
Bath & North East Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

**Bath and North East Somerset
Pre-submission Draft Local Plan Partial (LPPU) Update**

**Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report
Non-Technical Summary**

**Date
August 2021**



1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Sustainability Appraisal Report: Non-Technical Summary relates to the Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES) Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) Pre-submission Draft (August 2021).
- 1.2. The Development Plan in B&NES primarily comprises the Core Strategy (adopted in 2014) and the Placemaking Plan (adopted in 2017), both of which cover a plan period from 2011 to 2029. A full review of the Local Plan will be undertaken alongside the West of England Combined Authority Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) which is scheduled for publication in 2023. Therefore, in the interim, B&NES is undertaking a Partial Update of the Local Plan to address a number of urgent issues. In summary the key proposed elements or scope of the partial update are set out below and Table 3 provides a summary of new and revised policies.
 - Updating policies in order that they better address the climate and ecological emergency
 - Replenish housing supply in order that the Core Strategy housing requirement can be met and the necessary supply of housing land is maintained
 - Addressing a limited range of other urgent local issues e.g. related to the 'green recovery'
 - Amending policies for clarity and to ensure they are aligned with current national policy
- 1.3. The LPPU is subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA), which assesses the likely effects of a plan on social, economic, and environmental issues using the SA Objectives below.

Table 1 B&NES SA Objectives

SA Objectives	
Objective 1	Improve the health and well-being of all communities, and reduce health inequalities
Objective 2	Meet identified needs for sufficient, high quality housing including affordable housing
Objective 3	Promote stronger more vibrant and cohesive communities and reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime
Objective 4	Build a strong, competitive economy and enable local businesses to prosper
Objective 5	Ensure everyone has access to high quality and affordable public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure
Objective 6	Protect and enhance local environmental distinctiveness and the character and appearance of landscape
Objective 7	Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage/cultural assets and their settings
Objective 8	Conserve, enhance and restore the condition and extent of Biodiversity in the district and geodiversity (taking account of climate change)
Objective 9	Reduce land, water, air, light, noise pollution
Objective 10	Reduce vulnerability to, and manage flood risk (taking account of climate change)
Objective 11	Reduce negative contributions to and Increase resilience to climate change
Objective 12	Encourage careful, efficient use of natural resources including energy and encourage sustainable construction and promote waste management accordance with the waste hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle)

- 1.4. The main report sets out Section **1 introduction**, Section **2 the B&NES Development Plan Framework**, Section **3 the methodology** used in the SA, Section **4 the plan's relationship with other plans, programmes and environmental / sustainability objectives**, Section **5 the sustainability baseline and likely evolution** without implementation of the LPPU, Section **6 the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and the results of the appraisal of options** considered in the development of the draft Local Plan Partial Update, Section **7 the results of the appraisal of the policies** within the draft Local Plan Partial Update, Section **8 the cumulative effect** on the draft Local Plan as a whole, Section **9 the in combination effects** with other local plans, Section **10 monitoring** and Section **11 the next steps**.

2. Key outcome: Potential cumulative effects of Local Plan Partial Update

- 2.1. The draft Plan updates key Development Management policies and allocates further sites in order to ensure the Council's Planning Framework is aligned with the Council's priorities and that specifically it helps to facilitate solutions.
- 2.2. The likely cumulative effects for the Local Plan (Core Strategy, Placemaking Plan with Partial Update) are described in Section 8 of this report. Potentially significant positive cumulative effects were identified in relation to SA Objective 1 (health and well-being), Objective 2 (housing), Objective 3 (communities) and Objective 4 (economy). For SA Objective 5 (transport) and Objective 12 (resources), it is expected that the significant positive effects identified would be in combination with a neutral effect for an overall mixed cumulative effect. Potentially a minor negative cumulative effect were identified in relation to SA Objective 6 (landscape) in combination with a minor positive for an overall mixed cumulative effect. Various mitigation measures are identified. The LPPU strengthens the protection of industrial land and allocates a number of sites to facilitate further employment resulting in a major positive effect.
- 2.3. An ambitious approach to addressing climate change is embedded in the proposed LPPU draft Plan. The target of becoming a Carbon Neutral District by 2030 is ahead of the Government target of net Zero Carbon 2050. There are specific criteria which new development will be required to meet to contribute this target. In accordance with the locational sequential approach, the new housing sites are identified in the main urban areas (brownfield land) of Bath, Keynsham and Somer Valley to ensure the continued supply of housing sites. The prioritisation of sustainable modes of transport at new development to discourage the use of private vehicles is expected to help mitigate impacts relating to both climate change and air pollution. The Draft Plan reflects national policy on biodiversity net gain and seeks to protect the existing quality and function of green infrastructure as well as supporting new provision. These requirements are expected to be of particular importance considering the presence of international and national biodiversity sites (including RAMSAR, SACs, SPAs and SSSI) within its boundaries.

3. How to comment on the SA Report

- 3.1. The draft SA Report is being published for consultation alongside the Draft Local Plan Partial Update from **27th August to 8th October**. Please send your comments on this report by 8th October to Planning_policy@bathnes.gov.uk. For further information on the timetable for the next steps in the production of the Local Plan Partial Update please contact the Planning Policy team on 01225 394041.