

Housing Restraint Supplementary Planning Document
SEA Adoption Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This statement is prepared in accordance with Article 9 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (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).
- 1.2 This statement summarises:
- The main issues raised in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report.
 - How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and the Report.
 - How the opinions of consultees on the SA have been taken into account.
 - The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives.
 - Details of monitoring arrangements.

2. Main issues raised in the SA Report

- 2.1 The likely effects of the SPD were identified as being:
- Reduction in overall number of new homes built in the plan area.
 - Protection of the local landscape.
 - Protection of local townscapes.
 - Reduction in the effect of traffic on human health and the environment.
 - Improved image of the area as a business location through facilitating regeneration schemes.

3. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and the Report

- 3.1 The appraisal identified a small number of opportunities to enhance the positive impacts set out above.
- 3.2 The importance of providing affordable housing is clearly recognised in the SPD.
- 3.3 The SA recommended that the SPD should also emphasise the need to support High Peak Borough Council's Regeneration Strategy, which aims to facilitate the creation of jobs and prosperity. The SPD was changed to make reference to the need to retain a sustainable employment base in the Borough.

4. How the opinions of consultees on the SA have been taken into account

- 4.1 Seven organisations made comments on the SA scoping report. The principal changes made as a result were to improve the focus of the Report by removing three proposed SA objectives from the appraisal and to adopt the new target of the number of appeal decisions determined in part by reference to Landscape Character.
- 4.2 Seven organisations also made comments made on the SA report. To take into account issues raised by English Nature, details of SSSIs, SPAs, SACs and LNRs were added to section 4.

5. Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of alternatives

- 5.1 Results of the comparison of options demonstrated that the option to prepare a supplementary planning document, providing greater clarification of Local Plan Policy H1 (housing restraint), performed better in terms of sustainability, than the option to do nothing.
- 5.2 Clarifying the policy of housing restraint and ensuring its more effective implementation will lead to a higher level of protection for local landscapes and townscapes. Similarly, the more effective the implementation of the policy, the greater the reduction of the effects of traffic on human health and the environment. By facilitating greater understanding of the exceptions categories, the chances of securing successful regeneration schemes are enhanced, which may in the long term lead to improving the image of the area as a location for other businesses.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 The significant sustainability effects of implementing the SPD will be monitored to help identify unforeseen adverse effects and to enable any subsequent necessary remedial action to be taken.
- 6.2 The Council is required to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports to assess the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in the Local Development Documents are being achieved. The SPD will be included in this process which requires an annual monitoring report to be submitted by 31 December 2006.
- 6.3 The key indicator will be the affordable housing completion figure.