

Appendix H: quality Assurance checklist

This Quality Assurance Checklist is adapted from Appendix 4 of the Government guidance *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents* (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005).

QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST	
Objectives and context	
The plan's purpose and objectives are made clear	Refer to Chapter 2 of this report
Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets	Sustainability issues relevant to the London Borough of Bexley are identified in Parts 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 of this report. International, European, UK, regional and local objectives and targets have been identified in the policies, plans and programmes review contained in Appendix F and in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
SEA Objectives are clearly set out and links to indicators and targets where appropriate	Parts 3.3.1 and 3.4 of this report presents the sustainability appraisal objectives
Links to other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained	The policies, plans and programmes review contained in Appendix F explains links to relevant policies, plans and programmes
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Scoping Report	The consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report ran for five weeks from 4 November to 9 December 2010. In addition, regular dialogue has been maintained with the statutory consultees to ensure that they are aware of the approach being taken and the associated updates to information outlined in the scoping report.
The SEA focuses on significant issues	Significant issues were identified in the Scoping Report . These have been refined over time and are presented in Part 3.4 of this report.
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed, assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit	These were stated in the Scoping Report where appropriate, and are presented in Part 3.6 of this report.
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	These were stated in the Scoping Report where appropriate, and in Parts 3.2 and 3.3 of this report.
Alternatives	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues and the reasons for choosing them are documented	Alternatives were considered as outlined in Chapter 4 of this report.
Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant	These were considered as outlined in Chapter 4 of this report. In particular, Option A reflects the 'do nothing' scenario.
The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) are identified and compared	These were considered as outlined in Chapter 4 of this report.
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained	These were considered as outlined in Chapter 4 of this report and Appendix F .
Reasons are given for the selection or elimination of alternatives	These were considered as outlined in Chapter 4 of this report.

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Baseline	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described	This is set out in Part 3.3 of the report and in Appendices A – E . In addition, Option A as detailed in Appendix G evaluates the current state of the environment ('do nothing' scenario).
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practical	This is set out in Part 3.3 of the report and in Appendices A - E
Any difficulties, such as deficiencies in information or methods, are explained	Technical difficulties are set out in Part 3.6 of the report, and stated throughout the Sustainability Appraisal Report where appropriate.
Prediction and evaluation of significant environmental effects	
Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape) as relevant; other likely environmental effects are also covered as appropriate	Refer to Chapter 4 of this report, and also the final sustainability appraisal iteration for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy policies contained in Appendix G . Also refer to the separate Equalities Impact Assessment . In addition, a Habitat Regulations Assessment screening opinion was carried out of the Core Strategy, which covers the potential development in the Erith Western Gateway as provided for in the SPD.
Both positive and negative effects are considered and the duration of effects (short, medium or long term) is addressed	Refer to Chapter 4 of this report, and also the final sustainability appraisal iteration for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy policies contained in Appendix G . Also refer to the separate Equalities Impact Assessment . In addition, a Habitat Regulations Assessment screening opinion was carried out of the Core Strategy, which covers the potential development in the Erith Western Gateway as provided for in the SPD.
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where practicable	Refer to Chapter 4 of this report, and also the final sustainability appraisal iteration for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy policies contained in Appendix G . Also refer to the separate Equalities Impact Assessment . In addition, a Habitat Regulations Assessment screening opinion was carried out of the Core Strategy, which covers the potential development in the Erith Western Gateway as provided for in the SPD.
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable	Refer to Chapter 4 of this report, and also the final sustainability appraisal iteration for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy policies contained in Appendix G . Also refer to the separate Equalities Impact Assessment . In addition, a Habitat Regulations Assessment screening opinion was carried out of the Core Strategy, which covers the potential development in the Erith Western Gateway as provided for in the SPD.
The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations and thresholds	These are considered and references where appropriate in this report and are referenced in Parts 3.5 and 3.6 of this report.

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Methods used to evaluate the effects are described	This is set out in Chapter 3 and within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
Mitigation Measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan or programme are indicated.	These were considered in Chapter 4 as appropriate.
Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified.	These are considered in Chapter 4 where relevant.
Environmental Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation	The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report is set out in Part 1.3 of this report.
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms	Technical terms have been explained and referenced throughout the report.
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate	Figures and tables have been used where appropriate.
Explains the methodology used	This is presented in Chapter 3 of this report.
Explains who was consulted and the methods of consultation used	This is presented in Parts 1.4 and 2.1 of this report
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion	This is covered in Part 3.5 of this report.
Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered and any changes to the plan resulting from the SEA.	A Non-Technical Summary is provided at the front of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, and can also be considered as a stand-alone document
Consultation	
The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process	Consultation has already taken place on the Scoping Report between 4 November and 9 December 2010. Consultation of the Sustainability Appraisal Report will be alongside the Proposed Submission Core Strategy for 6 weeks.
Consultation bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan or programme are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate timeframes to express their opinions on the draft plan and Environmental Report	Regular dialogue has been held with stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy and associated sustainability appraisal, and comments have been sought formally during designated consultation periods and informally through communication and updates as necessary.
Decision-making and Information on the Decision	
The Environmental Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan or programme	This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation)
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account	This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation)

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Reasons are given for choosing the plan or programme as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives considered	This will be included in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation)
Monitoring Measures	
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA	These are presented in Part 5.2 of this report.
Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan or programme, to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA	Details of this are presented in Part 5.2 of this report.
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage (these effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect)	Details of this are presented in Part 5.2 of this report.
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects	These are considered in Part 5.2 of this report. They will also be set out in the Post Adoption Statement (to be issued following consultation)