

PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL OF THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF THE ISSUES AND OPTIONS FOR THE CORE STRATEGY-ECONOMY

Introduction

The SEA/SA takes as its starting point the Vision for Plymouth (set out in the Plymouth City Strategy and Action Plan) which aims to create

One of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.

A clean and green city that makes the most of its environment and location, in particular its water resources and associated ecology.

A city with a strong economy; built on a culture of creativity and innovation and known for its centres of knowledge and learning.

A multi-cultural city where significant social exclusion no longer exists. A city where all the needs of all its citizens are met by high quality, cost effective services and outstanding levels of community involvement.

These broad aims have been translated into a series of 16 **sustainability criteria**, which are described in the SEA/SA Scoping report. The following appraisal examines the potential effects of various actions and draft policies for the nominated area/theme against the framework of the SEA/SA objectives.

Having assessed the likely effect of the different actions, policies and themes in the table below, the information is drawn together in a concluding statement.

The preliminary findings of the SEA/SA and analysis of the public response to both the Issues and Options Leaflet and consultation on the SEA/SA will be used to further refine both the draft plan and the SEA/SA.

COMMENTARY

The proposals for the Core Strategy – Economy appear broadly sustainable although, inevitably, some conflict of interest may arise; some key issues are outlined below:

- Proposals relating to the reuse of redundant schools to support regeneration should generate positive opportunities to retain local employment and reduce traffic movements but the question arises will the refurbishment of buildings and associated land result in the loss of school playing fields which may be important for informal recreation/leisure? This would be an undesirable consequence in terms of sustainable development.
- Careful consideration should be given in the review of suitable existing employment sites/premises to the proximity of adjacent land uses and their viability as well as the potential impacts of noise and air pollution on local community's quality of life and environment.

- Opportunity to utilise MOD greenspace and sporting/leisure facilities for the local community should be explored as well as converting redundant sites for employment uses.
- Employment proposals must be reviewed against their proximity to major public transport routes and include green travel plans in order to encourage employees to use alternative modes of transport.
- New development and refurbishment should seek to reflect/retain locally distinctive features and be designed to minimise water and energy consumption and waste generation. Such proposals should also seek to incorporate renewable energy sources. In addition, proposals should seek to source and/or reuse recycled materials where possible.
- Whilst proposals relating to a constructive Plymouth Fund are positive in investing in a local skills base in the construction industry, should more work be undertaken to broaden the scope of the proposals?
- It is important when considering the siting of retail stores and in particular major food stores that they are in close proximity to a well integrated public transport service.

Table X.1. Analysis of Plan proposals, policies actions and themes against the 16 Sustainability Criteria (listed across the columns).

SA CRITERIA (In Columns across)	1 Nature & Environment	2 Reducing Flood Risk	3 Conserving Biodiversity	4. Built Environment	5. Historic Environment	6. Optimise Land Use	7. Sustainable Resource Use	8. Waste	9. Sustainable Transport	10. Strategic Communications	11. Economic Growth	12. Education & Employment	13. Housing	14. Community Health	15. District Centres	16. Inclusiveness
Review suitability of existing employment sites/premises.	?	0	?	?	?	✓	?	?	✓	0	✓	?	?	?	0	0
Improve availability of employment land/premises for small and medium sized businesses.	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	✓	?	0	?	0	0
Encourage mixed use developments with compatible employment uses on sites available for regeneration/redevelopment.	?	0	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0	0
Protect some waterfront sites - modern day marine industries/ water sports.	?	?	?	✓	?	✓	0	0	0	0	✓	?	0	?	0	0
Identify sites/premises suitable for inward investors.	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0	0
Review sites redundant through MOD Defence Review which could be used for employment.	?	0	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	✓	?	?	?	0	0
Development must contribute to a Constructive Plymouth Fund to support skills development.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0	0
Bring forward proposals for retaining City Centre, Local and District Centres to respond to future need.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	✓	0
Expand Tamar Science Park.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0	0
Identify suitable new school sites and new employment initiatives.	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0	0
Create well designed schools, relate to neighbourhood services /amenities.	?	?	?	✓	?	?	?	?	0	0	0	✓	0	✓	✓	0
Ensure new employment initiatives are well located in terms of access and neighbourhood uses.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	0	✓	?	0	✓	0
Encourage business/organisations to provide high quality, well paid jobs.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0
Reuse redundant schools to support regeneration.	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	?	0	0	0	✓	?	✓	?	0
Promote a hierarchy of complementary accessible shopping centres to provide a full range of retail facilities meeting needs of residents, workers and visitors.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	✓	?	✓	✓	?	0	✓	0

SA CRITERIA (In Columns across) PLAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS (Below)	1 Nature & Environment	2 Reducing Flood Risk	3 Conserving Biodiversity	4. Built Environment	5. Historic Environment	6. Optimise Land Use	7. Sustainable Resource Use	8. Waste	9. Sustainable Transport	10. Strategic Communications	11. Economic Growth	12. Education & Employment	13. Housing	14. Community Health	15. District Centres	16. Inclusiveness
Expand, enhance and maintain city centre's role to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase range and quality • Create a modern, safe environment • Redevelop rundown/unsightly areas • Promote vitality and viability • Develop attractive street fronts • Implement Business Improvement District • Major public realm works • City centre management initiatives 	✓	0	✓ ?	✓ ?	✓ ?	✓	?	?	✓ ?	✓ ?	✓	✓	?	✓	✓ ?	0

Symbols employed in Table

- ✓ Supports the sustainability objective
- ✓✓ Strongly supported the sustainability objective
- 0 Has no impact on the sustainability objective
- X Works against the sustainability objective
- XX Works strongly against the sustainability objective
- ? Has an unknown or uncertain effect on the sustainability objective

Legend For Sustainability Criteria

1. Nature and environment: To safeguard and enhance Plymouth's green spaces, coast, tidal areas, waterfront, fresh water and intertidal areas and access to them, recognising the different types of contribution that they make to Plymouth's character.
2. Reduce flood risk: To manage flood risks sustainably, recognising the role of wetlands in reducing flood risks.
3. Biodiversity: To conserve, protect and enhance Plymouth's aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity.
4. Built environment: To enhance the attractiveness and safety of the built environment by raising the quality of urban design in the city.

5. Historic environment: To protect and enhance sites, areas and buildings and landmarks of archaeological, historic, cultural and/or architectural interest.
6. Land resources: To concentrate development within Plymouth's built-up area by optimising the use of previously developed land, infrastructure, under used land and vacant properties.
7. Sustainable resource use: To reduce the consumption of non-renewable sources of energy, water and minerals.
8. Waste: To reduce the amount of waste generated in Plymouth and to minimise the environmental effects of waste disposal.
9. Sustainable transport: To reduce traffic congestion and noise, and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car.
10. Strategic communication links: To maintain and improve the network of communication and transport infrastructure within Plymouth and the links to the sub-region, the South West, Britain and internationally.
11. Economic growth: To promote sustainable economic growth, particularly of key business sectors, and to utilise employment land and premises effectively and efficiently.
12. Education and employment: To enable all residents to share in Plymouth's growing prosperity by improving access to training, education and job opportunities.
13. Housing: To ensure that all of Plymouth's residents have access to a good quality living environment and a decent home which is affordable and suitable to their needs.
14. Community health, safety and well-being: To safeguard and improve community health, safety and well-being through protection and enhancement of the city's green spaces and sport/leisure facilities, and through appropriate design of the built environment.
15. Local and District Centres: To strengthen the role of local and district centres to reduce the amount that people need to travel.
16. Inclusiveness and participation: To take account of the needs of all sectors of the community in the planning and design of new development.

Note: An additional objective on Retailing is being prepared by Plymouth City Council and will be incorporated in the next stage of the appraisal.