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Executive Summary

This is an addendum to the 2011 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan. It is responding to the publication of the 2012 pre-submission draft of this plan, and focuses on the sustainability impact of the changes since the 2011 version.

The appraisal finds that there has been no substantive change to the strategic direction of the plan, and therefore the headline impacts on the sustainability objectives remain as published in 2011. There have been a number of changes to the wording of specific policies and proposals, many of these respond to previous SA recommendations and therefore improve the plan’s overall sustainability. For instance, there have been improvements to the plan’s approach to travel planning, the community park, the mitigation of ecological impacts from proposed highway infrastructure, reducing surface water flooding and district energy.
1: Introduction

Planning Authorities are required to produce a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), alongside plans that form part of a Local Development Framework (LDF). Plymouth’s Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan (AAP) is such a plan. This document is the SA report to accompany the Revised Pre-Submission Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan (2012).

This is an addendum report to supplement the February 2011 Sustainability Appraisal of the now superseded pre-submission Derriford and Seaton draft AAP. The report addresses only the implications of the changes made since February 2011, and therefore needs to be read in conjunction with the earlier SA report, which is available on the Council’s website.

Sustainability Appraisal work completed to date:

The Council published its revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report in March 2008. This work was amplified in Chapter 2 of the Derriford and Seaton Sustainability Appraisal Issues and Preferred Options Report, which scoped out the key sustainability issues specific to that area.

The Derriford and Seaton AAP SA Issues and Preferred Options Report, published in February 2009, focused on the sustainability of the draft AAP’s objectives, and the pros and cons of the different options, and preferred options for delivering these objectives.

The SA for the February 2011 pre-submission draft of the AAP, considered how the recommendations from the Derriford and Seaton AAP Sustainability Appraisal Issues and Preferred Options Report had been incorporated; assessed any significant changes to the strategy within the AAP since the Issues and Preferred Options Report; and identified measures for monitoring of any significant effects identified by the SA.

This document acts as an addendum to this previous work and seeks to address only significant changes to the AAP since February 2011.
2: Appraisal of key changes since February 2011

The updated appraisal is set out below under headings relating to the key changes since February 2011, and picking up the recommended changes made in the previous SA.

Area Action Plans Strategic Objectives

There have been no substantive changes to the strategic direction of the AAP, and therefore the performance of the plan’s objectives against the SA framework remains unchanged.

Area Action Plan Boundary

The boundary line detailing the extent of the AAP has been revised to exclude Plymouth Airport together with the proposal referred to as ‘Buena Vista Drive’ and subsequently, references to the future of the airport and Buena Vista Drive have been removed from the AAP. The previous proposal to safeguard future expansion of the airport performed poorly against the SA objectives seeking to Reduce the need / desire to travel by car or air, minimise pollution, and Reduce non-renewable energy consumption, but performed positively against the SA objective for a diverse economy due to its importance to the City’s current economic strategy. Amendments to the boundary line, therefore, result in both positive and negative SA outcomes being removed from the appraisal, but there are no further wider implications on the sustainability of the AAP.

District Centre Proposal

The intention to deliver a new district centre to the east of the A386 on land close to the Future Inns remains as published in February 2011. The evidence base, however, has been updated and clear guidance regarding the quantum, mix and size of retail floorspace has been provided to the Council, which has informed the revised AAP. The proposal is now more cautious in relation to its timeline for increasing retail floor space. This is to ensure that the district centre does not compete with the City Centre, rather it supports the City Centre as the primary shopping destination within the city and will have a complementary role to play within the city’s retail hierarchy. This is consistent with the strategic approach previously proposed, and therefore there is no change to plan’s performance against SA objectives.

Derriford Community Park

Masterplanning work for the Community Park has allowed this proposal to be refined through the following changes:

- the definition of an agreed boundary line with adjoining proposal for Seaton Neighbourhood,
- exclusion of Glacis Park green corridor from the park, but the development of a separate proposal to protect and enhance the functions of this green space,
- integration of specific targets for quantities of habitat restoration and/or creation,
• greater emphasis on the importance of community food growing and active farm
management as activities central to the park’s success,
• clarification of the role the park will play in providing mitigation / compensation for wildlife
impacts of Seaton Neighbourhood proposal.

These changes respond in part to commentary made in the last appraisal, and strengthen
the proposal’s performance against the SA objectives.

Low Carbon Development

The proposal for enabling low carbon development through the expansion of a district heating
network has been amended as follows:
• the wording now makes it a requirement for developments to connect to any district
heating network once established
• the safeguarding of land to support energy centres has been applied to more proposals.

These were both recommendations from previous SA and therefore, these changes improve
the performance of this proposal against the SA objectives.

Sustainable Transport and Movement

An updated Derriford Transport Strategy has been prepared and published. This provides a
greater level of detail on how modal shift will be encouraged and supported within the Derriford
area and has resulted in the inclusion of a policy covering the application of demand
management measures, such as travel plans and parking controls. The importance of a
robust approach to these ‘softer’ transport measures was identified in the previous SA as
crucial, given the ambitious nature of the targets for modal shift. This policy therefore
strengthens the plan’s performance against the SA objectives.

Other positive refinements to this area of the plan include specific references of the need to
avoid impacts to surrounding wildlife sites through appropriate design measures to the Forder
Valley bus lane, and any surface water drainage infrastructure.

Flood Risk

The plan has been improved through specific reference to the area-wide concerns about
surface water flooding. A number of proposals falling in areas at risk from this form of flooding
are specifically identified as needing to bring forward designs that reduce this risk.

Recommendations for monitoring

These remain as published in 2011.
3: Conclusions

The appraisal finds that there has been no substantive change to the strategic direction of the plan, and therefore the headline impacts on the sustainability objectives remain as published in 2011.

There have been a number of changes to the wording of specific policies and proposals, many of these respond to previous SA recommendations and therefore improve the plan’s overall sustainability. For instance, there have been improvements to the plan’s approach to travel planning, the community park, the mitigation of ecological impacts from proposed highway infrastructure, reducing surface water flooding and the approach to district energy.
Appendix 1: Compliance with SEA Directive

The following table comprises a list of the SEA Directive requirements which need to be met within the Sustainability Appraisal process. The SEA requirements relate to the production of what is referred to in the Directive as an ‘Environmental Report’ for submission in parallel to the final plan.

This report only relates to the current stage the AAP’s development. Some of the Directive's requirements have been (or will be) covered by other publications. This table signposts readers to the various section of different reports and chapters that demonstrate compliance with the Directive.

Appendix 1: Table on Compliance with SEA Directive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEA Requirements</th>
<th>Evidence in this Report</th>
<th>Evidence in other documents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparing an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan, are identified, described and evaluated. The information requirements under Article 5 and Annex of the directive are:</td>
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<tr>
<td>A) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes</td>
<td>Plymouth LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2008</td>
<td>Derriford &amp; Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report</td>
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<td>B) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan</td>
<td>Plymouth LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2008</td>
<td>Derriford &amp; Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report</td>
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<td>C) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected</td>
<td>Plymouth LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2008</td>
<td>Derriford and Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issues &amp; Preferred Options Report February 2009 (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>D) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Plymouth LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2008</td>
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<td>E) The environmental protection objectives, established at International, Community or National level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation</td>
<td>Plymouth LDF Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report March 2008</td>
<td>Derriford and Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report (Chapter 3), Derriford and Seaton AAP Sustainability Appraisal - February 2011 (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>F) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary archaeological heritage, landscape and the, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Derriford and Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report (Chapter 2)</td>
</tr>
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<td>G) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Derriford and Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report (Chapter 2)</td>
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<td>H) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Alternatives &amp; method discussed in Derriford and Seaton AAP - Sustainability Appraisal - Issue &amp; Preferred Options Report</td>
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<td>I) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10</td>
<td>Chapter 2 Derriford and Seaton AAP Sustainability Appraisal - February 2011 (Chapter 3)</td>
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<td>J) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.</td>
<td>Executive Summary Non technical summaries have been produced to accompany the SA's reports for the Issues &amp; Options, Issues and Preferred Options and Pre-submission Consultation documents.</td>
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**Consulting:**

- authorities with environmental responsibilities, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Article 5.4)
- authorities with environmental responsibilities and the public, to give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan (Article 6.1, 6.2)
- other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment in these countries (Article 7).

Taking the environment report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Article 8).

**Providing information on the decision:**

When the plan is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Article 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed:

- the plan as adopted
- a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and how the environmental report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
- the measures decided concerning monitoring (Article 9).
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<td>Monitoring the significant environmental effects of the plan’s implementation (Article 10)</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>LDF Annual Monitoring Reports</td>
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