

Cheshire East Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation Response Form



The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report of the Local Plan identifies the scope and methodology for the appraisal of the Local Plan and has been produced to make sure that the social, environmental, and economic issues previously identified are up to date.

The Report will:

- Identify the key social, environmental and economic issues facing Cheshire East;
- Develop a series of social, environmental and economic objectives for Cheshire East, based on the issues facing the Borough and the objectives of national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes; and
- Develop a series of tools for the assessment of the sustainability of the Local Plan.

The purpose of the consultation is to:

- Make sure the SA is comprehensive and robust enough to support the Local Plan.
- Make sure that the assessment methodology is comprehensive.
- Advise on the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives.
- Advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues.
- Advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data.

Submitting Comments

- The consultation period runs for six weeks from 27 February 2017 to **5:00pm on 10 April 2017**. Comments received after this time will not be accepted and will not be considered.

Online: Via the consultation portal at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan

Email: To localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk

By hand: At the Council Offices, Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

By post: Cheshire East Council, Spatial Planning, Westfields
C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

Please note the following:

- All responses will be available for public inspection and will be placed on the Cheshire East website. This will include your name and post town. Anonymous responses will not be accepted.
- Your personal information will be held and used in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal data will not be sold on to third parties and we will use the data you give solely for the purpose of preparing the Cheshire East Local Plan, or other Spatial Planning Policies.
- Your details will be added to the Local Plan consultation database. If you want to be removed from the database please notify us using the contact details above.

Cheshire East Local Plan Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: Comment Form



Name of consultation document to which this comment relates:

Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Please return to:

Cheshire East Council, Spatial Planning, Westfields
C/O Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ or by email to
localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Please return by:

5:00pm, Monday 10 April 2017

This comment form has two parts:

- Part A – Personal Details.
- Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each comment you wish to make.

Comments Form Part A: Personal Details

1. Personal Details*

2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

** If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation in column 1 but complete the full contact details of the agent in column 2.*

Title	Ms	
First Name	Liz	
Last Name	Osborn	
Job Title (where relevant)	Town Clerk	
Organisation (where relevant)	Poynton Town Council	
Address Line 1	Civic Hall	
Address Line 2	Off Park Lane	
Address Line 3	Poynton	
Address Line 4	Cheshire	
Postcode	SK12 1RB	
Telephone Number	01625 872238	
Email Address (where relevant)	liz.osborn@poyntontowncouncil.gov.uk	
Your Reference No. (if known)		

Comment Form Part B: Comment

Please use a separate Part B Form for each comment and ensure that one copy of Part A (Personal Details) is securely attached

Name and Organisation:

Office Use Only:	
PID:	RID:

3. Please state which part of the document your comment relates to:

Paragraph / Figure / Table / Section:
(Please delete as appropriate)

4. Please use the comment box below to explain your answer.

The report is at a fairly high level of assessment as the Local Plan covers the diverse character of Cheshire East Council, its places, residents and business. For example, there are only two specific references to Poynton in the report of 75 pages and both of these are the inclusion of Poynton in the list of Key Service Centres which form part of the policy framework of the Local Plan.

There is a list of key sustainability issues which the Local Plan needs to take into account and these cover the three aspects of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF namely the social, environmental and economic. A total of 29 issues are identified many of which will be recognisable and can be supported. In addition, a list of 40 objectives across the three aspects of sustainability are given These lists are given as an Appendix to this report.

The objectives are then set out in a Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF) with a series of questions against each objective. The following factors are identified as needing to be taken into account:

- :
- The likely effects; social, environmental and economic.
- The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.
- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected).
- The cumulative nature of the effects.
- The trans-boundary nature of the effects.
- Risks to human health.
- Risks to the environment.

As an example of how the methodology works with some relevance for Poynton, objective 11 states as follows: Protect and enhance the quality, integrity and distinctiveness of the area's heritage, landscapes and townscapes; particularly those that are designated.

The criteria listed against which this objective would be measured are as follows:

Will it protect or enhance the townscape?

Will it complement the existing built and natural environment, ensuring that the area remains distinctive?

Will it protect or enhance the area's designated heritage assets and their setting?

Will it impact on the Green Belt?

This is an appropriate example because it demonstrates that while there is acknowledgement that there will be impact on the Green Belt arising from the Local Plan, the question is posed in a general manner. The question also fails to acknowledge the different kinds of impacts development within Green Belt would have, particularly on the scale proposed in the Local Plan. In particular, the significance of the impacts needs to be addressed.

It is concluded that whilst the SAF seems to follow current guidance and practice, far more detail will be required in terms of monitoring the sustainability impacts of the Local Plan on local communities and areas such as Poynton.

Comment Form Part B: Comment

Please use a separate Part B Form for each comment and ensure that one copy of Part A (Personal Details) is securely attached

Name and Organisation:

Poynton Town Council

Office Use Only:

PID:

RID:

3. Please state which part of the document your comment relates to:

Paragraph / Figure / Table / Section:
(Please delete as appropriate)

Whole document – Town Council response to questions asked in the consultation

4. Please use the comment box below to explain your answer.

1 Is the SA comprehensive and robust enough to support the Local Plan?

The SA is written at a high level due to the large and strategic nature of the Local Plan. However, its impact on the town of Poynton in terms of the three aspects of sustainability will be a substantial and detrimental impact arising from the substantial amount of additional development proposed in the Green Belt and subsequent impact on transport, services and facilities. As such the SA is insufficiently comprehensive and robust to address the impacts of the Local Plan on Poynton.

2 Is the assessment methodology comprehensive?

The basic methodology reflects current guidance for a Borough wide Plan. Cheshire East is a large borough both in terms of population and area. The methodology is insufficiently robust to provide for a detailed impact of policies given the scale of development proposed and the limited amount of mitigation offered across the three aspects of sustainability.

3 Are the sustainability objectives appropriate?

The sustainability objectives are acceptable in principle at a Borough wide level but are insufficiently sensitive to the needs of local communities. There is insufficient detail provided as to how detailed impacts would be assessed. Furthermore, insufficient regard is paid to the significance of a diverse range of impacts.

National advice regarding SAs acknowledges that what constitutes 'significant' will vary according to circumstance and is a matter of judgment. It also confirms that in determining the likely significance of effects, there is a requirement to consider different aspects including

- probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
- cumulative nature of the effects
- risks to human health or the environment

The effects on Poynton of this Local Plan will be severe. The SA does not acknowledge the severe impacts across the whole Borough of the scale of change proposed.

4 Are the key sustainability issues appropriate?

The key sustainability issues are acceptable in principle at a Borough wide level but are insufficiently sensitive to the needs of local communities. There is insufficient detail provided as to how detailed impacts would be assessed. Similar comments can be made as for question 3 above.

5 How comprehensive is the baseline data?

The baseline data is acceptable in principle at a Borough wide level but is insufficient in recognising the needs of local communities. There is insufficient detail provided as to show how changes to baseline data would be assessed, incorporated into the Borough Council Plan monitoring work and adverse impacts addressed. For a specific example, data about the potential

increase in peak time car journey trips across the County boundary between Greater Manchester and Cheshire East should be collected, monitored and action taken as appropriate to respond to the impact of additional journey times.

For further assistance in making comments please contact the Spatial Planning Team at localplan@cheshireeast.gov.uk or by telephone on 01270 685893.