

CHAPTER 3 - STATEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Chapter 3 - Paragraphs 3.01-3.03

Objections

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|------|
| 0114/004 | Mrs C Spickernell | 3.03 |
| 0139/003 | Swindon Borough Council | 3.01 |
| 0156/039 | CPRE (2) | 3.03 |
| 0370/001 | Mr R J Rapkins | 3.02 |

Issues

The main issues raised in the representations are:

- a. Whether the appraisal affords sufficient weight to environmental issues.
- b. Whether the Sustainability Appraisal should have been made available for public comment.
- c. Whether Figure 3.1 should be deleted.
- d. Whether the section lacks clarity.

Reasoning and conclusions

- 3.1 **Issue a.** The Local Plan was prepared in the context of the advice in PPG12. Paragraph 4.16 of the guidance note explains that local authorities are expected to carry out a full environmental appraisal of their development plan. However, the guidance also recognises that sustainable development is not limited to environmental concerns and that the methodologies used for environmental appraisal can be developed to encompass economic and social issues. Local authorities are therefore encouraged to undertake appraisals which cover all four sustainable development objectives, namely maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth, social progress which recognises the needs of everyone, effective protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources. I consider the Council's approach to be consistent with that advice.
- 3.2 **Issue b.** A local plan should not include a full appraisal within it. However, as paragraph 4.18 PPG12 of explains, the appraisal of the plan should be subject to public consultation, with the responses to the consultation used to inform the next stage of the plan preparation. In the case of the Local Plan, external consultation was undertaken on the draft appraisal criteria with selected organisations with an interest in the plan. However, it is unclear from the documents available to me to what extent the document was subject to public consultation. Nevertheless, as the results of the sustainability appraisal were published by the Council and could be read in conjunction with the FDDL and RDDLP versions of the Local Plan, I do not consider that those wishing to make representations in respect of the Local Plan were seriously disadvantaged by the apparent lack of consultation on the appraisal.
- 3.3 **Issue c.** The duly made objection seek the deletion of Figure 3.1. I do not consider that to be appropriate as the figure succinctly outlines the sustainability appraisal process.

- 3.4 **Issue d.** I consider the paragraphs in the section to be an adequate précis of the appraisal process, given that the methodology and findings of the sustainability appraisal are explained in detail in the sustainability appraisal documents.

Recommendation

- 3.5 **I recommend that no modification be made to the Local Plan in respect of the above objections.**
-