



# HILLINGDON

LONDON

## HILLINGDON LOCAL PLAN PART 2

Adopted 16 January 2020

### SA/SEA ADOPTION STATEMENT - Published March 2020

#### Introduction

This statement has been prepared in compliance with the post adoption procedures of the Sustainability appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) processes as set out in Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

In accordance with European and national legislation, development plans must be subject to the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) processes. A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) aims to predict and assess the economic, social and environmental effects that are likely to arise from implementing development plans.

The London Borough of Hillingdon fulfilled the requirement of the SA and SEA processes by undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal and preparing a report at appropriate stages in the preparation of the Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2). The Sustainability Appraisal Report outlines the likely significant effects of the LPP2 (and alternative options) against identified sustainability objectives and sets out mitigation measures for any negative impacts identified.

#### Local Plan Part 2 Adoption

The London Borough of Hillingdon adopted its Local Plan Part 2 on 16 January 2020. The LPP2, adoption statement and the Sustainability Appraisal Report can be viewed free of charge on the planning policy pages of the Council's website or at the Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW during normal office hours.

#### The SA Adoption Statement

Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations sets out the post-adoption procedures with respect to SEA, and requires that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/ SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public and statutory consultation bodies of the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England.

In addition, Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations (2012) sets out a need to publish the SA Report alongside the adopted Local Plan.

In the context of the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this SA Adoption Statement for the LPP2 must explain:

- A. How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the Local Plan;
- B. How the SA Report has been taken into account during the preparation of the plan;
- C. The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- D. How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and SA Report have been taken into account; and
- E. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant effects identified for the Local Plan.

**A. How the SA process has informed and influenced the development of the Local Plan**

The sustainability appraisal process has informed and influenced the Hillingdon Local Plan Part 2 throughout its development. The LPP2 represents the detailed framework for implementing the vision and objectives in the Local Plan Part 1 which was also subject to a sustainability appraisal. It is important to note that the application of the Sustainability Appraisal process to the LPP2 is constrained by the overarching objectives of the Local Plan Part 1 to ensure consistency. Table 1 below sets out the sustainability appraisal process for both Parts 1 and Part 2 of the Local Plan.

**TABLE 1: Local Plan and SA Stages/ Documents**

Local Plan	Stage/ Document	Date
Local Plan Part 1	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	November 2004
Local Plan Part 1	Sustainability Appraisal of Preferred Options	October 2005
Local Plan Part 1	Sustainability Appraisal of Revised Core Strategy Preferred Options	January 2007
Sustainability Appraisal Review and Update of Baseline		

Local Plan Part 1	Sustainability Appraisal of Core Strategy Consultation Draft	June 2010
Local Plan Part 1	Sustainability Appraisal Update	January 2011
Sustainability Appraisal Review and Update of Baseline		
Local Plan Part 1 - Submission Version	Sustainability Appraisal Submission Document	July 2011
Sustainability Appraisal Review and Update of Baseline		
Local Plan Part 2 - Proposed Submission Version	Sustainability Appraisal – Proposed Submission Version	June 2014
Sustainability Appraisal Review and Update of Baseline		
Local Plan Part 2 - Regulation 18 Consultation		December 2012
Local Plan Part 2 - Proposed Submission Version	Sustainability Appraisal Report	September 2014
Local Plan Part 2 - Revised Proposed Submission Version	Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal – Revised Proposed Submission Version	October 2015
Local Plan Part 2 - Main Modifications	Further Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal - Main Modifications	March 2019

The need to keep consistency with the Local Plan Part 1 meant that the sustainability appraisal became a 'living document'. Its scope and composition has been kept under review through each formal consultation. Taking this approach to the application of the sustainability framework has allowed for the Council to be consistent throughout the whole plan process.

The original framework was developed following lengthy consultation which set the broad framework agenda. The concept of sustainability has not altered fundamentally and the framework has remained largely as first envisaged. However, during the review process objectives relating to climate change were added. The primary difference though is how the SA framework has been applied to each stage of the development of the Plan. Whilst the framework has remained relatively unchanged, its application is informed by relevant plans and programmes which have been kept under review. This means the sustainability appraisal has reflected the most current principles and objectives for sustainable development at the time of consultation.

As demonstrated in Table 1, the SA process has been carried out iteratively and informed the development of the Local Plan at each key stage. The SA primarily influenced the Plan through the appraisal of the emerging draft policies.

## **B. How the SA report has been taken into account**

### **Local Plan Part 2 - Proposed Submission Version Stage (Sept 2014)**

The draft policies scored well against the sustainability objectives. The emerging Plan was considered to largely reflect other plans and programmes and also the baseline position set out in the report and objectives described in Part 1 of the Local Plan.

The appraisal did find that there are three policies that required changes to ensure they were consistent with other plans or programmes or the wider national planning framework. In addition, there are a series of advisory comments to strengthen the policies to reflect better against sustainability objectives. The draft policies were amended to reflect these recommendations

### **Local Plan Part 2 - Revised Proposed Submission Version (October 2015)**

This Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal of the LPP2 was prepared to consider any additional sustainability effects resulting from the changes made to the proposed policies, any new policies that have been included as well as cumulative impacts. It was not a standalone document and should be read in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan Part 2 Proposed Submission Version Report (September 2014). In addition, where necessary, the Addendum updated the existing baseline and relevant plans policies and programmes.

The appraisal found that none of the amended policies required changes to ensure they are consistent with other plans or programmes or the wider national planning framework. However, there were a number of the advisory comments from the previous appraisal were carried forward into this report.

### **Local Plan Part 2 - Main Modifications to the Revised Proposed Submission Version (March 2019)**

The Further Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken to assess the main modifications proposed during the examination of the LPP2. The re-assessment of those

proposed modifications which were screened as having potential impacts on the sustainability effects of the Plan, identified that on balance that effects of the changes on the SA framework were largely positive and no significant negative effects were identified.

### **Examination and Inspector's Report**

In assessing the LPP2 the Inspector's Report noted:

*'Generally, there is broad local support for the HLPP2's vision and objectives, which are based on an understanding of community needs and aspirations gained through extensive public consultation and engagement. This is explored in the HLPP2 Consultation Reports (April/May 2013 and May 2018) which alongside the Sustainability Appraisals (2014 and October 2015) demonstrate how the Council has reached its preferred options for the vision and aims of the plan.'*

In relation to post hearing modifications, the report states:

*'Following the examination hearings, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed MMs and carried out sustainability appraisal of them. The MM schedule was subject to public consultation for six weeks. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report.'*

### **C. Reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with**

The LPP2 provides the detailed framework for implementing the vision and objectives set out in the adopted Local Plan Part 1 which had been subject to its own sustainability appraisal process. Consequently this placed constraints on the alternatives available for consideration as part of the preparation of this Plan. However, alternatives were still explored through the appraisal process and advisory comments in the SA Report set out where it may be appropriate to consider alternative options or approaches. The Addendum to the Sustainability Appraisal following the formulation of the main modifications identifies where the policies were amended to take account of these advisory comments.

### **D. How opinions expressed as a result of consultation have been taken into account**

The Council's approach to consultation on the SA process was to publish SA Reports as part of the plan making process to allow stakeholders and statutory consultees the opportunity to comment and shape the iterative SA process. The Council undertook extensive consultation with all stakeholders, including the statutory environmental consultees.

A small number of responses relating to each of the SA reports were received at each stage of plan making and these were set out in the relevant Consultation Statements along with the Council response explaining how the comment had been taken into account in the development of the Plan.

**E. Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme**

Appendix 3 of the 2014 Sustainability Report sets out the monitoring framework for the significant effects of the Plan. These will be monitored through the annual Authority Monitoring Report.