

Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) of the Swanage Local Plan

Post Adoption Statement



Purbeck District Council July 2017

Introduction

Under section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), local authorities must produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for any new or revised plan or programme. The overall purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through consideration of social, environmental and economic concerns in the preparation of plans or programmes and to evaluate reasonable alternative approaches, or options. SA is an iterative, on-going process that is integral to plan preparation.

The stages of the SA/SEA process are as follows:

- Initial scoping stage.
- Developing and refining options.
- Preparing the SA report.
- Consultation on the SA and plan.
- Monitoring the plan's implementation.

Purbeck District Council adopted the Swanage Local Plan on 13 June 2017.

The Council has prepared this statement in accordance with paragraph (16) (3) and (4) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). European Directive 2001/42/EC (the 'SEA Directive') requires the Council to produce a statement on adoption of a plan or programme, to detail:

1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;
2. How the environmental report has been taken into account;
3. How opinions expressed through public consultation (on the SEA and SA process) have been taken into account;
4. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
5. The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

This statement addresses each of these points in turn.

This document also includes an appendix detailing the Council's finalisation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Swanage Local Plan

The Council published the Swanage Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report in 2012. The SA Scoping Report identified 8 sustainability objectives, to be used to assess the Swanage Local Plan. It looked at social issues (e.g. housing and services), economics (e.g. work opportunities) and environmental issues (e.g. protection of townscape and landscape). The Council carried out this task in consultation with the three statutory consultation bodies referred to in the SA/SEA regulations: Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency.

The SA Scoping Report sets out the framework of sustainability objectives against which the Swanage Local Plan was tested at each stage in its preparation. The SA Scoping Report also identified the main sustainability issues affecting Swanage, set out baseline information/statistics and identified higher-level plans and programmes that influenced production of the Swanage Local Plan. In order to facilitate legibility and ease of use, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used sustainability objectives and criteria arranged according to themes set out in a matrix as the basis for assessing the plan. Policies were appraised against the sustainability objectives, the findings of which helped inform which areas the plan should address and influenced policy formulation.

The Council produced SA reports for each of the Swanage Local Plan's consultation stages. The outcome of the SA/SEA process at each stage influenced the revision of the options and/or draft policies for the subsequent stage. The Council published and consulted upon SA reports alongside the plan at each stage and the results fed into the process of options/policy selection and revision. The stages are summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: SA stages of the Swanage Local Plan

Date	SA preparation	Comments
2012	Scoping Report Stage A1	Review of 29 documents, and assessment of implications for the Swanage Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal.
	Scoping Report Stage A2	Data was collated according to the themes of social, economic and environmental data. This led to a better understanding of key issues.
	Scoping Report Stage A3	Identification of the main sustainability issues and opportunities in Swanage.
	Scoping Report Stage A4	Development of SA objectives as the tool for assessing the Swanage Local Plan.

	Scoping Report Stage A5	Consultation on the above (with Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency), and amendments made based on consultee responses.
2014	SA: Swanage Local Plan Issues and Options consultation leaflet	Assessment of the options set out in the 'issues and options' consultation leaflet against the SA objectives. The results of this assessment helped to inform the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document.
2015	SA: Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document	Assessment of the policies in the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document against the SA objectives.
Mar 2016	SA addendum statement: proposed minor changes to the Swanage Local Plan	Following the publication of the Pre-submission Document, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed minor changes to the Swanage Local Plan for consideration through the examination process. This SA addendum statement confirms that further SA is not required in relation to the proposed minor changes.
Jul 2016	Further information about the SA for the Swanage Local Plan	The Council prepared this statement in response to a request from the planning inspector. The statement sets out whether or not alternatives were assessed for each of the Swanage Local Plan policies.
Sep 2016	SA addendum: Statement regarding proposed Main Modifications to the Swanage Local Plan	Review of Main Modifications to the plan to ascertain if they raised any issues for the SA and to identify whether they would result in any significant effects.

2. How the environmental report has been taken into account

Paragraph 16(4) (c) of the SEA Regulations requires the Council to indicate how the environmental report (the SA Scoping Report and the SA) has been taken into account in the preparation of the Swanage Local Plan.

The Swanage Local Plan SA seeks to identify the economic, social and environmental impacts of the proposals in the Swanage Local Plan and suggests ways to avoid or minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones. The SA does not identify any significant negative effects, however, there is potential for some negative effects which may be mitigated. These potential negative effects relate to habitat protection, accessibility, pollution and natural resources. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) deals with potential negative effects on habitat. Mitigation will include the need for the housing allocations at Northbrook Road to provide suitable mitigation such as SANGs. It is also important to note Purbeck has an adopted plan (Purbeck Local Plan Part 1) with policies already in place to protect landscape, biodiversity, flooding and other major issues relevant to Swanage.

The Council prepared a series of background papers which set out how the

Swanage Local Plan policies have been prepared (see documents SLP16 to SLP24¹). These background papers include reference to the SA where appropriate. In each case, any relevant SA results were considered alongside the evidence and consultation responses, when arriving at policy recommendations.

In terms of mitigation measures, page 43 of the SA of the SLP Pre-submission Document (2015) (SLP3) includes a table which summarises proposed mitigation measures. These proposed mitigation measures all relate to future additional work (e.g. preparation of development briefs and maintaining an up to date SFRA) and no further updates were required to the Swanage Local Plan at this stage, to address mitigation measures set out in the SA.

3. How opinions expressed through public consultation (on the SEA and SA process) have been taken into account

To accord with Regulation 22(1) (c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Council published a Consultation Statement² (SLP8) in September 2015, as part of the supporting material for the submission of the Swanage Local Plan. The Consultation Statement explains how the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document was informed by community engagement and consultation. It explains how the findings of the Issues and Options consultation (undertaken in 2014) were used together with other evidence to determine which options to take forward, discount, or amend in the final draft plan.

The SA for the Swanage Local Plan Issues and Options document was published as part of the Issues and Options consultation, which ran between February and March 2014. The public had the opportunity to comment on the SA as part of the consultation. All comments received in response to the Issues and Options consultation were taken into account as the Council prepared the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document.

The SA for the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document was published as part of the pre-submission publication period, which ran between September and November 2015. All comments received during the pre-submission publication period were passed to the planning inspector, for consideration through the Swanage Local Plan examination.

During the Swanage Local Plan examination, the Council consulted on a schedule of proposed 'main modifications' to the plan. The Council published an SA Addendum statement alongside this consultation, which ran between October and December 2016.

¹ Documents SLP16 to SLP24 are background papers which set out how the various policies in the Swanage Local Plan have been prepared. The background papers can be accessed online via:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan>

² Swanage Local Plan Consultation Statement (SLP8) (September 2015) available online via:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan>

There have been opportunities for the public to comment on the SA throughout the preparation of the Swanage Local Plan, and all comments received on the Swanage Local Plan have been taken into account as the plan has been finalised.

4. The reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

The Council tested all reasonable alternative options via an SA matrix scoring system. This is a method commonly used in carrying out sustainability appraisal that tests the degree of positive or negative impact on the SA objectives within the framework.

The SA commented on how sustainable each of these options would be, along with any considerations that would need to be taken into account when implementing them. This information assisted the Council in selecting preferred options.

5. The measures that are taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme

The Swanage Local Plan will be monitored through the monitoring framework detailed in Appendix 3 of the plan. This shows targets and key indicators for each of the policies in the plan. Monitoring will be published in the Council's monitoring reports³. These reports make provision for monitoring the sustainability of all local planning documents as they are adopted and implemented.

Further Information

Relevant documents are available to view at the Council offices or download as follows:

Purbeck Local Plan Part 1, November 2012:

www.dorsetforyou.com/localplan/purbeck

Swanage Local Plan, June 2017:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/localplan/purbeck>

Sustainability Appraisal:

Swanage Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, 2012

³ The monitoring reports can be accessed online at:
<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/localplan/monitoring/purbeck>

Swanage Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation Leaflet Sustainability Appraisal, 2014

The above documents can both be accessed via:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan>

Sustainability Appraisal of the Swanage Local Plan Pre-submission Document, September 2015 (SLP3)

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Statement: proposed minor changes to the Swanage Local Plan, March 2016 (SLP5)

Further information about the Sustainability Appraisal for the Swanage Local Plan, July 2016 (SLP41)

Sustainability Appraisal Addendum Statement regarding proposed Main Modifications to the Swanage Local Plan, September 2016 (SLP54)

The above documents can all be accessed via:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan/examination>

Swanage Local Plan Consultation Statement, September 2015 (SLP8):

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan/examination>

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Appendix 1

Finalisation of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

The Swanage Local Plan has been subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRS), as set out in the following documents:

- HRA of the Swanage Local Plan – Submission Stage, March 2016 (SLP6)
- Swanage Local Plan HRA Addendum – Assessment of Main Modifications, October 2016 (SLP53)

Both of these documents can be accessed online via:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/swanage-local-plan/examination>

The HRA Addendum (SLP53) identifies one outstanding matter in relation to biodiversity monitoring. The HRA recommends that further text should be added to the biodiversity monitoring proposal, to include site quality as well as quantity. This recommendation has been addressed in the final version of the Swanage Local Plan, which includes a target for ‘no deterioration in quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)’.

In addition to the above, during the Swanage Local Plan examination it was identified that the HRA would need to be updated on adoption of the Swanage Local Plan to take into account the designation of the new Solent and Dorset Coast potential Special Protection Area and proposed amendments to the Poole Harbour Special Protection Area.

The HRA Addendum statement notes the additional text that has been added to the plan to take account of these matters. The HRA Addendum statement concludes that the additional text is:

“Of benefit for HRA purposes as ensures issues relating to Poole Harbour are addressed and makes reference to a new European site potentially coming forward, putting in place wording to secure its future protection.”

The HRA Addendum statement concludes that the Swanage Local Plan fully accords with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.

In accordance with the Regulations, Purbeck District Council is able to ascertain that the adoption of the Swanage Local Plan would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site.

The Habitats Regulations Assessment process is therefore completed and the Council can give effect to the Plan.

Statement written by Anna Lee, Planning Policy Manager at Purbeck District Council, and approved by Rachel Hoskin, Senior Planning Ecologist at Footprint Ecology.