

West Lancashire Local Development Framework

Skelmersdale Town Centre SPD / Masterplan

Sustainability Appraisal Consultation Statement

SEPTEMBER 2008

Introduction

This consultation statement relates to the responses which have been received in regard to the Sustainability Appraisal Report published for consultation between 13th March 2008 and 24th April 2008. Responses were invited from any consultees and was made available both online at the District Council website and a local information centres within Skelmersdale, all statutory consultees were contacted for comments on both the SPD Document and accompanying documents, including the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

Responses to the Sustainability Appraisal Report were received from the following consultees, whose comments are listed in more detail within the attached Schedule.

1. Phillip Carter, Planning Liaison Officer, Environment Agency.
2. Phillip Megson, Strategic Planning, Lancashire County Council.
3. Julia Scott, Government Team, Natural England.

Name of Contact and Organisation Represented	Comments made on the Scoping Report	District Council Response
<p>Philip Carter, Planning Liaison Officer, Environment Agency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Chapter 3</u> - Flooding during an extreme event is not an issue in Skelmersdale town centre, and this is reflected in the SA. However, culverts are considered to be a flood risk issue as well as a constraint to biodiversity, but they are not identified within the SA. Given the presence of several culverts within the Masterplan area we would expect them to be identified as a baseline problem, even if they were only linked to other flood risk and habitat issues. ▪ <u>Chapter 5</u> - It is suggested that SA objective 15 conflicts with the SPD objectives, as by the very nature of the plan, development of Greenfield sites will increase the rate of run-off within the plan area and also the potential for diffuse pollution to enter the surface water drainage system. While mitigation measures exist to counter such effects, the conflict between objectives will still exist. ▪ <u>Chapter 7</u> – Whilst there are no particular concerns with this chapter, it is noted that the potential negative effects do not include increased rates of surface run off. However, SuDs are subsequently identified in Chapter 8 as a ‘solution’. There is confusion as to why sustainable drainage is considered a solution in the final chapter when all previous chapters make no reference to the issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is acknowledged that culverts can pose a flood risk issue and it is <u>agreed</u> that this will be mentioned within revised wording in Para 3.20 of the SA report. ▪ Comments noted, it is <u>agreed</u> that Appendix 6 of the SA report be amended to reflect this issue. ▪ Comments noted, it is <u>agreed</u> that Chapter 7 should acknowledge surface run-off as a potential issue and mitigation measures noted.
<p>Phil Megson, Strategic Planning, Lancashire County Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Chapter 3</u> – This chapter is too weak in its treatment of biodiversity and the natural environment. The report fails to mention the location of local Biological Heritage sites (BHS's) and does not recognise habitats and species of concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comments noted, it is <u>agreed</u> to bolster information found within Para 3.16 of the SA report to reflect the issues raised.
<p>Julia Scott, Government Team, Natural England.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 3 – Welcome references to landscape in sections 3.7 – 3.14. Paragraph 3.15 would be better included within the biodiversity section, but unfortunately the data here is very sparse and we would welcome this area being revisited. We would welcome this section making reference to designated sites, ranging from International to local. Reference should also be made to the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Agreed</u> to relocate Para 3.15 within the biodiversity section. It is also <u>agreed</u> to bolster information found within Para 3.16 of the SA report to reflect the issues raised. Biodiversity Action Plan referred to in Appendix 1 as a key document.

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