

Sustainability Appraisal of the Aston, Newtown, and Lozells Area Action Plan

SA of Post Examination
Changes

June 2012



LEPUS CONSULTING

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY, PLANNING AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability Appraisal of the Aston, Newton, and Lozells Area Action Plan

SA of Post Examination Changes

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Abbreviations

AAP	Area Action Plan
ANLAAP	Aston Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan
DPD	Development Plan Document
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ODMP	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PAS	Planning Advisory Service
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RIS	Regional Investment Site
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

Executive Summary

E1 Introduction

E1.1 This report provides a sustainability appraisal of changes made to the Aston, Newtown, and Lozells Area Action Plan following Examination which took place in January 2012. It should be read as an addendum to the Submission Sustainability Appraisal Report which was published in August 2011. The SA process has been prepared from the outset of the plan making. This is the penultimate stage before the plan moves to adoption by the Council.

E1.3 The purpose of this report is appraise the changes made by the Inspector and to help identify whether or not the changes are likely to have any sustainability effects associated with them. The SA process recognises positive and negative effects in equal measure.

E1.4 The Inspector has recommended 23 Main Modifications (MM):

	Subject	Nature of change
MM1	Relationship of the AAP to other plans and policies	Additional text to draw links to extant Unitary Development Plan and Core Strategy.
MM2	Environment and Open Space	Additional text referring to Unitary Development Plan.
MM3	Housing and Population (in Challenges and opportunities)	Additional text referring to UDP.
MM4	Employment opportunities in the wider area (in A successful economy)	Additional text highlighting links to Council's employment access programmes.
MM5	Policy SD1: Energy Consumption	Replacement of text referring to combined heat and power.
MM6	Policy SD2: Waste	Additional text to reflect EU Waste Framework Directive.
MM7	Policy T6: RIS Framework Travels Plans	Additional Supportive text relating to Census data and Travel demand assessments.
MM8	Policy R5: Delivering the RIS	Additional text relating to preparation of a Scheme of Management.
MM9	Policy R1: RIS land uses	Additional supportive text relating to supporting appropriate sale development.
MM10	Implementation and delivery section "a successful economy"	Minor text amendment.
MM 11	Table 1: RIS Phasing	Minor text amendment.
MM12	Policy H1: New Housing	Addition of text relating to number of new homes.
MM13	Housing and Neighbourhood quality. New housing	Additional text outlining net increase number of housing.
MM14	Policy H3: Affordable Housing	Addition of text relating to developer subsidies

		drawing on information in the emerging Core Strategy.
MM15	Policy OS1: Green links	Addition of text relating to provision of open space and playing fields.
MM16	Hockley Brook Corridor	Additional text providing context to Hockley Brook.
MM17	Policy OS2A: Hockley Brook	Insert a new policy relating to the Hockley Brook.
MM18	Biodiversity and the Hockley Brook	Deletion of text relating to regeneration of Newtown Estate and Hockley Brook biodiversity.
MM19	Policy OS11: Managing flood risk	Addition of supportive text referring to surface water information and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
MM20	Table 4: Infrastructure requirements	Minor text addition referencing River Tame Strategy.
MM21	Policy OS11: Managing flood risk	Addition of text ensuring development does not take place until flood alleviation work is completed by the Environment Agency.
MM22	Policy OS10: Biodiversity and Water Quality	Addition of text referring to the Humber River Basin management plan.
MM23	Biodiversity	Addition of text acknowledging that action for meeting Water Framework Directive requirement will be published in 2015.

- E1.6 The appraisal of changes has used the methodology established in the SA Scoping Report (published September, 2006). It uses an SA Framework of 20 objectives and associated decision making criteria. The baseline information, key issues and plans and policies identified in the Scoping Report are in some cases out of date. In such instances, the latest relevant information is cited in this report.
- E1.7 The results of the assessment process reveal that the inspector’s main modifications do not introduce or represent any significant change to previous SA findings.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Lepus Consulting is conducting the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Aston, Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan (ANLAAP) Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 1.1.2 SA is the process of informing and influencing the development of the ANLAAP to maximise the sustainability value of the document.
- 1.1.3 This is an addendum to the main SA Report which was prepared to accompany the submission version of the ANLAAP in August 2011. The purpose of this report is to appraise the changes that have been proposed to the DPD following Examination which took place in January 2012.

1.2 What is the Aston Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan?

- 1.2.1 The AAP is a statutory land use plan that will provide a planning framework to guide regeneration and development in Aston, Newtown and Lozells in north Birmingham over the next 15 years. Once adopted, the AAP will: set out a vision for the area; highlight the objectives which will deliver the vision; set out policies and proposals to guide development in the area; provide guidance on the implementation of the AAP proposals including phasing and funding; show how the proposals for the area link to and build upon other strategies, plans and guidance to help achieve wider regional and local objectives; and act as a promotional tool for articulating the vision for the area.

1.3 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

- 1.3.1 This SA process follows a number of prescribed steps. These are set out in the PAS guidance (2008) and ODPM's guidance on strategic environmental assessment. The SA process in the United Kingdom has been developed to appraise land use plans. It includes the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and the two processes have been operated on an integrated basis during the lifetime of this document as it was prepared.
- 1.3.2 Previous stages of the SA process have included: (i) preparation of a scoping report, (ii) assessment of initial options and alternatives to the plan as proposals were being considered, (iii) assessment of preferred options, and (iv) appraisal of proposals in the publication version. Full details of the entire SA process will be documented in the forthcoming environmental statement. This final part of the SA process will be published at the same time as the plan is adopted later this year.

1.4 Scoping Report

- 1.4.1 The first phase of the development of the SA was the scoping stage. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including the sustainability effects and alternatives to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
- 1.4.2 The purpose of the Scoping Report was to set the criteria for assessment (including the SA objectives), and establish the baseline data and other information, including a review of relevant policies, programmes and plans. The scoping process involved an overview of key issues, highlighting areas of potential conflict.
- 1.4.3 The Scoping Report covered the early stages of the SA process and included information about:
- Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;
 - Collecting baseline information;
 - Identifying sustainability issues and problems; and
 - Developing the SA Framework.
- 1.4.4 The Scoping Report for the AAP was first published in November 2005, but consultation with stakeholders on the proposed AAP revealed a need to change the boundaries of the study area. A second Scoping Report was then produced in September 2006 and consultees were given five weeks within which to respond.

1.5 Options Assessment

- 1.5.1 The preparation of an options report is an integral part of the DPD creation process. Options are an important phase of plan making. They provide alternative ways in which the plan can take shape. The exploration of options is a helpful means of shaping and influencing the final format of the DPD. The SA process provides a basis for appraising the effects of each option.
- 1.5.2 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) that reasonable alternatives are assessed during the preparation of a plan or programme; The SEA Directive requires that 'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated' and give 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with' (Article 5.1 and Annex I (h)).
- 1.5.3 In 2007 Birmingham City Council released the Aston, Newtown and Lozells AAP Issues and Options Report for consultation to a range of stakeholders.
- 1.5.4 The strategic options for development proposed by the Issues and Options Report were as follows:
- Option 1: Do Minimum

- Option 2: Little Change
- Option 3: Substantial Change
- Option 4: Major Change

1.5.5 These four strategic options for development represented the “reasonable alternatives” as described by the SEA Directive.

1.5.6 Of the four strategic options for development, in terms of sustainability performance, Options 3 and 4 were found to bring the largest number of sustainability benefits. Whilst Option 4 was deemed to bring further reaching social benefits than Option 3, Option 3 was seen to have significantly less impact on existing businesses and jobs.

1.6 Preferred options

1.6.1 In November 2008, an early version of the Preferred Options Report was assessed by the SA team, utilising the methodologies set out below. The purpose of this assessment was to help highlight the potential sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the Preferred Options at an early stage of development and to provide an opportunity to discuss potential sustainability issues. This process was designed to help ensure that the sustainability performance of the emergent Preferred Options would be maximised.

1.6.2 Following this the Preferred Options for the AAP were developed utilising the responses received during the Issues and Options consultation, further technical studies, consideration of local initiatives and, as described above, the SA process. The Preferred Options Report was released for public consultation between September and November 2009.

1.7 Publication Version of the Area Action Plan

1.7.1 The Publication version of the AAP was released for stakeholders’ comments in February 2011. The development of the Publication version of the AAP was informed and influenced by the assessment of alternative options and appraisal of the policies and spatial proposals included in preliminary versions of AAP, including the Preferred Options Report released for consultation in September 2009.

1.7.2 The Publication version of the AAP was accompanied by an SA Report (UE Associates, November 2010). The SA Report presented the findings of the appraisal the stages carried out to date for the SA process and an assessment of the policies included in the Publication version of the AAP.

1.8 Findings of the Submission SA Report

- 1.8.1 Following consultation on the Publication version of the AAP, this was updated and submitted to the Secretary of State in late 2011. This was accompanied by and SA Report (August, 2011).
- 1.8.2 The following recommendations were made by the Submission version SA Report (2011):
- Junction improvements in the AAP area should seek to incorporate sustainable transport use within scheme design through measures such as bus priority, bus lanes, red routes, and the incorporation of safe and secure walking and cycling routes;
 - Low noise surfacing and appropriate landscaping should be introduced to reduce impacts on noise quality from additional traffic produced by the proposals, including the RIS;
 - Development should fully utilise detailed historic characterisation work where it has been carried out locally and seek to rejuvenate Buildings at Risk present in the AAP area; and
 - There is potential for the carbon footprint of the AAP area to be established. This will help monitor greenhouse gas emission trends in the area and help target key sectors where emission reductions can be achieved.

1.9 About Aston, Newtown, and Lozells

- 1.9.1 The AAP area lies immediately north of Birmingham City Centre. Including the neighbourhoods of Birchfield, Lozells, Newtown, and Aston, the boundary of the AAP is as follows: New John Street West and Newton Middleway in the south; the Birmingham & Fazeley canal and the M6 in the east; Aldridge Road, the Grand Junction railway, the BCU campus and the One Stop Shopping Centre in the north; and Wood Lane and Hamstead Road in the west.
- 1.9.2 The AAP area is a mix of predominantly residential and industrial uses. Key features of the area include Aston Hall and Park, Aston Villa football ground, Aston Church, the One-Stop Shopping Centre and Birmingham City University main campus. The character of the area is also dominated by three major north-south highways – the A38(M) Aston Expressway, the A34 Birchfield Road, the A5127 Lichfield Road, as well as Spaghetti Junction. Three rail lines pass through the area including the Birmingham New Street to Lichfield line, the Birmingham New Street to Walsall line, and the link between the latter with the Birmingham New Street-Wolverhampton High Level line. Local rail stations include Perry Barr, Witton and Aston. The AAP area is also home to a number of waterways, namely the River Tame, Handsworth Brook, Hockley Brook, Hawthorn Brook, the Tame Valley Canal and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal.

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- 1.9.3 Reflecting its inner city location, the study area is densely populated, with a population of 51,048 people living within a 900ha area. It is also ethnically diverse; over three-quarters of the population is made up of BME groups, with around half of residents being of Asian origin. The AAP area suffers from significant levels of deprivation, including high unemployment, poor health, low educational attainment and poor housing quality.

1.10 National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.10.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force on the 27th March 2012. The NPPF sets out:

“the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government’s requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities” (NPPF, 2012)

- 1.10.2 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This is seen as a golden thread running through plan making and decision making. The NPPF replaces previous national guidance in the form of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). Those PPSs and PPGs which have been replaced are outlined in Appendix C of the NPPF (2012).
- 1.10.3 The appraisal of AAP modifications proposed following examination has been considered with due regard to guidance set out in the NPPF.

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2 Methodology

2.1 SA Objectives

2.1.1 The Scoping Report establishes the methodology for appraising the DPD. Twenty objectives have been used to appraise the plan. These are illustrated in **Table 2.1**.

Table 2.1: SA Framework Objectives

	SA Objective	Sustainability topic
1	Provide decent and affordable housing for all and improve the choice and quality of housing to help create a self-sustaining housing market that meets the needs of existing residents and attracts and retains new and former residents and support the objectives of Urban Living and the City's Housing Strategy.	Housing
2	Improve health and reduce health inequalities by encouraging and enabling healthy lifestyles as well as providing equitable access to health services.	Health / Recreation
3	Improve access to services, facilities and opportunities, including cultural and recreational facilities and jobs and learning and ensure that people are not disadvantaged with regard to ethnicity, gender, age, disability, faith, sexuality, background or location.	Access
4	Improve community safety, reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Crime
5	Reduce poverty, deprivation and social exclusion, taking into account the particular difficulties of those facing multiple deprivation.	Deprivation
6	Improve the housing environment and quality of where people live including access to a network of quality green open space.	Housing and the Environment
7	Minimise air, water, soil, light, and noise pollution levels and create good air quality, water and soils.	Pollution
8	Value, enhance and protect the archaeological, historic, and cultural heritage importance of the area.	Cultural Heritage
9	Protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity.	Biodiversity and the Environment
10	Encourage development that optimizes the use of previously developed land and buildings and creates and sustains well designed high quality built environments that incorporate high quality green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness.	Land use
11	Reduce overall energy use through increased energy efficiency, and increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in order to minimise contribution to the causes of climate change.	Energy
12	Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings.	Building Standards
13	Reduce flood risk and prepare for other impacts of climate change.	Flood Risk

	SA Objective	Sustainability topic
14	Encourage and enable waste minimization, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.	Waste
15	Increase use of integrated public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel in order to reduce road traffic congestion, pollution and accidents and improve health. Make efficient use of the existing road network and reduce dependence on the car.	Transport
16	Create high quality job opportunities and offer everyone the opportunity for rewarding and satisfying employment.	Employment
17	Encourage regeneration and economic growth to achieve sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all.	Economy
18	Promote investment in future prosperity and investment and engagement in learning and skills development.	Skills / Education
19	Encourage and support a culture of enterprise and innovation.	Enterprise and Innovation
20	Promote and support the development of new high value low impact technologies.	Technology

2.2 Baseline Data and Key Issues

2.2.1 Despite being originally developed in 2006, the objectives are still relevant. Baseline data and key issues have been revisited in the process of preparing this addendum document.

2.3 Proposed Modifications

2.3.1 The examination hearing sessions were held on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 January 2012. The Inspector, Mr Fox, proposed a number of main modifications to the ANLAAP DPD. These are changes he considers are necessary to make the plan sound.

2.3.2 **Appendix A** sets out the proposed changes to the plan. The changes are called Main Modifications. In total there are 23. **Table 2.1** provides a summary of each modification.

Table 2.1: Main modifications

	Subject	Nature of change
MM1	Relationship of the AAP to other plans and policies	Additional text to draw links to extant Unitary Development Plan and Core Strategy.
MM2	Environment and Open Space	Additional text referring to Unitary Development Plan.
MM3	Housing and Population (in Challenges and opportunities	Additional text referring to UDP.
MM4	Employment opportunities in the wider area (in A successful	Additional text highlighting links to Council's

	economy)	employment access programmes.
MM5	Policy SD1: Energy Consumption	Replacement of text referring to combined heat and power.
MM6	Policy SD2: Waste	Additional text to reflect EU Waste Framework Directive.
MM7	Policy T6: RIS Framework Travels Plans	Additional Supportive text relating to Census data and Travel demand assessments.
MM8	Policy R5: Delivering the RIS	Additional text relating to preparation of a Scheme of Management.
MM9	Policy R1: RIS land uses	Additional supportive text relating to supporting appropriate sale development.
MM10	Implementation and delivery section "a successful economy"	Minor text amendment.
MM11	Table 1: RIS Phasing	Minor text amendment.
MM12	Policy H1: New Housing	Addition of text relating to number of new homes.
MM13	Housing and Neighbourhood quality. New housing	Additional text outlining net increase number of housing.
MM14	Policy H3: Affordable Housing	Addition of text relating to developer subsidies drawing on information in the emerging Core Strategy.
MM15	Policy OS1: Green links	Addition of text relating to provision of open space and playing fields.
MM16	Hockley Brook Corridor	Additional text providing context to Hockey Brook.
MM17	Policy OS2A: Hockley Brook	Insert a new policy relating to the Hockley Brook.
MM18	Biodiversity and the Hockley Brook	Deletion of text relating to regeneration of Newtown Estate and Hockley Brook biodiversity.
MM19	Policy OS11: Managing flood risk	Addition of supportive text referring to surface water information and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
MM20	Table 4: Infrastructure requirements	Minor text addition referencing River Tame Strategy.
MM21	Policy OS11: Managing flood risk	Addition of text ensuring development does not take place until flood alleviation work is completed by the Environment Agency
MM22	Policy OS10: Biodiversity and Water Quality	Addition of text referring to the Humber River Basin management plan.
MM23	Biodiversity	Addition of text acknowledging that action for meeting Water Framework Directive requirement will be published in 2015.

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3 Appraisal Findings

3.1 Appraisal of Main Modifications

3.1.1 The following sections outline the implications of the main modifications in relation to sustainability. They have been appraised using the methodology and sustainability framework established through the SA Scoping Report (2006).

MM1

3.1.2 This modification concerns additional contextual information relating to relevant plans and policies. It does not amend any policy within the ANLAAP. This does not represent nor introduce any significant change to previous SA findings (SA Report, 2011).

MM2

3.1.3 This modification involves a minor addition of text referring to the Unitary Development Plan. This modification does not amend any policy within the ANLAAP. MM2 neither represents nor introduces any significant change from previous SA findings (SA Report, 2011).

MM3

3.1.4 This modification involves a minor addition of text referring to the Unitary Development Plan. This modification does not amend any policy within the ANLAAP. MM3 neither represents nor introduces any significant change from previous SA findings (SA Report, 2011).

MM4

3.1.5 This modification provides additional supportive information in relation to employment opportunity. This does not involve the amendment of any policy within the ANLAAP. MM4 does not represent nor introduces any significant changes to previous SA findings (SA Report, 2011).

MM5

3.1.6 This modification involves the amendment of Policy SD1: Energy Consumption. The modification replaces the first paragraph of the policy. The amended text removes the requirement for large scale residential developments and commercial developments to connect to combined heat and power, and smaller scale developments to connect to district heating schemes. The inserted text seeks to ensure all new residential and commercial development are encouraged to demonstrate adaptation to potential impacts of climate change. In addition the amended text uses combined heat and power generation as an example of a technology which can reduce energy consumption, and as such, technologies which reduce energy consumption will be supported.

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- 3.1.7 The Submission version of the ANLAAP found Policy SD1 had positive and neutral impacts when assessed against the SA framework. MM5 represents a positive change to Policy SD1. MM5 does not represent or introduce any significant changes from previous SA findings.

MM6

- 3.1.8 This modification adds additional text to Policy SD2: Waste management. The modification requires household recycling rates to achieve at least 50% by 2020 to reflect EU Waste Framework Directive aspirations.

- 3.1.9 The Submission SA Report assessed Policy SD2 as having neutral effects against the majority of SA objectives and having a strong positive relationship against SA objective fourteen (on waste). This modification is minor in nature but should be seen as a positive addition to ensure the plan reflects international policy integration. MM6 does not represent any significant change to previous SA findings.

MM7

- 3.1.10 This modification involves the addition of supportive text which proves contextual information relating to Policy T6: RIS Framework Travel Plan. The Submission SA Report showed that Policy T6 had positive and neutral impacts in relation to the SA objectives. The nature of the policy wording is contextual. MM7 does not introduce or represent any significant changes from previous SA findings.

MM8

- 3.1.11 This modification involves the addition of supportive text for the Aston Regional Investment Site (RIS) Policy R5: Delivering the RIS. The additional text requires developers to prepare a Scheme of Management which will ensure the Aston RIS is used for the purposes outlined in the RIS objectives.

- 3.1.12 The Submission SA Report (2011) showed Policy R5 had positive and neutral impacts in relation to the SA objectives. This modification is a positive addition to the policy as it seeks to ensure site objectives are met and monitored. This modification does not introduce or represent any significant change to previous SA findings.

MM9

- 3.1.13 This modification adds addition text quantifying the maximum size of small scale retail development floorspace in relations to Policy R1: RIS land uses. This represents a minor modification for clarity. It does not represent any significant change from previous SA findings.

MM10

- 3.1.14 This modification represents small scale wording amendments. It does not introduce or represent any significant changes from previous SA findings.

MM11

- 3.1.15 This modification amends labelling of development phases for Table 1 of RIS development sites. This represents minor changes for clarity purposes. It does not introduce or represent any significant changes from previous SA findings.

MM12

- 3.1.16 This modification inserts additional text at the start of Policy H1: New Housing. The inserted text includes a figure which outlines additional housing requirements. The addition offers clarity to support the gross number of houses required for the plan period. The addition reflects housing which has already been completed. This modification is a minor addition and does not represent or introduce any significant changes to previous SA findings.

MM13

- 3.1.17 This modification is similar to MM12. It relates to net housing requirements. The modification is a minor amendment to supportive text. It does not amend any policy. The MM13 does not represent or induce any significant changes from previous SA findings.

MM14

- 3.1.18 This modification inserts additional text into Policy H3: Affordable Housing. The additional text related to developer subsidies and links the policy to the emerging Core Strategy.
- 3.1.19 The Submission SA Report (2011) found the Policy H3 had positive and neutral impacts against the SA objectives. MM14 represents a minor amendment and does not introduce any significant change from previous SA findings.

MM15

- 3.1.20 This modification inserts additional text to support Policy OS1: Green links. The additional text outlines the aim to provide a minimum target for open space and playing fields. In addition it sets out a presumption against development on open space unless it can be demonstrated to be surplus to requirements.
- 3.1.21 This modification represents a positive addition to Policy OS1. It promotes a number of social and environmental benefits. It supports a number of SA objectives including SA objectives, two, six, nine, and ten.

MM16

- 3.1.22 This modification inserts a new paragraph which provides context and background information in relation to the Hockley brook. The modification itself does not amend or change any policy within the ANLAAP. However, it does provide the context for modification MM17. Modification MM16 does not present any significant changes to previous SA findings.

MM17

- 3.1.23 This modification represents a policy addition. It introduces Policy OS2A: Hockley Brook. This policy is linked to MM16, which provided contextual information in relation to the Hockley Brook. Policy OS2A, as a new policy, has not been assessed from a sustainability perspective in the Submission SA Report.
- 3.1.24 New Policy OS2A encourages improvements of the Hockley Brook and outlines a number of potential improvements. From a sustainability perspective Policy OS2A will support a number of SA objectives. It seeks improvements which will enhance the public realm through reducing flood risk, improving access and enhancing public amenity. It also supports environmental qualities by ensuring any enhancements are designed in such a way as to minimise impacts on existing habitats and wildlife, improve water quality, and enhance the Brook as a wildlife corridor.
- 3.1.25 MM17 represents a positive addition to the ANLAAP and performs well against SA objectives.

MM18

- 3.1.26 This modification represents deletion of text relating to opportunities for enhancement of the Hockley Brook. This modification does not amend or alter any policy within the ANLAAP. The deletion of text is offset by MM16 and MM17, which strengthen opportunities for the Hockley Brook.
- 3.1.27 This modification does not introduce or represent any significant change to previous SA findings.

MM19

- 3.1.28 This modification inserts additional text to support the overall aspiration and meaning of Policy OS11: Managing flood risk. The modification links the policy to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and local surface water information in relation to the River Tame and Hockley Brook. The modifications are supportive additions which aid in policy interpretation. They do not detract from policy aspirations.
- 3.1.29 The Submission SA Report (2011) found Policy OS11 to have positive and neutral impacts in relation to the SA objectives. MM19 does not represent or introduce any significant changes to previous SA findings.

MM20

- 3.1.30 This modification inserts reference to the River Tame Strategy in Table 4: Infrastructure requirements. The modification is minor in nature. It supports the rationale for water quality improvements and flood risk mitigation.
- 3.1.31 The modification does not introduce or represent any significant changes to previous SA findings.

MM21

- 3.1.32 This modification represents an addition to Policy OS11: managing flood risk. It proposes that development at Tame Road and Westwood Drive/Dulverton Road should not take place until River Tame flood risk alleviation works have been completed by the Environment Agency.
- 3.1.33 This addition improves the sustainability performance of the policy and is a positive addition. It supports flood risk reduction and will support promoting good quality of life.

MM22

- 3.1.34 This modification represents an addition to Policy OS10. The addition aligns the ANLAAP to Water Framework Directive requirements. It seeks to ensure all new developments support Humber River Basin Management Plan and Water Framework Directive objectives aimed at improving water quality. It outlines the Councils commitment to commit to water environment improvements where viable.
- 3.1.35 This modification is a positive enhancement to Policy OS10: Biodiversity and water quality. It draws strong links to improving the water environment and key water environment legislation. The Submission SA Report (2011) found Policy OS10 to have positive and neutral impacts in relation to SA objectives. This modification strengthens the policy.

MM23

- 3.1.36 This modification inserts additional supportive text to contextual information of the water environment. It seeks to highlight information relating to specific actions to meet Water framework Directive objectives will be published in 2015.
- 3.1.37 This modification does not amend or alter any policy within the ANLAAP. It does not represent or introduce any significant change from previous SA findings.

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4 Conclusions

4.1 Sustainability implications of modifications

4.1.1 This report assesses the sustainability implications of modifications for the ANLAAP. Modifications identified by the Planning Inspector have been termed Main Modifications, of which there were 23.

4.1.2 All modifications (see **Appendix A**) have been considered against the SA Framework. The assessment has not identified any adverse implications of any modifications. Positive effects are likely to arise. These have been identified in association with the following policy modifications:

- MM5- Policy SD1: Energy consumption;
- MM6- Policy SD2: Waste management;
- MM8- Policy R5: Delivering RIS;
- MM15- Policy OS1: Green links;
- MM16- Policy OS2A: Hockley Brook; and
- MM22- Policy OS10: Biodiversity and water quality.

4.1.3 The modifications do not introduce or represent any significant change from previous SA findings.

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Appendix A: Main Modifications

Proposed Main Modifications to Area Action Plan

The modifications below are expressed either in the conventional form of strikethrough for deletions and underlining for additions of text, or by specifying the modification in words in *italics*.

The page numbers and paragraph numbering below refer to the submission DPD, and do not take account of the deletion or addition of text.

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
MM1	14, Part 1	6.2	<i>Add to end of paragraph 6.2: <u>The plan makes reference to the extant Birmingham Unitary Development Plan where the UDP policies and proposals are still up to date and relevant to the Plan. In other cases, references are made to the emerging Core Strategy where these emerging policies and proposals are relevant to the AAP.</u></i>
MM2	54, Part 2	7.47	<i>Add to the beginning of the paragraph: <u>Paragraph 3.63 of the Unitary Development Plan and</u></i>
MM3	7, Part 1	8.1	<i>Add to the end of the paragraph: <u>This supersedes the older (2004) UDP housing target.</u></i>
MM4	29, Part 2	3.35	<i>Add to the end of the paragraph: <u>The AAP will seek to link employment opportunities created by The Hub to local people through the Council's established local employment access programmes.</u></i>
MM5	19, Part 2	Policy SD1	<i>Delete first paragraph and replace with: <u>New residential and commercial developments will be encouraged to reduce energy consumption and demonstrate that they have adapted to the potential impacts of climate change. Combined Heat and Power (CHP) generation is an example of the type of technology which can reduce energy consumption and the use of CHP and other technologies such as solar panels will be supported.</u></i>
MM6	19, Part 2	Policy SD2	<i>Add to policy: <u>Household waste recycling should seek to achieve a target of at least 50% by 2020 in accordance with the EU Waste Development Framework.</u></i>
MM7	44	Policy T6	<i>Add to policy: <u>The Framework Travel Plan will have regard to the latest Census derived modal split for the Birmingham area and will aim to maximise the potential for sustainable modal shift as set out in the Council's Travel Demand Assessment.</u></i>
MM8	24, Part 2	Policy R5	<i>Add to policy: <u>Any subsequent planning permission for the RIS will require the developer to prepare a Scheme of</u></i>

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
			<u>Management in consultation with the HCA and the Council. The scheme of management will ensure that the site is used for purposes that meet the RIS objectives of attracting high quality technology related investment to diversify the economy. It will set out the measures to be established to provide effective control of uses including the issue of controlling appropriate high quality B2 uses.</u>
MM9	23, Part 2	Policy R1	<i>Add text to paragraph 2 of policy as follows: Supporting uses such as conference facilities, small-scale retail <u>of no more than 2,000m² gross floorspace</u>, cafes, crèche, gym and hotel of an appropriate scale and ancillary to the main use of the site will be acceptable.</i>
MM10	24, Part 2	3.16	<i>Modify the paragraph as follows: The Development Framework for the RIS will be used to inform outline planning applications for the site and its <u>their</u> associated Section 106 Agreements that will tie the planning contributions to specific phases of development.</i>
MM11	25, Part 2	Table 1	<i>Amend table as follows: 1(a) 2012 -2015 Holte and PRIORITY 1 (b) 2012-2015 Serpentine; with corresponding changes to the Phasing Plan (Figure 3).</i>
MM12	36, Part 2	Policy H1	<i>Insert at start of policy: <u>Around 783 additional</u> (1,671 gross) new homes...</i>
MM13	54, Part 2	5.4	<i>Modify the paragraph as follows: The plan will contribute to housing growth and identifies sites <u>for a net increase of around 783 units</u> for new residential development which accords with the Core Strategy draft policy SP25 regarding the location of new housing.</i>
MM14	36, Part 2	Policy H3	<i>Add to the beginning of the second paragraph: <u>The level of developer subsidy will be established taking account of the percentages set out in the emerging Core Strategy and the types and sizes of the dwellings proposed.</u></i>
MM15	48, Part 2	Policy OS1	<i>Add to policy: <u>As a basic guide to the supply of open space in the plan area, the aim will be to provide a minimum target of 2 hectares of open space and 1.2 hectares of public or private playing fields per 1,000 population at the Constituency level. There is a presumption against development on open space unless it can be demonstrated that it is surplus to requirements.</u></i>
MM16	49, Part 2	7.17	<i>Add new paragraph (renumber all subsequent paragraphs): <u>Hockley Brook Corridor</u> <u>The Hockley Brook Corridor runs through the south of the plan area. It is almost entirely culverted through the AAP area from the Hockley flyover through to where it discharges into the River Tame at Cuckoo Bridge. In parts of the plan area the culvert is 8 metres deep, making deculverting unfeasible. There are, however, some open</u></i>

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
			<u>sections along the line. The Hockley Brook is identified in the Birmingham Brooks Report as currently suffering from environmental degradation and pollution and poor access. Improvements along the river corridor need to be encouraged, including flood risk management, improved access for maintenance, wildlife corridors and improved water quality.</u>
MM17	49, Part 2	Policy OS2A	<i>Add new policy:</i> Policy OS2A Hockley Brook <u>Opportunities for the improvement of the Hockley Brook will be encouraged, prohibiting building over the culvert, a 7 metre wide easement on either side, maintenance access at appropriate locations, creation of new riverside spaces, flood risk management, reducing surface water discharge to it, enhancing public amenity, improvement of water quality and its enhancement as a wildlife corridor. These shall be appropriately designed so as to minimise any impact on existing wildlife and habitats.</u>
MM18	52, Part 2	7.40	<i>Delete the following paragraph: There is an opportunity through the regeneration of Newtown Estate to open the brook in order to enhance the biodiversity and recreation value. Likewise</i>
MM19	54, Part 2	Policy OS11	<i>Modify the policy as follows: Site-specific flood risk assessment will be required when considering proposals to develop within the River Tame and Hockley Brook flood zones and in areas susceptible to surface water flooding <u>as defined by the locally agreed surface water information, including appropriate mitigation measures to address any issues identified and reductions in surface water discharge in line with the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be required for all developments including arrangements for the long term maintenance of the SUDS infrastructure.</u></i>
MM20	61, Part 3	Table 4	<i>Add to item 14: <u>and River Tame Strategy (policy OS11).</u></i>
MM21	54, Part 2	Policy OS11	<i>Add to policy: <u>No development of the Tame Road and Westwood Road/Dulverton Road sites should take place until the River Tame Flood Alleviation works are completed by the Environment Agency.</u></i>
MM22	53, Part 2	Policy OS10	<i>Add new paragraph after the first paragraph: <u>The plan will require developments within the plan area to meet the objectives of the Humber River Basin Management Plan and Water Framework Directive aimed at improving water quality across the region. These strategies set out the targets for water quality improvement impacting upon the plan area. The Council as a co-deliverer of the strategies</u></i>

Ref	Page	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
			<u>will seek to ensure that developments should cause no detriment to the overall classification of the Humber River Basin Management Plan Waterbody, explore options for water environment improvement and commit to them wherever viable in order to help bring all waterbodies up to the required standard by 2015.</u>
MM23	53, Part 2	7.41	<i>Add at end of first paragraph:</i> <u>Developers should be aware that details of the specific actions required to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Humber River Basin Management Plan will be published in 2015.</u>

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Sustainability Appraisal of the Aston, Newtown, and Lozells Area Action Plan

Post Adoption Statement

June 2012



LEPUS CONSULTING

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY, PLANNING AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability Appraisal of the Aston Area Action Plan

Post Adoption Statement

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Abbreviations

DPD	Development Plan Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement

1.1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement has been prepared for Birmingham City Council (BCC) as part of the sustainability appraisal (SA) of the Aston, Newtown, and Lozells Area Action Plan (referred to throughout this document as the ANLAAP). It represents the final stage of the SA process for the ANLAAP.

1.1.2 The SA Adoption Statement has been produced in compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 SI No. 2204 and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 SI No. 1633. The statement incorporates the requirement to produce an Adoption Statement as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

1.2 Background to the Area Action Plan

1.2.1 The AAP is a statutory land use plan that will provide a planning framework to guide regeneration and development in Aston, Newtown and Lozells over the next 15 years. Once adopted, the AAP will:

- Set out a vision for the area;
- Highlight the objectives which will deliver the vision;
- Set out policies and proposals to guide development in the area;
- Provide guidance on the implementation of the AAP proposals including phasing and funding;
- Show how the proposals for the area link to and build upon other strategies, plans; and guidance to help achieve wider regional and local objectives; and
- Act as a promotional tool for articulating the vision for the area.

1.2.2 It identifies areas for housing regeneration, new retail and commercial growth, and a proposal for a major employment area at East Aston – the Regional Investment Site.

1.2.3 The AAP area lies immediately north of Birmingham City Centre. Including the neighbourhoods of Birchfield, Lozells, Newtown, and Aston, the boundary of the AAP is as follows: New John Street West and Newton Middleway in the south; the Birmingham & Fazeley canal and the M6 in the east; Aldridge Road, the Grand Junction railway, the BCU campus and the One Stop Shopping Centre in the north; and Wood Lane and Hamstead Road in the west.

1.2.4 The AAP area is a mix of predominantly residential and industrial uses. Key features of the area include Aston Hall and Park, Aston Villa football ground, Aston Church, the One-Stop Shopping Centre and Birmingham City University main campus. The character of the area is also dominated by three major north-south highways – the A38(M) Aston Expressway, the A34 Birchfield Road, the A5127 Lichfield Road, as well as Spaghetti Junction. Three rail lines pass through the area including the Birmingham New Street to Lichfield line, the Birmingham New Street to Walsall line, and the link between the latter with the Birmingham New Street-Wolverhampton High Level line. Local rail stations include Perry Barr, Witton and Aston. The AAP area is also home to a number of waterways, namely the River Tame, Handsworth Brook, Hockley Brook, Hawthorn Brook, the Tame Valley Canal and the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal.

1.2.5 The key facts related to the ANLAAP are presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the ANLAAP

Name of Responsible Authority	Birmingham City Council
Title of AAP	Aston, Newtown and Lozells Area Action Plan (AAP)
What prompted the AAP (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The AAP is one of a suite of Development Plan Documents currently being prepared by Birmingham City Council as part of its Local Development Framework. The Birmingham Local Development Framework is being developed following the implementation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in 2004, which requires local authorities to replace their Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks. It will replace the Birmingham Unitary Development Plan 2005.
Subject (e.g. transport)	Land use plan.
Period covered by AAP	15 years from the date of its adoption.
Frequency of updates	Not specified.
Area covered by AAP	The 900 hectare AAP area lies immediately north of Birmingham City Centre and includes the neighbourhoods of Birchfield, Lozells, Newtown, Six Ways, Aston and Witton.

Purpose and/or objectives of AAP	The AAP is a land use plan with a focus on social, economic and environmental regeneration. The AAP aims to “ <i>set out a comprehensive and co-ordinated plan for shaping employment, housing, retail, community services, the environment and transport infrastructure</i> ” for the area and “ <i>provide the framework for future job creation and regeneration initiatives and a range of other social, environmental and physical benefits.</i> ”
Plan contact point	Colin Hall, Birmingham City Council. Telephone number: 0121 303 3959

1.3 Content of this SA Adoption Statement

1.3.1 SEA Regulations 16.3c)(iii) and 16.4 require that a ‘statement’ be made available to accompany the plan, as soon as possible after the adoption of the plan or programme.

1.3.2 The SEA Regulations highlight that the statement should contain the following information:

- The reasons for choosing the preferred strategy for the ANLAAP as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the ANLAAP;
- How consultation responses have been taken into account; and
- Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the ANLAAP.

1.3.3 The Town and Country Planning Regulations (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 36a)(ii) similarly require that a SA Statement be produced at Adoption. This serves a very similar purpose to the SEA Adoption Statement. This document, the Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement therefore refers to both processes and addresses the requirements of both.

1.3.4 This combined approach is reflected by the Planning Advisory Service Guidance on SA (PAS, 2009), which states that the SA Adoption Statement should incorporate:

- Sustainability considerations - how these have been integrated into the development plan document;
- Options and consultation responses - how any received on the development plan document and sustainability appraisal reports (at all stages) have been taken into account;
- Reasons for of the choice of alternatives in light of other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- A programme for monitoring sustainability effects - measures to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability effects of implementing the development plan document.

- 1.3.5 In this context, the purpose of the SA Adoption Statement is to outline how the SA process has influenced and informed the ANLAAP development process and demonstrate how consultation on the SA has been taken into account.
- 1.3.6 **Chapter 2** of this SA Adoption Statement summarises how the SA has informed and influenced the ANLAAP, including in light of the other alternatives dealt with. **Chapter 3** highlights how sustainability considerations (including environmental considerations) have been integrated into the ANLAAP. **Chapter 4** discusses how consultation has been carried out and taken into account by the SA. The final chapter, **Chapter 5** sets out the proposed monitoring regime for the SA, which it is proposed will be carried out alongside monitoring for the BCC LDF.

2 How the Sustainability Appraisal has informed the Area Action Plan

2.1 The SA process and the Area Action Plan

2.1.1 The main aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan making process to maximise the ANLAAP's sustainability value. In this context the SA process has fed into the ANLAAP through providing information at each stage of its development process.

2.1.2 **Table 2.1** highlights the main outputs of the SA process in conjunction with those of the ANLAAP. A more detailed description of how the respective stages of the ANLAAP and SA have interlinked is presented in **Sections 2.2 to 2.6**.

Table 2.1: ANLAAP SA Process

Stage of the ANLAAP	Stage of the SA process
Initial evidence gathering for the ANLAAP	SA Scoping Report (September 2006)
<i>AAP Issues and Options (2007-8)</i>	Options SA Report (September 2008)
Preferred Options AAP (September 2009)	Preferred Options SA Report (September 2009)
Publication of the AAP (February 2011)	SA Report to accompany the Publication version of the AAP
Submission of the AAP (August 2011)	Submission SA Report (August 2011)
Post Examination Changes (January 2012)	Post Examination SA Report (June 2012)

2.2 Scoping

2.2.1 The purpose of the Scoping Report was to set the criteria for assessment (including the SA objectives), and establish the baseline data and other information, including a review of relevant policies, programmes and plans. The scoping process involved an overview of key issues, highlighting areas of potential conflict.

2.2.2 The Scoping Report covered the early stages of the SA Process and included information about:

- Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;
- Collecting baseline information;
- Identifying sustainability issues and problems; and
- Developing the SA Framework.

2.2.3 The Scoping Report for the AAP was first published in November 2005, but consultation with stakeholders on the proposed AAP revealed a need to change the boundaries of the study area. A second Scoping Report was then produced in September 2006 and consultees were given five weeks within which to respond.

2.2.4 Responses were received from ten consultees. Following the receipt of responses, the SA information, including the baseline and policy and plan review, was updated

2.3 Issues and Options and assessment of alternatives

2.3.1 In 2007 Birmingham City Council released the Aston, Newtown and Lozells AAP Issues and Options Report for consultation to a range of stakeholders. As the main consultation document for the Issues and Options phase of the development of the AAP, the report aimed to: summarise the issues identified by the baseline studies; summarise the issues and priorities emerging from public consultation to date; propose options for development; and generate discussion about the Issues and Options.

2.3.2 As part of this process four strategic options for development were proposed for the AAP area. Based on varying scales of transformation, these were intended to facilitate discussion related to the development of the area, and inform the development of a Preferred Option for the AAP.

2.3.3 The strategic options for development proposed by the Issues and Options Report were as follows:

- Option 1: Do Minimum – This option proposed little change to the current situation and planning position. It involved implementing current site-specific UDP policies, developing approved housing clearance areas and encouraging the development of individual development sites. This is a laissez-faire approach based on minimal public sector involvement.
- Option 2: Little Change – This option focused on key opportunity sites (for residential, industrial and mixed uses) and built on Option 1, by introducing further change and new concepts. This included regeneration of the poorest housing stock; the creation of two 'gateways' into the city; minor environmental improvements to existing local shopping centres; and the development of two further sites.
- Option 3: Substantial Change – This option identified a far more significant change than Option 2 and was based on transformation through key intervention areas and revitalisation. It built on some aspects of Option 2 and included: further housing regeneration; the introduction of Urban Boulevards along the A34 corridor and Lichfield Road; more extensive improvements to local shopping centres; designation of an Industrial Regeneration Area and a Regional Investment Site; and additional development for residential/leisure/industrial/employment uses.
- Option 4: Major Change – This option built on that of Option 3 but introduced further land-use change and land swaps between industrial and housing land.

This was the most radical option and would result in a substantially increased amount of new housing being developed. As well as designation of a Regional Investment Site and proposals for comprehensive mixed-use developments, more far-reaching public realm improvements to centres were also proposed.

- 2.3.4 These four strategic options for development represented the “reasonable alternatives” as described by the SEA Directive.
- 2.3.5 Of the four strategic options for development, in terms of sustainability performance, Options 3 and 4 were found to bring the largest number of sustainability benefits. Whilst Option 4 was deemed to bring further reaching social benefits than Option 3, Option 3 was seen to have significantly less impact on existing businesses and jobs.
- 2.3.6 The assessment of the strategic options for development also identified a number of key sustainability issues which arose across the breadth of the assessment for all four options. These included related to green infrastructure and open space, the historic environment, the quality of the built environment, provision of new services and amenities and climate change mitigation and adaptation (including the effects of flooding). The assessment highlighted that these were key sustainability challenges which would require careful consideration as the Preferred Option was prepared.

2.4 Preferred Option

- 2.4.1 In November 2008, an early version of the Preferred Options Report was assessed by the SA team, utilising the methodologies set out below. The purpose of this assessment was to help highlight the potential sustainability strengths and weaknesses of the Preferred Options at an early stage of development and to provide an opportunity to discuss potential sustainability issues. This process was designed to help ensure that the sustainability performance of the emergent Preferred Options would be maximised.
- 2.4.2 Following this the Preferred Options for the AAP were developed utilising the responses received during the Issues and Options consultation, further technical studies, consideration of local initiatives and, as described above, the SA process. The Preferred Options Report was released for public consultation between September and November 2009.
- 2.4.3 The Preferred Options Report (September 2009) included a set of proposals for eight neighbourhood sub-areas within the AAP area and a series of more detailed site specific proposals. These were accompanied by a set of Development Principles which were designed to provide an overall guide to development within the AAP area.

2.4.4 These proposals were assessed as part of the next stage of the SA process. The findings of the appraisal were presented in a Preferred Options SA Report, which accompanied the Preferred Options Report for consultation, and included a set of recommendations for improving the sustainability performance of the plan

2.5 Publication version of the Area Action Plan

2.5.1 The Publication version of the AAP was released for stakeholders' comments in February 2011. The development of the Publication version of the AAP was informed and influenced by the assessment of alternative options and appraisal of the policies and spatial proposals included in preliminary versions of AAP, including the Preferred Options Report released for consultation in September 2009.

2.5.2 The Publication version of the AAP was accompanied by an SA Report (UE Associates, November 2010). The SA Report presented the findings of the appraisal the stages carried out to date for the SA process and an assessment of the policies included in the Publication version of the AAP.

2.6 Submission version of the Area Action Plan

2.6.1 Following consultation on the Publication version of the AAP, this was updated and submitted to the Secretary of State in late 2011. This was accompanied by an SA Report (August, 2011).

2.6.2 The following recommendations were made by the Submission version SA Report (2011):

- Junction improvements in the AAP area should seek to incorporate sustainable transport use within scheme design through measures such as bus priority, bus lanes, red routes, and the incorporation of safe and secure walking and cycling routes;
- Low noise surfacing and appropriate landscaping should be introduced to reduce impacts on noise quality from additional traffic produced by the proposals, including the RIS;
- Development should fully utilise detailed historic characterisation work where it has been carried out locally and seek to rejuvenate Buildings at Risk present in the AAP area; and

2.7 Examination and Adoption

2.7.1 The ANLAAP was subject to independent examination in January 2012. The Inspector made a series of modifications which were considered necessary in order to ensure the ANLAAP was sound. These modifications were subject to SA to ensure that modifications presented no adverse effects. The SA of modifications found they did not introduce or represent significant changes from previous SA findings presented at Submission stage.

2.7.2 BCC are presently preparing to adopt the ANLAAP in July 2012.

2.8 Accessing the documents linked to the Area Action Plan and SA process

2.8.1 All documents and background information associated with the ANLAAP, including those linked to the SA process, can be accessed on the BCC website at.

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3 How sustainability considerations have been taken into account

3.1 Sustainability considerations and the Area Action Plan

- 3.1.1 As discussed in Chapter 2, the SA process has informed and influenced the ANLAAP throughout its development process. The SA process therefore highlighted at different stages the sustainability issues which had the potential to arise as a result of the implementation of earlier and later versions of the ANLAAP policies and proposals.
- 3.1.2 The ANLAAP has addressed many of these potential sustainability issues through taking into account of the findings of the SA process. In this context most minor impacts relating to specific or groups of policies and proposals have been addressed by other components of the ANLAAP. Where this has taken place, this has been noted in the analysis undertaken during the SA.
- 3.1.3 Besides the various SA Reports that were prepared as part of the SA process, the SA team attended regular project meetings. This served to keep abreast of proposals and provide direct input to the plan making process.

3.2 Enhancing the Area Action Plan

- 3.2.1 The Submission version of the AAP has addressed most of the issues highlighted by the assessment of the AAP previously carried out at the Preferred Options and Publication stages. These included:
- Potential loss of open space provision in the AAP area due to transformational change;
 - An underutilisation of the opportunities afforded by the river corridors in the AAP area, including notably the River Tame corridor;
 - Issues linked to a potential under-provision of sustainable waste management facilities in the AAP area;
 - The need to link green infrastructure improvements in the AAP area with the city-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy currently being developed for Birmingham;
 - Further opportunities to promote and enhance biodiversity networks in the AAP area; and
 - Issues related to flood risk.
- 3.2.2 Linked to this, the Submission version of the AAP also sought to address the comments received from stakeholders on the Publication version of the AAP, including linked to climate change adaptation, green infrastructure provision, flood risk management, public transport provision and sports and leisure facilities.

3.2.3 In this context the sustainability value of the AAP has been further improved through the ongoing development of the plan since 2009. This is reflected by the findings of the Submission SA Report, which has highlighted fewer issues than raised by the SA process at earlier stages of development for the AAP.

3.2.4 The Submission SA Report made the following recommendations:

- Junction improvements in the AAP area should seek to incorporate sustainable transport use within scheme design through measures such as bus priority, bus lanes, red routes, and the incorporation of safe and secure walking and cycling routes;
- Low noise surfacing and appropriate landscaping should be introduced to reduce impacts on noise quality from additional traffic produced by the proposals, including the RIS;
- Development should fully utilise detailed historic characterisation work where it has been carried out locally and seek to rejuvenate Buildings at Risk present in the AAP area; and
- There is potential for the carbon footprint of the AAP area to be established. This will help monitor greenhouse gas emission trends in the area and help target key sectors where emission reductions can be achieved.

4 How consultation on the SA has been taken into account

4.1 Consultation on the SA

4.1.1 The SEA Directive requires responses to consultation to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to a legislative procedure.

4.1.2 Consultation has been an integral part of the SA of the ANLAAP. In addition to enabling the opinions of the statutory environmental bodies and other stakeholders to be taken into account, it has provided an opportunity for the public to be informed as to how decisions are made

4.2 Consultation on the Scoping Report

4.2.1 The Scoping Report was produced in September 2006 and consultees were given five weeks within which to respond.

4.2.2 Consultee responses on the Scoping Report were received from:

- Centro;
- Countryside Agency;
- English Heritage;
- Environment Agency;
- Government Office for the West Midlands;
- Heart of Birmingham Teaching NHS Primary Care Trust;
- Highways Agency;
- Inland Waterways Association;
- Birmingham City Council – Economic Strategy Team; and
- Birmingham City Council – Environmental Team.

4.2.3 Appendix B of the Submission SA Report summarises the comments raised during the scoping consultation and details how they have been taken into account through the subsequent SA process for the AAP.

4.3 Consultation during subsequent stages of the SA

4.3.1 As described in Chapter 2 there were two main further SA outputs linked to the SA process following the Scoping Report. Each of these documents was released for consultation alongside the relevant parts the ANLAAP. The documents, and the period in which they underwent consultation are as follows:

- ANLAAP Preferred Options SA Report (consultation ran for 7 weeks from 21st September to the 6th November 2009);

- ANLAAP Publication SA Report (consultation ran between 21st February 2011 to the 1st April 2011); and
- ANLAAP Submission SA Report (consultation ran between July and August 2011).

4.3.2 Consultation responses received on the two SA Reports were taken into account and addressed through the ongoing development of the SA process. Likewise, consultation responses received on the ANL documents were considered by the SA.

5 Monitoring

5.1 Monitoring

- 5.1.1 The SEA Directive states that 'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes....in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report (or SA Report) should provide information on a 'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring' (Annex I (i)).
- 5.1.2 The monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process are recognised as placing heavy demands on authorities with SA responsibilities. For this reason, the proposed monitoring framework should focus on those aspects of the environment that are likely to be negatively impacted upon, where the impact is uncertain or where particular opportunities for improvement might arise.
- 5.1.3 **Table 5.1** outlines proposals for a monitoring programme for measuring the ANLAAP's implementation in relation to the areas where the SA has identified potential significant effects, and where significant opportunities for an improvement in sustainability performance may arise. It also seeks to monitor where uncertainties relating to the appraisal findings arose and suggests where monitoring is required to help ensure that the benefits of the ANLAAP are achieved through the forward planning process.
- 5.1.4 Monitoring is particularly useful in answering the following questions:
- Were the assessment's predictions of environmental effects accurate?
 - Is the ANLAAP contributing to the achievement of desired sustainability objectives?
 - Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
 - Are there any unforeseen adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action required?
- 5.1.5 The purpose of monitoring is to measure the sustainability effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the plan's objectives. It is therefore beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. To this end, many of the indicators of progress chosen for the SA require data that is already being routinely collected at a local level by the BCC and their partner organisations. It should also be noted that monitoring can provide useful information for future plans and programmes.

Table 5.1: SA monitoring programme for the AAP

Potential negative effect or area to monitor	Indicator	Data Source	Frequency of monitoring and scale	Trigger	Links to Baseline
Stimulation of traffic growth from new development areas and regeneration in the AAP.	Traffic flows on key routes	BCC and partners	Annually, on key routes	When flows increase year on year	Transport
Impacts of new development within the AAP (such as the RIS) on air quality.	No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for NO ₂	BCC and partners	Annually, on key routes	When number of days exceeds year on year	Air quality
Increases in greenhouse gas emissions stimulated by new development and regeneration within the AAP area.	Carbon footprint of AAP area	BCC and partners	Annually, AAP wide	When emissions increase year on year	Climate change
Improvement of green infrastructure provision in the AAP area.	Area of open space created or enhanced in the AAP area.	BCC and partners	Annually, AAP wide	When area reduces year on year	Quality of life, open space

5.2 Links with the Annual Monitoring Report

5.2.1 The SA guidance suggests that SA monitoring and reporting activities can be integrated into the regular planning cycle. As part of the monitoring process for their Local Development Framework, the BCC will be required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report. It is anticipated that elements of the SA monitoring programme for the emerging Core Strategy will be incorporated into these processes.

- 5.2.2 The monitoring programme may evolve over time based on the identification of alternative indicators, additional data sources (as in some cases information will be provided by outside bodies) and the collection of new information, including from the National Indicator set. In this context the indicators presented in **Table 5.1** may be revised by the SMBC to improve alignment with existing monitoring arrangements or data sources or to monitor the potential significant effects or area to be monitored in a more effective way
- 5.2.3 Due to the AAP coming forward prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy, it is the Council's intention to review the monitoring framework as soon as the Core Strategy is adopted.

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References

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 1633

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 2204

Department for Communities and Local Government (September 2009): CLG Plan Making Manual: Sustainability Appraisal



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