

**West Wiltshire District Council
Leisure and Recreation Development Plan Document**

Sustainability Appraisal: Update September 2008

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Following the public hearing sessions of the Public Examination into the Leisure and Recreation DPD, and especially in response to the Inspector's questions and suggestions, the Council now proposes that changes are made to the submitted draft of the DPD. These changes are reported separately.
- 1.2 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), was conducted on the DPD process for the Council by the consultants C4S (Centre for Sustainability). The SA process assessed all the options which were under consideration for inclusion in the DPD, as well as the final policies included in the submission draft document. A detailed SA Report was published alongside the submission draft of the DPD in October 2007.
- 1.3 However, as the proposed changes to the submitted draft DPD include amendments to some of the policy wording, an amendment to the SA is also required. This document identifies all the policies where proposed changes have been made to the submitted draft DPD and comments on whether these changes affect the existing SA. Where the proposed changes are thought to influence the findings of the SA, new SA assessments have also been outlined.
- 1.4 The SA assessment process undertaken here is consistent with the work already completed, which is in turn compliant with both SA and SEA guidance (ODPM, 2005).
- 1.5 The SA process conducted into the DPD identified 17 SA objectives and these form the primary method for testing the sustainability of options or policies. These objectives are:
 1. improve the health and well being of the people of Wiltshire;
 2. increase the number of people who are regularly physically active;
 3. provide recreational facilities which feel safe;
 4. determine local standards for sport and recreation facilities in the district and develop recreational facilities to meet local needs;
 5. improve access by public transport to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies;
 6. improve access to leisure services across public sector and partner agencies;
 7. ensure that scope for the protection and enhancement of wildlife is built into outdoor recreation/ leisure facilities;

8. maximise the efficient use of existing recreational facilities; identify underused facilities;
9. provide well designed recreational/ leisure facilities which are appropriate in scale and appearance for their locality;
10. ensure recreation/ leisure facilities reflect valued local distinctiveness and facilitate access to open space/ countryside;
11. use leisure facilities to help reduce flood risk;
12. use renewable energy wherever possible in recreation/ leisure facilities;
13. reduce the amount of water used in council leisure facilities;
14. use recycled aggregates in the construction and maintenance of recreation/ leisure facilities wherever possible;
15. increase the percentage of waste recycled or composted (Corporate plan) in the leisure and recreation industry;
16. reduce the proportion of waste by using recycled products wherever possible; and
17. contribute positively to AQMAs in Bradford on Avon and Westbury.

2.0 Review of DPD policies subject to proposed changes

2.1 The following section lists those policies where proposed changes have been made from those contained within the Submission Draft DPD. Consequently, policies not listed here are not subject to proposed changes.

LP1

2.2 Minor textural changes are made which improve the clarity of the policy wording. The new policy wording does not affect the existing SA.

LP2

2.3 Textural changes are made to this policy to improve clarity. The addition of a new policy criterion warrants the reassessment of this policy through the SA assessment process (Table 1). Only one change has however been made to the SA assessment findings. The addition of a specific criterion ensuring that any loss of space is not significant in terms of nature conservation, strengthens the policy wording, and has therefore been recorded more positively by the SA assessment. The changes to the SA assessment are therefore minor and positive; improving the sustainability assessment of this policy.

LP3

2.4 Minor textural changes are made to this policy which improves clarity of the wording. These changes do not affect the existing SA Findings. The replacement of Melksham, for Westbury, in the final paragraph of this policy was to correct a typographical error identified in the original version of the DPD. Melksham was however correctly included in the original SA.

LP4

2.5 As for LP1.

LP5

- 2.6 As for LP1.

OS2

- 2.7 One of the four sites listed under Policy OS2 for provision of future grass pitch provision has been changed; the site at Lafarge has been replaced with land at Leigh Park. The Leigh Park site was however considered through the original SA process. The SA Findings for Leigh Park are included within Table 1.

CR1

- 2.8 As for LP1

IS1

- 2.9 As Policy IS1 has been re-written the new policy has been reassessed through the SA assessment process (Table 1). The criteria within the new Policy IS1 have been assessed separately as for the original SA undertaken.

- 2.10 The first criterion should ensure that the best package of facilities is made available to the community, thus improving accessibility, patronage and general health. The SA findings for this criterion are therefore positive overall.

- 2.11 The second criterion in the original version of the DPD included a specific location for the Castle Place Leisure Centre to be moved to. This has now been replaced with the requirement for a new location to be identified which is more sustainable and accessible. Overall therefore the SA assessment findings are similar to the original as it is assumed that the new, more sustainable and accessible location would have positive effects, for example on improving health and well being (objective 1) or on increasing physical activity (objective 2). However, objectives 5 and 6, which relate to accessibility, have more positive outcomes as the new policy wording specifically requires the new location to be more accessible.

- 2.12 The original criterion 3 considered all eight Council owned leisure centres, including Bradford on Avon Pool, Trowbridge Sports Centre and Warminster Sports Centre. As these three centres are included in the new policy there is no overall change to the SA assessment findings.

YP1

- 3.0 This policy has also been re-written and so the new policy has been re-tested through the SA assessment process (Table 1). Overall, however, there are few changes to the SA assessment findings. A more positive response is recorded for objective 3, safe recreational facilities, as a requirement for play areas to contribute towards the

creation of safer communities has now been added to the policy wording.

WR1

- 3.1 A number of changes are made to the policy wording and the policy has been reassessed through the SA assessment process (Table 1). However, despite the degree of alterations to the policy wording, the extent these affect the SA assessment is limited. The possible provision of alternative sailing lakes does present an opportunity to reduce flood risk, objective 11. The objective is still however recorded by the assessment as 'uncertain' as no new proposals for sailing lakes are currently proposed. Overall the sustainability of this policy is therefore unaffected by the changes to the policy wording.

WR4

- 3.2 Although textural changes are made to this policy to improve the clarity of the policy wording, the changes do alter the line of the canal which will be protected by the policy. For this reason the policy has been reassessed through the SA assessment process (Table 1). Overall, however, the sustainability of this policy has not changed. The uncertainty of any effects from possible development on the canal on protecting and enhancing wildlife is once again highlighted. It is possible that the creation and management of wildlife habitats in conjunction with such work could have a positive effect. The nature of this effect could only be determined when specific applications are put forward.

Table 1. Sustainability Appraisal Findings: Update September 2008.

SA/SEA Objective (abridged)	1. Improved health and wellbeing	2. Increased physical activity	3. Safe recreational facilities	4. Local facilities for local needs	5. Accessibility by public transport	6. Accessibility by foot and cycles	7. Protect and enhance wildlife	8. Optimise use of facilities	9. Good quality designed facilities	10. Facilities in keeping with surroundings	11. Reduction of flood risk	12. Use of renewable energy	13. Reduced water use	14. Recycled aggregate use	15. Increase waste recycling	16. Use recycled products	17. Contribute to AQMA
LP2: Proposals that involve the loss of open space or sport & recreation provision																	
New Policy LP2	?	√	?	√	?	?	√	√	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?
OS2: New grass pitch provision																	
New Option C: Land at Leigh Park	√√	√√	-	√√	?	?	X	√√	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-
IS1: Indoor leisure centres																	
New Criterion 1	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Criterion 2	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	√	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	-
New Criterion 3	√	√	√	?	?	?	?	√	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
YP1: Children's play areas																	
New Policy YP1	?	?	√√	?	?	?	?	√	√	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?
WR1: Sailing lakes																	
New Policy WR1	√	√	-	?	?	?	?	?	-	?	?	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR4: Wilts and Berks Canal																	
New Policy Wr4	√√	√√	-	√	-	√√	?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Key to appraisal scores			
√√	Very sustainable	?	Uncertain
√	Sustainable	x	Unsustainable
-	Neutral	xx	Very Unsustainable

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Changes to the policy wording for selected policies within the Submission Draft DPD have been made. These policies have therefore been reassessed through the SA assessment process. This assessment has been conducted following consistent methodology with the original SA undertaken into the DPD.

- 3.2 Overall, very few amendments have been made to the SA findings. These changes are, however, all positive, thus indicating that the policy changes have improved the overall sustainability of the DPD.