



## **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

### **Local Development Framework**

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal Statement**

#### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING, DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDE, AND LANDSCAPE IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

The draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) will supplement and expand upon policies in the adopted Local Development Framework (LDF) contained in the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) and Area Action Plans.

#### **The need for Strategic Environmental Assessment / Sustainability Appraisal**

The European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) requires certain UK plans and programmes, including Local Development Documents (including DPDs and SPDs), which are likely to have *significant effects* on the environment to undergo formal environmental assessment.

The Planning Act 2008 is intended to deliver a range of benefits, including more efficient and timely systems in which controls proportionate to impact and unnecessary costs are eliminated. In recognition that Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is already undertaken on higher tier DPDs, and that SPDs are not part of the Development Plan and simply expand upon DPD policies, the Act no longer requires SA for SPD.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 were amended in 2008 and 2009. Following the 2009 amendments there is no longer a requirement to undertake a SA of SPD.

#### **Council's approach to appraisal of the SPDs**

The recent changes to planning legislation makes it clear that government no longer requires an SA to be undertaken for SPDs. The SEA Directive only requires assessment of those LDDs likely to have a *significant effect*.

Prior to undertaking SEA / SA of the LDF documents, the Council produced its Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report; which incorporates both SEA and SA. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has subsequently informed the production of the SA for each stage of the DPDs, including the Final Sustainability Appraisals of the Development Control Policies DPD and Area Action Plans, published in January 2006. Therefore, each of the DPDs containing the parent policies for the SPDs have been fully appraised.

As SPDs are not able to create new policy and the parent policies, upon which the SPD expands, have already been fully appraised through the SEA / SA process, the Council considers that there is no need to undertake further assessment of the SPDs. The SA for the parent policies can be viewed on the Council's website: [www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/ldf).

One of the requirements of the SEA Directive is to monitor the *significant environment effects* of the implementation of plans to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Although there are not anticipated to be any significant impacts beyond any identified in the SA of the parent policies, the impact of the SPDs can be monitored through the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.