure prudent use of land and other resources</del> <u>improve efficiency in land use through the re-use of previously developed land and existing buildings.</u>  |
| <u>Additional objective</u>  | <u>To promote sustainable construction practices (e.g. minimising construction and demolition waste, re-using demolition and excavation materials, using recycled and local materials, materials with low embodied energy and timber from sustainable sources.)</u> |
| Other  | To minimise production of by-products or wastes, and then promote reuse, recycling, composting, alternative treatment options and energy recovery before resorting to landfill, <del>taking into account the BPEO (referred to as the BPSO in the EERSCF).</del>    |
| <u>Additional objective</u>  | <u>To guard against the loss of woodlands, trees, hedgerows and grassland.</u>  |
| <u>Additional objective</u>  | <u>To create or re-create habitats to ensure sustainable and linked species population.</u>   |
| <b>Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment</b> |   |
| Economic development   | To <del>ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of Hertfordshire.</del> <u>To utilise waste as an asset to provide a source of raw materials and some increase in employment levels.</u>                       |

| SEA topic <sup>6</sup>         | Revised objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Additional waste related topic | To foster joint working <u>and partnerships</u> within and between public and private sectors <u>in Hertfordshire</u> , with a view to better local investment in alternatives to landfill and developing markets for waste materials. |
| Additional waste related topic | To promote best practice in industry through <u>local</u> waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, and to encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives.   |
| Additional waste related topic | To encourage the purchase and use of recycled products <u>and green procurement</u> by public authorities and businesses.  |



## 4. NEXT STEPS

---

- 4.1. The afternoon session of the Stakeholder Workshop generated much discussion regarding the SEA/SA objectives to be used for the appraisal of policies developed during the Hertfordshire WLP Review. A set of revised objectives has been prepared incorporating stakeholder suggestions for word changes and omitted issues.
- 4.2. This report is to be circulated to all invited and attending stakeholders, who will have further opportunity to comment on the revised objectives by responding to Hertfordshire County Council by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2003.
- 4.3. The next steps in the SEA/SA process that LUC are carrying out for the Hertfordshire WLP Review will be to develop indicators against which each of the SEA/SA objectives can be measured, and collect relevant baseline information to enable judgements to be made about progress towards achieving the objectives.
- 4.4. HCC is currently developing alternative strategic options for addressing the key issues for the WLP Review resulting from the morning session of the Stakeholder Workshop. The revised SEA/SA objectives will form the basis of a broad assessment of the main sustainability advantages and disadvantages of the options.

S:\3100\3147 Hertfordshire Waste LP SEA\documents\SEA objectives & Workshop\Workshop report\Final Report of SEA workshop on 24.10.03.doc



## **APPENDIX I**

Note on SEA/SA included in the information pack sent to stakeholders in advance of the  
October 2003 Stakeholder Workshop



# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL/SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE WASTE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

---

## Background

- 4.5. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) are in the initial stages of reviewing the Waste Local Plan (WLP) and are progressing this in line with a full sustainability appraisal (SA), following the Government's guidance on strategic environmental appraisal (SEA)<sup>7</sup> and HCC's recent publication Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal<sup>8</sup>.
- 4.6. The objective of SEA, as defined in the draft guidance issued by the ODPM is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans...with a view to promoting sustainable development'*.
- 4.7. An important distinction made in the guidance is the difference between environmental assessments required under the SEA Directive and sustainability appraisal of development plans as required by the UK Government. There are many parallels but also some differences, and the guidance clearly shows how assessment to comply with the Directive can be integrated with current practice on sustainability appraisal. Simply put, sustainability appraisal includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts of plans, whereas SEA is more focussed on environmental impacts. The guidance therefore recommends undertaking a joint SEA/SA.

## Summary of Government guidance

- 4.8. The ODPM guidance introduces the SEA/SA process and explains, step by step, how to carry out SEA/SA as an integral part of the plan-making process.
- 4.9. The following figure<sup>9</sup> sets out the main stages of the SEA/SA process and shows how these link to the plan making process. It is important to note that the final version of the SEA guidance is due to be published on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2003. It is likely that the SEA/SA process will be presented in less stages than in the figure below. The work to be done will still encompass the same tasks, but they will be grouped under fewer stages in an attempt to simplify the process. LUC will present the new stages from the final guidance document at the stakeholder workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003, and explain how the SEA/SA being undertaken for the Hertfordshire WLP review fits in to the new stages.

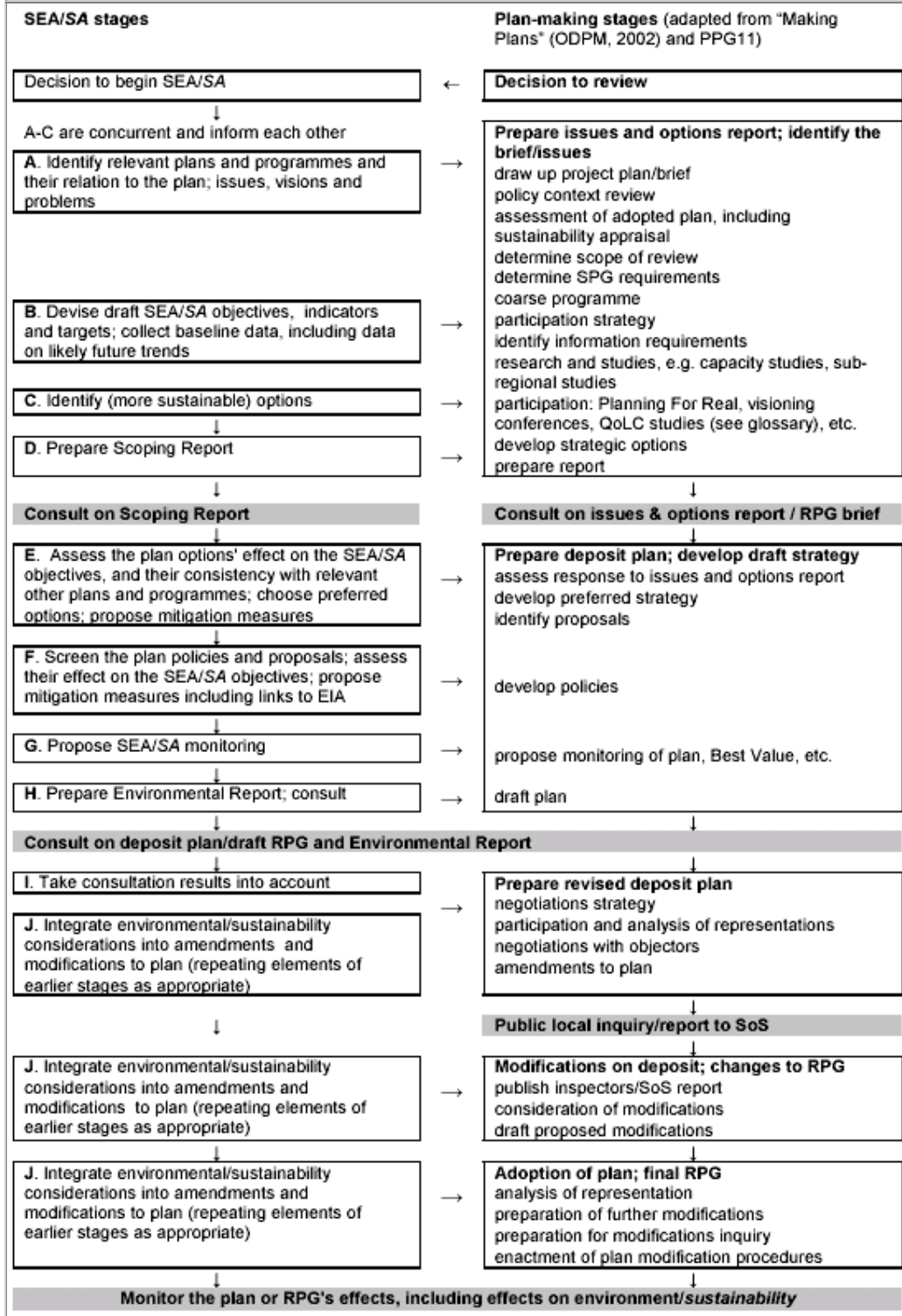
---

<sup>7</sup> Draft guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, 23 October 2002. ODPM. Note that the final version of the guidance is due to be published on 20 October 2003.

<sup>8</sup> Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal. April 2003. Environment Board, Hertfordshire County Council.

<sup>9</sup> This is Figure 2 from the Draft guidance on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

**Figure 2. SEA/Sustainability Appraisal and plan-making stages**



## **Progress with the SEA/SA of the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan review**

- 4.10. The SEA/SA which LUC are currently undertaking for Hertfordshire County Council will work through these stages up to stage D (preparing a Scoping Report, setting out the findings of the preceding stages). The work undertaken at each stage is summarised below.

### ***Stage A: Identify other relevant plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives, and how they relate to the plan; issues, visions and problems***

- 4.11. A review of relevant plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives has been undertaken. This looked at a wide range of plans, ranging from national level PPGs down to local level plans, such as community strategies, and commented on how these could affect the WLP, and how the WLP should take these on board. This stage helped to inform stage B (deciding what environmental/sustainability issues to consider during plan-making).

### ***Stage B: Devise draft SEA/SA objectives, indicators and targets; collect baseline information, including data on likely future trends***

- 4.12. A set of draft SEA/SA objectives has been prepared (stage B1), which has drawn on the review of relevant plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives. The draft SEA/SA objectives are presented in the attached table. Particular consideration has been given to the high level objectives in the East of England Regional Sustainable Development Framework, and the sustainability criteria developed in the HCC Guidance. The draft objectives will be discussed at the stakeholder workshop on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003, and finalised to incorporate stakeholder comments following the workshop.
- 4.13. Stage B2, collection of baseline, information will be undertaken shortly. This stage relates to current and likely future trends in the state of the environment and sustainability. For each objective identified in B1, enough data will be collected, where possible, to consider questions such as how bad or good the current situation is, how many people are affected and whether any particularly sensitive receptors are affected e.g. people, species or habitats and what additional information will be needed in future to measure different aspects. Much of this information should already be readily available, as detailed in the HCC Guidance.

### ***Stage C: identify sustainable options for dealing with issues***

- 4.14. A range of alternatives will be established for a series of issues identified by the Waste Planning Authority. The issues will be considered at the stakeholder workshop on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003.

**Stage D: Prepare Scoping Report and consultation on Scoping Report**

- 4.15. A Scoping Report will be prepared setting out the findings of the steps taken in stages A-C. The aims of the Scoping Report stage are to ensure that the rest of the SEA/SA process is well-focused and comprehensive. This stage will be carried out in conjunction with the preparation of, and consultation on, the Key Issues report stage of the WLP review process.

Land Use Consultants

10 October, 2003

S:\3100\3147 Hertfordshire Waste LP SEA\documents\SEA objectives & Workshop\SEA note for workshop.doc

## DRAFT SEA/SA OBJECTIVES FOR HERTFORDSHIRE WLP

| SEA topic <sup>10</sup>                        | Existing Hertfordshire (HCC SA Guidance) <sup>11</sup> /East of England (EERSDF) <sup>12</sup> Sustainability Objectives  | Draft objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Effective protection of the environment</b> |   |   |
| Biodiversity, flora and fauna                  | Protect and enhance biodiversity (HCC SA Guidance)  | <b>To protect and enhance biodiversity in Hertfordshire.</b>  |
| Air, Water and soil                            | Reduce pollution (HCC SA Guidance)  | <b>To reduce air, water and soil pollution and ensure their quality continues to improve.</b>   |
| Air  | Improve the choice of sustainable transport modes, encourage their use, and reduce the need to travel by car (HCC SA Guidance)  | <b>To reduce reliance on road freight movements and encourage efficient use of rail.</b>  |
| Cultural heritage and landscape                | To protect and maintain our most valuable regional assets such as designated habitats, landscapes of natural beauty, and our historic built heritage, and to improve the wider environment by means of adequate investment and management (EERSDF 'High Level Objective') | <b>To protect and maintain Hertfordshire's most valuable regional assets such as designated habitats, landscapes of natural beauty, historic built heritage, and greenspaces.</b> |
| Cultural heritage and landscape                | Protect and provide greenspaces (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in above objective.</i>   |
| Cultural heritage and landscape                | Protect landscape and townscape character (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in above objective.</i>   |
| Other  | Adhere to environmental standards and management principles (HCC SA Guidance)   | <b>To ensure waste management facilities adhere to environmental standards and management principles.</b>   |

<sup>10</sup> The SEA topics are the topics identified in Figure 6 of the Draft SEA Guidance and reflect the requirements of the Directive and government guidance on sustainable development. The Draft SEA Guidance lists possible objectives and recommends that they be adapted to take account of local circumstances and concerns of specific plans. For this reason, several objectives that have been included, do not link to any specific SEA topic and have been labelled 'Other' or 'waste related'.

<sup>11</sup> From *Guidance on Sustainability Appraisals*. Hertfordshire County Council, April 2003.

<sup>12</sup> From *A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England*. East of England Regional Assembly, October 2001.

| SEA topic <sup>10</sup>  | Existing Hertfordshire (HCC SA Guidance) <sup>11</sup> /East of England (EERSDF) <sup>12</sup> Sustainability Objectives   | Draft objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Prudent use of natural resources</b>  |  |  |
| Climatic factors   | Plan for the impacts of climate change (HCC SA Guidance)   | <b>To increase energy efficiency and reduce demand for energy (to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming).</b>  |
| Water and soil   | Ensure the efficient use of water and safeguard water resources (HCC SA Guidance)  | <b>To promote the wise use of ground and surface water resources and safeguard against unacceptable impacts.</b>   |
| Water and soil   | Soil not specifically addressed in HCC SA Guidance or EERSDF.  | <b>To reduce contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity and minimise the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.</b>   |
| Other  | Improve the sustainable use of resources (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in Waste objective below.</i>  |
| Other  | Ensure the sustainable supply and use of energy (HCC SA Guidance)  | <i>Incorporated in 'Climatic factors' objective above.</i>   |
| Other  | Ensure the efficient use of land and buildings (HCC SA Guidance)   | <b>To ensure prudent use of land and other resources.</b>  |
| Other  | To minimise our production of by-products or wastes, aiming for 'closed systems' where possible (EERSDF 'High Level Objective')<br><br>To minimise the production of waste, and then promote reuse, recycling, composting, alternative treatment options and energy recovery before resorting to landfill, taking into account the Best Practicable Sustainable Option (EERSDF 'Waste objectives') | <b>To minimise production of by-products or wastes, and then promote reuse, recycling, composting, alternative treatment options and energy recovery before resorting to landfill, taking into account the BPEO (referred to as the BPSO in the EERSDF).</b> |
| Other  | Move away from waste disposal to minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in above objective.</i>  |
| <b>Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment</b> |  |  |

| <b>SEA topic<sup>10</sup></b>                            | <b>Existing Hertfordshire (HCC SA Guidance)<sup>11</sup> /East of England (EERSDF)<sup>12</sup> Sustainability Objectives</b>  | <b>Draft objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan</b>  |
|--|--|---|
| Economic development                                     | To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth (EERSDF 'High Level Objective')  | To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of Hertfordshire.   |
| Economic development                                     | Create a vibrant local economy (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in above objective.</i>   |
| Economic development                                     | Maintain high and stable levels of employment (HCC SA Guidance)  | <i>Incorporated in above objective.</i>   |
| Additional waste related topic                           | To foster joint working within and between public and private sectors, with a view to better investment in alternatives to landfill and developing markets for waste materials. (EERSDF 'Waste objective') | To foster joint working within and between public and private sectors, with a view to better investment in alternatives to landfill and developing markets for waste materials. |
| Additional waste related topic                           | To promote best practice in industry through waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, and to encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives (EERSDF 'Waste objective')            | <b>To promote best practice in industry through waste minimisation clubs and other business fora, and to encourage the extension of producer responsibility initiatives.</b>    |
| Additional waste related topic                           | To encourage the purchase and use of recycled products by public authorities and businesses (EERSDF 'Waste objective')   | <b>To encourage the purchase and use of recycled products by public authorities and businesses.</b>   |
| <b>Social progress which meets the needs of everyone</b> |  |   |
| Population and human health                              | Maximise the opportunities for leisure and a healthy lifestyle for all (HCC SA Guidance)   | <b>To protect and enhance recreation opportunities for all, including access to the countryside.</b>  |
| Population and human health                              | Maximise the opportunities for leisure and a healthy lifestyle for all (HCC SA Guidance)   | <b>To protect the health and amenity of local residents/communities (e.g. from the impacts of noise, dust and traffic).</b>   |
| Social inclusiveness and Material assets                 | To achieve a more equitable sharing of the benefits of prosperity across all sectors of society and fairer access to services, focusing on deprived areas of the region (EERSDF 'High Level Objective')    | <i>Incorporated in 'Economic Growth' objective above.</i>   |

| <b>SEA topic<sup>10</sup></b>  | <b>Existing Hertfordshire (HCC SA Guidance)<sup>11</sup> /East of England (EERSDF)<sup>12</sup> Sustainability Objectives</b> | <b>Draft objectives for SEA/SA of Waste Local Plan</b>   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Social inclusiveness           | Improve access to services and community facilities for all (HCC SA Guidance)   | <i>Incorporated in 'Accessible recycling' objective below.</i>   |
| Social inclusiveness           | Empower all sections of the community to participate in decision making and local action (HCC SA Guidance)                    | <b>To empower all sections of the community to participate in waste planning decision making and local action and to ensure the public understand the importance of the waste management industry.</b> |
| Additional waste related topic | To promote easily accessible recycling systems (EERSDF 'Waste objective')   | To promote easily accessible recycling systems.  |
| Additional waste related topic | To promote waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community (EERSDF 'Waste objective')                       | <b>To promote waste awareness education programmes in schools and the community.</b>   |