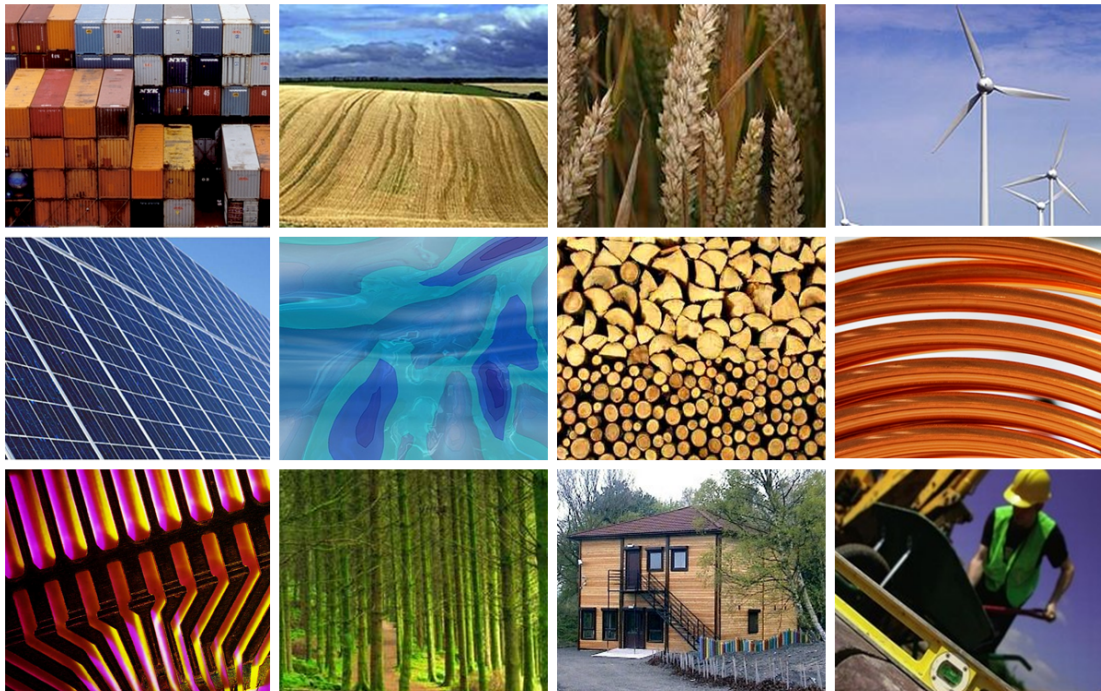


Tamworth Borough Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Tamworth Local Plan

Post-Adoption Statement

February 2016



URSUS
URBAN AND RURAL SUSTAINABILITY
URSUS CONSULTING LTD

Quality Management

URSUS Consulting Ltd has quality systems which have been assessed and approved to BS EN IS9001:2000 (certificate number GB2002687).

Creation / Revision History

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Issue / revision: | Version 3 |
| Date: | 1 st February 2016 |
| Prepared by: | Hilary Livesey |
| Authorised by: | Steve Owen |
| Project number: | U.113 |
| File reference: | Tamworth/SA |

URSUS CONSULTING LTD
www.ursusconsulting.co.uk

15 St Marks Road
Leamington Spa
CV32 6DL
Tel. 07720 416 356

57 Balfour Road
London
N5 2HD
Tel. 07989 554 504



Contents

| | | |
|------------|---|----------|
| 1 | OVERVIEW | 1 |
| 1.1 | THE ADOPTED TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN | 1 |
| 1.2 | THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL | 2 |
| 1.3 | THE POST ADOPTION STATEMENT | 3 |
| 2 | HOW THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL HAS INFLUENCED THE LOCAL PLAN | 4 |
| 2.1 | INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| 2.2 | THE INFLUENCE OF THE SA | 4 |
| 3 | MEASURES AGREED CONCERNING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS | 8 |
| 3.1 | SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS | 8 |
| 3.2 | RESPONSE OF TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL TO RECOMMENDATIONS | 8 |

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 THE ADOPTED TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN

The adopted Tamworth Local Plan 2006-2031 sets out the spatial planning strategy for the Borough over the period 2006-2031 in terms of the type of development required to meet local community and business needs, its scale and location as well as the policies that will apply to ensure that development is sustainable. It also includes policies to ensure that appropriate supporting infrastructure is delivered and the area's built and natural environment is protected and enhanced.

The adopted Local Plan includes the following:

- A Spatial Portrait, a Vision and Strategic Spatial Priorities
- A Spatial Strategy for Tamworth
- Strategic policies covering:
 - Town Centre uses including retail, and Employment including office
 - Housing
 - High quality natural and built environment
 - Sustainability
- Land use allocations:
 - Housing
 - Employment
- Proposals for monitoring and implementation

Tamworth Borough Council (TBC) has been in the process of developing its Local Plan since 2008. Over the intervening time, a number of stages have been carried out, beginning with the identification of spatial options in 2008, the selection of preferred options in 2009, development of a proposed spatial strategy later in 2009, the identification of options for delivering housing growth in 2011 and a pre-submission publication of the Local Plan in 2012. Then in 2013 the Council withdrew its draft Local Plan on the recommendations of an Inspector.

Following this withdrawal, the Council developed a new Local Plan with new sets of options. The development of this new Local Plan took place over a number of stages, beginning with the publication of a Draft Local Plan in February 2014. Following this, a Pre-Submission Local Plan was published for consultation in October 2014 and finally culminating in the submission of the Local Plan in February 2015 to the Secretary of State for examination. Following the Examination in Public carried out in June 2015, TBC proposed a number of modifications to the submission Local Plan as recommended by the Inspector, set out in a Schedule of Main Modifications in August 2015.

The Tamworth Local Plan was adopted on 23rd February 2016 and replaces the previous Local Plan (adopted in 2006/07)¹. Further detailed guidance will be included in a limited number of Supplementary Planning Documents that will support the implementation of the Plan. Once it is adopted, planning applications will be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless other material considerations, including the National Planning Policy Framework, indicate otherwise.

1.2 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, TBC is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of Local Development Documents including those prepared for land use planning. The SA must also satisfy the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) arising from TBC's obligations under the European Directive on SEA and the implementing Regulations in England and Wales.

The overall purpose of the SA is to evaluate the likely implications for sustainable development in Tamworth of the Local Plan and reasonable alternatives to it. The Plan and its alternatives were appraised to determine the potential to give rise to significant effects, in order to enable the identification of a preferred option in the light of knowledge of the potential impacts of the Plan on relevant sustainable development policy objectives. The aim is to inform the plan-making process to enable the Plan to take account of the ways in which development might affect the economy, environment and communities of Tamworth Borough.

The findings and recommendations reached through the SA at various stages in the development of the Plan were set out in a series of Sustainability Appraisal Reports, as follows:

The SA has been an iterative process, involving successive rounds of appraisal at each stage of the development of the Tamworth Local Plan. The following SA Reports have been published to correspond to these stages, which set out the appraisal of impacts of each version of the emerging Local Plan, namely the Draft Local Plan, the Pre-Submission Local Plan and the Submission Local Plan:

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Tamworth Local Plan, February 2014
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Pre-Submission Tamworth Local Plan, October 2014
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Tamworth Local Plan, January 2015

Following submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State, the appointed Inspector posed some questions on the SA Report to TBC regarding the need for development outside of the Borough to meet Tamworth's needs, and requested that an SA Addendum be prepared which explains how the appraisal of this development had been dealt with in the SA Report. Following the Examination in Public held in June 2015, the Inspector asked for a further statement from the SA regarding this issue. Hence two additional papers have been prepared under the SA work package which clarify the approach and process by which this aspect has been addressed in the SA Reports:

¹ Tamworth Borough Council - Local Plan 2006-2011 (Adopted July 2006 and Policies Saved in July 2011)

- Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Tamworth Local Plan: Further Statement, July 2015
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Submission Tamworth Local Plan: Addendum, April 2015

TBC took the findings and recommendations of the SA at each stage into account in preparing the Local Plan and before its adoption.

1.3 THE POST ADOPTION STATEMENT

This Post Adoption Statement shows how the findings of the SA were taken into account by TBC and what changes were made to the Local Plan as a result. In line with government guidance, it also provides information on how monitoring will be carried out during implementation of the Plan.

2 HOW THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL HAS INFLUENCED THE LOCAL PLAN

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The SA must be an integral part of producing the plan or strategy being appraised. The sections below describe in detail the process by which the SA has influenced the development of the Local Plan. They describe where the SA has had a specific influence on the Plan and how the recommendations of the SA were taken into account in its development.

2.2 THE INFLUENCE OF THE SA

The SA process has identified relevant sustainability objectives for the Borough and provided an independent assessment of the likely impact of the Local Plan on those objectives throughout the preparation of the Local Plan.

2.2.1 Appraisal of Housing and Employment Sites

The housing and employment sites that were identified have been subject to SA. The sites were appraised against the sustainability objectives and an assessment made of the likely significant effects of development at each site. Recommendations were made for ways in which the predicted negative effects could be mitigated and for capitalising on opportunities for benefits.

The SA of sites has been an iterative process. Tamworth Borough Council officers provided a long list of potential sites in August 2013 and these were appraised against the appraisal framework. Following this, the list of sites was refined and some sites were dropped from further consideration, either because of likely deliverability or because the SA had identified some issues which were either insurmountable or sufficiently negative as to not justify allocation of the site. The remaining sites have been allocated in the Local Plan and policy has been drafted for each site to address the predicted effects. The sites have then been subject to further SA in late 2013 and early 2014 to take into account the effect that the mitigation contained within the development control policies would have on the likely significant effects to improve the impact of development.

2.2.2 Appraisal of Policy

The appraisal determined the likely effects arising from the policies of the Local Plan. This applied largely to the vision, objectives and policies. This was done by assessing each element of the modified submission Local Plan against the appraisal objectives in turn and making a largely qualitative assessment, with reference also to the baseline data from the Scoping Report. A number of recommendations were made for amendments to the vision and policies, and all of these recommendations have been taken on board by TBC and incorporated into the modified submission Local Plan. These are set out in table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Mitigation recommendations

| Policy | Recommended mitigation |
|---------------|--|
| Vision | Extend the aim to achieve safer living conditions to new housing development. Include a commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity in the vision. Include a commitment to reduce flood risk and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation. Include a commitment to promoting the efficient use of resources. Include a clearer commitment to improving the quality of the environment across the Borough. Include a commitment to promoting sustainable modes of transport. Include a commitment to improving infrastructure for sustainable transport modes. |
| HG2 | Include a requirement for sustainable urban extensions to be designed for safety. |
| SU1 | Require developments to incorporate measures to reduce flood risk where there are appropriate opportunities. Promote energy efficiency measures in retro-fitting of existing development. Include supporting text to indicate how the efficient use of land is to be achieved. |
| SU4 | Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for creating/protecting accessible recreational green space. Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for improvement in biodiversity value. |
| SU7 | Include a focus on areas of deprivation to address the needs of deprived areas for access to sport and recreation facilities. |
| EN3 | Include requirements to support informal recreation in open spaces where appropriate. Promote opportunities to increase connectivity of open spaces and secure biodiversity gains. Promote opportunities to use open space provision to reduce flood risk. Require measures to promote walking and cycling in open spaces, through provision of infrastructure, improved connectivity and safety measures. |
| EN6 | Require regard to be had to the findings of the Extensive Urban Survey. |

2.2.3 Appraisal of Options

The SA has informed the selection of preferred options through an independent appraisal of a range of options and alternatives against the framework of sustainability objectives for the Borough. The types of options considered and appraised fall into the following categories:

- Spatial strategy, or directions of growth;
- Levels of housing growth;
- Amounts of employment land;
- Percentage of affordable housing required;
- Location of a new leisure centre;
- Location of new retail space.

Within each group of options or scenarios, several different options/scenarios were developed. Each of these was appraised against the sustainability objectives for the Borough. Through the appraisal of options, the SA has provided information about the sustainability of the options that were being considered and enabled the selection of the preferred options in the light of that information.

The alternatives, or options/scenarios, which have been developed are set out in the following tables. The preferred option in each case is highlighted in blue.

Table 2.2: Summary of spatial options

| Spatial option | Sites to deliver option | Approximate capacity |
|----------------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Urban area and Anker Valley | 900 |
| 2 | Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course | 2000 |
| 3 | Urban area, Anker Valley, green belt sites | 1800 |
| 4 | Urban area, Anker Valley, Dunstall Lane | 1600 |
| 5 | Urban area, Anker Valley, Coton Lane | 1090 |
| 6 | Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane, green belt sites | 3790 |
| 7 | Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane | 3100 |

Table 2.3: Housing growth scenarios

| Scenario | Dwellings per annum | Growth 2006-2031 |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|
| A | 240 | 6000 |
| B | 260 | 6500 |
| C | 250 | 6250 |

Table 2.4: Employment growth scenarios

| Scenario | Gross employment land requirements (ha) |
|---|---|
| 1) Experian Baseline | 21.02 |
| 2) Regeneration/Policy On ¹ | 32.91 |
| 3a) Short Term Past Take Up | 48.51 |
| 3b) Long Term Completion Rates | 66.49 |
| 4) Labour Supply (250 dpa) | 27.82 |
| 5) Labour Supply (latest household projections) | 30.16 |

Note 1: The chosen option in the Local Plan for employment land requirements is 32 hectares. This amount of employment land is considered to be sufficiently close to scenario 2 (regeneration/policy on) not to merit separate appraisal as an option.

Table 2.5: Affordable housing scenarios

| Scenario | Level of affordable housing provision |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 ² | 20% |
| 2 | 25% |
| 3 | 30% |

Note 2: The preferred option sets a level of affordable housing at 20%, and 25% for two of the larger sites.

Table 2.6: Leisure centre options

| Option | Description |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Location in the town centre |
| 2 | Location in the east of the Borough |
| 3 | Location outside of the Borough |

Note 3: The Local Plan has not identified and allocated a location for a new leisure centre.

Table 2.7: Retail options

| Option | Description |
|---------------|---|
| 1 | Town centre first |
| 2 | Additional retail space at Ventura Park |

3 MEASURES AGREED CONCERNING MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The SA Report made recommendations for monitoring the effects of implementing the Local Plan, in terms of indicators to be monitored. The purpose of the monitoring is to address both likely significant impacts and unforeseen effects of implementation of the Local Plan to enable TBC to respond if necessary and to take appropriate remedial action.

Monitoring recommendations were set out in Section 12 of the September 2015 SA Report and are reproduced in Table 3.1 below.

3.2 RESPONSE OF TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Plan explicitly recognizes that it must show it is capable of being monitored effectively. Monitoring of specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time based policies will enable the success of the Local Plan to be measured during its lifetime whilst assisting the instigation of contingency plans where it is demonstrated that policies are not achieving their stated objectives. Each policy within the Local Plan will be monitored using specific indicators and targets. Progress against the delivery of these indicators and targets will be reported via the Council's website each year to assess how far the policies are being implemented.

The Local Plan confirms that the Sustainability Appraisal has had a key influence on the Local Plan monitoring framework. The SA Report made recommendations for indicators to monitor the predicted effects of the Local Plan policies and strategies, and these have informed the choice of Local Plan monitoring framework indicators. This alignment will help ensure compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

Previously, the implementation of policies was measured using indicators contained within the Council's published Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The Localism Act removed the requirement for local planning authorities to produce an AMR, while retaining the overall duty to monitor. Authorities can now choose which targets and indicators to include in the report as long as they are in line with the relevant UK and EU legislation. Their primary purpose is to share the performance and achievements of the planning service with the local community. TBC will use the monitoring scheme to keep under review which indicators to use and the frequency of publication.

The Local Plan sets out a monitoring table which shows the Local Plan's policies and respective indicators and targets for each of the sections of the Plan. Table 3.1 below lists the indicators which were recommended by the SA and shows which indicators will be included in the monitoring framework for the Local Plan that will enable TBC to understand the sustainability implications of the Local Plan. Some SA recommendations have been incorporated in the monitoring framework. Some are proposed in a different format to that recommended by the SA, which will allow TBC to understand the impacts in a slightly different way than envisaged by the SA.

A small number of issues remain where the monitoring proposals will not enable TBC to monitor some sustainability effects. In particular, developments on greenfield land and crime and antisocial behaviour are not strongly addressed in the monitoring framework.

Table 3.1: SA monitoring recommendations and how these will be reflected in the monitoring of the Local Plan

| Sustainability objectives | Recommended indicators | Adopted indicators |
|---|---|--|
| 1. To meet the housing needs of the whole community, providing affordable, decent, appropriate and sustainably constructed homes in accessible locations. | Housing completions Number of affordable homes completed Building for Life assessments Net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches Number of new dwellings suitable for elderly people | Net number of dwellings completed each year – cumulative total Monitor affordable housing types on each site The number of gypsy and traveller applications approved each year and on a cumulative basis Numbers of each housing type across Tamworth monitored on an annual basis Net number of flexicare units completed each year Accessibility areas (mapped) within Tamworth |
| 2. To encourage the efficient use of land and soil. | Total amount of additional employment land on previously developed land Housing completions on previously developed land Hectares of open space lost | Existing open space lost – open space reviews Hectares of agricultural land lost, by grade |
| 3. To reduce deprivation, including health and income deprivation. | Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in health sub-domain Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in material well-being sub-domain | Number of people in super output areas in the lowest 20% ranked in health sub-domain Number of people in super output areas in the lowest 20% ranked in material well-being sub-domain |
| 4. To ensure equal access to community services and facilities. | Number of people not within 1km of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP • Post office • Supermarket | Number of community facilities lost through development Number of new community facilities brought forward in the SUEs Number of people not within 1km of, GP, Post Office, Supermarket |
| 5. To encourage equal access to education, jobs and training. | Unemployment rate Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in education sub-domain | Amount of floorspace and hectares for employment use granted permission – employment allocations and permissions will be monitored on an annual basis |

| Sustainability objectives | Recommended indicators | Adopted indicators |
|---|---|---|
| | | Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in education sub-domain |
| 6. To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing accessible green infrastructure, including networks of paths and open spaces, and formal and informal sport and recreation facilities. | <p>Length of new cycle paths</p> <p>Length of new public footpaths</p> <p>Number and type of new sport facilities</p> <p>Loss of playing pitches</p> <p>Loss of accessible open space</p> | <p>Length of new cycle paths</p> <p>Length of new public footpaths</p> <p>Distance of new development to the closest high quality open space – planning applications</p> <p>Area of new open space within new residential developments – planning applications</p> <p>New open space brought forward – open space reviews</p> <p>Existing open space lost – open space reviews</p> <p>Number of new sport and recreation facilities brought forward through development</p> <p>Number of sport and recreation facilities lost through development</p> <p>Number of residents participating in sport</p> |
| 7. To make communities safer by reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. | Number of crimes, by category | None |
| 8. To encourage a diverse and competitive economy that will provide sustainable economic growth. | <p>New employment floorspace</p> <p>Number of visitors to town centre attractions</p> | <p>Net amount of employment hectares completed by 2031</p> <p>Amount of floorspace and hectares for employment use granted permission – employment allocations and permissions will be monitored on an annual basis</p> <p>Uses will be monitored on an annual basis across Tamworth and the town centre</p> |
| 9. To protect and enhance historic assets. | Number of listed building and conservation area consent applications and outcome | <p>Number of heritage assets at risk</p> <p>Listed buildings brought back into use</p> <p>Outcome of Conservation Area planning Applications</p> |

| Sustainability objectives | Recommended indicators | Adopted indicators |
|--|--|---|
| | | Conservation Grant fund awarded |
| 10. To encourage high quality and locally distinct places, spaces, buildings and landscapes. | Number of planning applications in the Green Belt | The number of applications approved within the Green Belt County Council landscape assessments Applications refused on design grounds |
| 11. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, sites of nature conservation value and ecological networks. | Change in areas of biodiversity importance, including on Alvecote Pools SSSI Length of new green/blue infrastructure networks | Water quality of Alvecote Pool and amount of green space within the vicinity of the SSSI Quality of the site (conservation, geodiversity, green links, biodiversity, ecology) Amount of new development located within BAP areas |
| 12. To minimise flood risk. | Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding Number of properties flooded per annum | Location of new development with regard to flood zones No of Planning Applications granted permission contrary to EA's Advice on flood defence grounds Number of new developments incorporating SUDs Number of properties flooded per annum |
| 13. To reduce energy consumption by encouraging energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. | MW of new renewable energy generating capacity Electricity and gas consumption per capita | Planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy generation Planning applications for combined heat and power schemes Percentage of residential development being conditioned to provide 10% onsite renewable energy generation Percentage of new development assessed as carbon zero MW of new renewable energy generating capacity Electricity and gas consumption per capita |
| 14. To encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste and water. | Amount of waste generated by waste stream % of municipal waste recycled | Amount of waste generated by waste stream Percentage of municipal waste recycled |

| Sustainability objectives | Recommended indicators | Adopted indicators |
|--|--|---|
| | Per capita water consumption | Per capita water consumption |
| 15. To protect and improve environmental quality including in relation to air, water, land and noise. | Number of AQMAs Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality Hectares of agricultural land lost, by grade | Air quality monitoring Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality Hectares of agricultural land lost, by grade |
| 16. To make Tamworth town centre the heart of the borough by creating a vibrant and attractive environment. | Total amount of completed floorspace for town centre uses in the town centre Total amount of completed floorspace for town centre uses outside the town centre Vacant retail floorspace in the town centre | Net amount of floor space built completed each year – cumulative total. Located within town centre uses hierarchy Net amount of other town centre uses completed each year, located within town centre uses hierarchy Vacancy rates to be compared on an annual basis – monitoring to take place each quarter Footfall to be compared on an annual basis – monitoring to take place each quarter |
| 17. To reduce the need to travel, reduce out-commuting and encourage sustainable modes of transport. | Number of bus routes Length of new cycle paths Length of new public footpaths Number of out-commuters Number of people travelling more than 5km to work Travel to work by mode | Length of new cycle paths Length of new public footpaths Number of bus routes and services Number of out commuters Number of people travelling more than 5km to work Travel to work by mode |
| 18. To make best use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety. | Number of new bus services Number of road traffic accidents Normalised delay on key roads | Number of bus routes and services Number of road traffic accidents |

This page is intentionally left blank