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Welwyn Hatfield Emerging Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal Report

Appendix A1: Appraisal Matrices – Vision and Objectives

Prepared by LUC
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Welwyn Hatfield Emerging Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal September 2012

SA Matrix A1.1: Core Strategy Vision and Objectives 1-13

SA Question: Will the policy...	Likely Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects Score
Long-term Objective 1: Health Improvement			
...lead to reduced health inequalities, and in particular improve the health of those living in communities characterised by relatively poor health? (1.1)	Objective 12 aims to lift areas out of deprivation, including by providing opportunities to improve health.	None required.	+
...lead to improved health for all? (1.2)	Objective 3 aims to deliver healthy and active communities, by working in partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance. The aims set out in Objective 6 (to increase the use of sustainable transport modes) and Objective 9 (to enhance green links) should also have positive effects, as increased rates of walking and cycling within the Borough will increase overall levels of activity. Also, Objective 8 aims to protect and enhance areas of open space within the Borough, which will help to ensure that there are good opportunities for outdoor leisure and recreation. This issue is also reflected in the overarching Core Strategy Vision .	None required.	+
Long-term Objective 2: Safer Communities			
...reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour, and reduce fear of crime? (2.1)	Objective 3 refers to the aim to create safe communities; although the objectives do not refer directly to reducing crime rates in the Borough. The aim of increasing levels of economic activity (Objective 12) and increasing inward investment (Objective 13) may also have indirect positive effects on reducing crime levels, by increasing overall levels of prosperity and employment.	None required.	+?
...ensure there is no increase in flood risk to people or property, taking into account climate change? (2.2)	Objective 2 aims to maximise opportunities for development on brownfield land, which should have a positive effect by reducing the spread of impermeable surfaces under new development on greenfield land. Objective 5 requires that development is	None required.	+

SA Question: Will the policy...	Likely Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects Score
	designed to take into account future climate change and specifically refers to the management of flood risk. In addition, the Vision refers to the need to address climate change by managing and preventing the risk of flooding.		
Long-term objective 3: Good Citizenship			
...encourage involvement of the public in the planning process? (3.1)	Objective 3 refers to the aim of achieving inclusive and fair communities by working in partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance, which is the Local Strategic Partnership made up of partners including community groups and local voluntary groups. This issue is also referred to in the Core Strategy Vision .	None required.	+
Long-term objective 4: Improving the environment			
...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from built development? (4.1)	Objective 1 aims to provide for the Borough's development needs, which means an increase in the overall extent of built development in the Borough, indicating a potential negative impact on this SA objective. However, Objective 5 aims to reduce people's environmental impact by designing development to take into account future climate change (this is taken to include through the provision of renewable energy infrastructure within new development). In addition, Objective 3 refers to the need for new development to be environmentally sensitive.	All development will be subject to other Core Strategy policies e.g. CS9: Good Quality Design and CS10: Sustainable Design and construction, which encourage development to be designed so as to reduce emissions.	+/-
...significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport? (4.2)	Objective 5 aims to reduce the need to travel, and Objective 2 states that development should be steered to the main towns and villages of the Borough, so that the need to travel is minimised. Objective 6 aims to improve opportunities to use sustainable modes of travel, and this is also reflected in the Vision . Objective 6 also refers to the need to 'manage parking demand' and it is not clear what is meant by this – if it results in the provision of new car parking, it could be seen to indirectly encourage ongoing car use; however it may involve reducing car parking provision where sustainable transport links can be provided instead. As such, the likely effects on this SA objective are uncertain, but potentially mixed (both positive and negative).	Requirement for mitigation is dependent on how car parking demand is managed. If this means reducing parking demand, then the objective could provide mitigation for the potential effects of other Core Strategy policies in terms of transport emissions. However, if it means the provision of additional car parking, then mitigation could be provided	+/-?

SA Question: Will the policy...	Likely Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects Score
		through other policies/objectives within the Core Strategy which aim to increase the provision of sustainable transport links and reduce the need to travel (e.g. CS1: Key Principles of Sustainable Development).	
...avoid and reduce air pollution? (4.3)	Objective 5 aims to reduce peoples' impact on the environment by reducing the need to travel, which will have a positive impact on air pollution from vehicle traffic, and the use of sustainable transport modes is also addressed in the Vision . However, the overall extent of development proposed within the Borough, covered by various objectives, means that the overall extent of vehicle traffic is likely to increase. In addition, the economic development encouraged in objective 12 may contribute to air pollution; depending on its nature (i.e. industrial developments may have higher levels of emissions).	Mitigation could be provided through other policies/objectives within the Core Strategy which aim to increase the provision of sustainable transport links and reduce the need to travel (e.g. CS1: Key Principles of Sustainable Development).	+/-?
...protect and enhance open space and landscape character, retaining local distinctiveness? (4.4)	Objective 1 aims to prevent coalescence of the Borough's towns, although it also allows for the release of a limited amount of green belt land which could have an adverse impact on local character (this is also referred to in the Vision). However, objective 8 will have a positive impact in that it encourages the protection and enhancement of open space.	Other Core Strategy policies will apply to all new development, including policy CS9: Good Quality Design which aims to conserve and enhance local character.	+/-?
...protect and enhance the Borough's character, sense of place and local distinctiveness, historic and cultural assets? (4.5)	Objective 8 refers directly to the need to protect and enhance the historic environment, including its cultural assets.	None required.	+
...protect and enhance biodiversity, taking into account the impacts of climate change? (4.6)	Objective 1 aims to protect areas of high environmental value, and objective 3 requires development to be environmentally sensitive. Objective 8 seeks to protect, maintain and, where possible, enhance the borough's natural environment. Improving green links (objective 9) should also have a positive impact on	None required.	+

SA Question: Will the policy...	Likely Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects Score
	biodiversity by providing new areas of habitat and avoiding habitat fragmentation.		
...reduce water consumption, and provide for reliable sources of water supply even in drought conditions? (4.7)	Objective 3 aims for development to be built to high standards of design, which is taken to include water efficiency measures. The prudent use of natural resources (objective 5) is also taken to cover water supply.	None required.	+
...avoid water pollution? (4.8)	None of the objectives refer directly to water pollution; however references to achieving environmentally sensitive developments (objective 3) and the protection of natural resources (objective 5) are taken to refer to the protection of water quality.	None required.	+
...minimise the amount of waste generated and maximise the re-use, recycling or composting of waste that cannot be reduced? (4.9)	The extent of development encouraged through the Vision and objectives means that there will inevitably be increases in waste generation; however the fact that the objectives also encourage the prudent use of natural resources, including by minimising waste (objective 5) should help to encourage recycling of aggregates etc. in new developments; thereby reducing the likely extent of this potential negative effect.	All development will also be subject to other Core Strategy policies, such as CS9: Good Quality Design and CS11: Protection of Critical Assets which should help to reduce waste generation.	-?
...promote the conservation and sustainable use of productive agricultural land and maximise the sustainable use of previously developed land? (4.10)	Objective 10 aims to maintain a supply of land for agriculture, which would require the protection of high quality agricultural land in the Borough. In addition, objective 2 aims to steer development to the main towns and larger villages of the Borough which should enhance opportunities for the re-use of brownfield sites and minimise the extent to which development takes place on high quality greenfield sites.	None required.	+
Long-term Objective 5: Decent Housing			
...provide the right amount, type and tenure of housing to meet identified local needs? (5.1)	Objective 7 specifically aims to provide an adequate supply and mix of housing types and tenures.	None required.	+
Long-term objective 6: A thriving economy			
...ensure the supply, location and quality of business and employment sites reflects the needs of local businesses and encourages a mixed	The objectives aim to steer development to the main towns and larger villages (objective 2), where opportunities for businesses to make use of sustainable transport are likely to be higher, thereby contributing to a greener economy.	None required.	+

SA Question: Will the policy...	Likely Effects	Mitigation	Residual Effects Score
and greener economy? (6.1)			
...encourage economic investment in those areas most in need of regeneration, in a way that will benefit those most in need of rewarding employment? (6.2)	The objectives generally steer economic investment towards Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield and aim to lift areas out of deprivation (objective 12), but also encourage development of the rural economy (objective 10). In addition, the primary aim of objective 13 is to encourage inward investment across the Borough.	None required.	+
...enhance the vitality and attraction of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield town retail centres? (6.3)	Objective 12 aims to ensure that Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield remain the main centres of economic activity, indicating that most investment will be steered towards the towns. This is expected to include retail development.	None required.	+
...sustain rural communities and their economies, small businesses and other rural diversification, while protecting rural character? (6.4)	Objective 2 steers the majority of development towards the main towns, and only limited development within certain villages in the Borough, which indicates that rural areas may be disadvantaged in terms of the local economy; however objective 10 specifically aims to sustain the vitality of villages and the rural economy.	Other Core Strategy policies which aim to enhance the rural economy, such as CS8: The Local Economy, will also apply.	-/+
...avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources? (6.5)	None of the objectives directly address the issue of avoiding minerals sterilisation; however Objective 5 refers to the prudent use of natural resources, which is taken to include mineral resources.	None required.	+?
...provide access to training, skills development and lifelong learning to meet identified needs? (6.6)	Objective 12 aims to provide opportunities to improve training and education; however this is presented in the context of Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield only. Objective 13 refers to the whole Borough, aiming to encourage new investment by working with and supporting local employers and higher education providers.	None required.	+

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