Planning for an Ageing Population
Supplementary Planning Document

Adoption Statement
(Incorporating SA Adoption Statement)

September 2010
1.0 Purpose of this Document

1.1 This adoption statement relates to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead publication Planning for an Ageing Population Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (June 2009) and associated Sustainability Appraisal.

1.2 The statement is split into two sections:

- A statement of adoption for the Planning for an Ageing Population SPD.
- An adoption statement for the related Sustainability Appraisal.

1.3 For further information, please contact:

Planning Policy,
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead,
Town Hall,
St Ives Road,
Maidenhead, SL6 1RF.

Tel: 01628 796115.
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2.0 Adoption Statement: Planning for an Ageing Population SPD

2.1 In accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development (England) Regulations 2004, notice is given that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead formally adopted the Planning for an Ageing Population Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) on 30th September 2010 as a non-statutory planning brief. It now forms part of the council’s Local Development Framework.

2.2 The SPD is now a material consideration in the assessment and determination of planning applications across the Royal Borough for residential development, care homes or housing for older people, and all developments that incorporate or affect access for the public to buildings or to the open environment. The SPD provides detailed advice on:

- Making homes more accessible for a wider range of the population and adaptable to meet changing needs of residents;
- Ensuring that applications take full account of what effects proposals will have on the built environment to enhance access to services and improve accessibility and attractiveness for residents; and
- The design and location of care homes or housing for older people and what should be considered prior to submitting an application to the council.

The SPD indicates the requirements expected of development, proving guidance on how this should be demonstrated in any planning application.

2.3 Accompanying the SPD is a Consultation Report and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Consultation Report summarises the main issues raised during the consultation processes and how these were addressed in the adopted planning brief. A list of consultees is also provided.

2.4 Any person aggrieved by the SPD may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of the decision to adopt the SPD. Any such application for leave must be made promptly and in any event not later than three months after the date on which the SPD was adopted.

2.5 The adopted SPD, this adoption statement, the Consultation Report and the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report can all be viewed on the council’s website at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_ageing_population_spd.htm.

2.6 The documents may also be viewed at the usual hours of opening at the following locations:

- Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead.
- York House, Sheet Street, Windsor.
- At all borough libraries.

2.7 The documents can also be purchased from the council.
2.8 For further information please contact the Planning Policy at Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF; by telephone on 01628 796115; by email on Planning.Policy@rbwm.gov.uk
3.0 Adoption Statement Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive\(^1\) requires local planning authorities to carry out formal SEA of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The SEA process ensures that opportunities for public involvement are provided and the significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are predicted, evaluated, mitigated and monitored.

3.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive but broadens this to include both social and economic considerations\(^2\). The purpose of SA is to systematically appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies in a local development document from the outset of the preparation process. This will ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

How does this relate to the Planning for an Ageing Population SPD?

3.3 The purpose of the Planning for an Ageing Population SPD is to provide detailed advice on improving the adaptability and accessibility of new homes, improving the built environment to be more welcoming and accessible to residents (especially older people), and to provide guidance on creating high quality care homes and housing for older people in the right locations across the borough. The SPD indicates the requirements expected of development, proving guidance on how this should be demonstrated in any planning application.

3.4 In 2008, the legal requirement\(^3\) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of all Supplementary Planning Documents was removed. However, this SPD has been prepared partly on the basis of the RBWM Local Plan which has not been subject to SA. The council has therefore carried out an SA of the relevant Local Plan policies as well as the SPD, which is deemed to be more than a minor modification to current policy.

3.5 The SPD was prepared by a planning officer in the council’s Planning Policy Unit in consultation with officers throughout the council in services such as Development Control, Building Control and Adult Services. The SA was carried out by a senior planning officer in the Planning Policy Unit. This meant that although both reports were produced simultaneously, the assessment maintained a degree of independence from the policy formation. This integrated process also allowed for the recommendations from the SA process to feed into and inform the SPD from the initial to final stages of its production.

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1 European Directive EC/2001/42. Transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004).

2 Central government guidance (ODPM, 2005) has merged these processes to allow for a single joint appraisal (Sustainability Appraisal or SA) to be carried out.

3 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2008)
Purpose of this SA Adoption Statement

3.6 This SA Adoption Statement is required to show:

- How sustainability issues have been integrated into the SPD;
- How the SA and consultation has been taken into account; and
- The reasons for choosing the document as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives.

The SA Process

3.7 Full details of the SA process are set out in the SA Report\(^4\) and are summarised here. The SA was a two-stage process:


3.8 Prior to the production of the SPD, a scoping stage was necessary to propose and agree the appraisal methodology and collate the information needed to carry this out. The appraisal needed to be set within the context of existing plans and policies and an understanding of the current baseline situation was essential to predict effects and identify key sustainability issues and problems. 8 of the 23 RBWM SA objectives were used to consider relevant local issues. These objectives cover a range of social, environmental and economic impacts, for example: improving the health and well-being of the population and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent home. Following consultation a Revised Scoping Report (March 2010) was published.


3.9 The SA Report records the work undertaken throughout the whole SA process right up to the final stages of development of the SPD. It also reports on the significant sustainability effects of the relevant saved Local Plan Policies and the draft SPD, puts forward mitigation measures and suggested proposals for monitoring. Following consultation, the Final Sustainability Appraisal: Planning for an Ageing Population SPD (September 2010) was published.

Public involvement

3.10 A key component of the SA process is consultation with stakeholders\(^5\). In total there have been two stages of consultation, although comments and input have been accepted throughout the appraisal due to the iterative nature of the process. The Regulations\(^6\) require the responsible authority to give the consultees five weeks to respond from the date the appraisal is received. Three key bodies are required to be consulted – the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. The

\[^4\] Sustainability Appraisal: Planning for an Ageing Population SPD (September 2010).


\[^6\] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2008.
following provides a summary of the consultation process at each stage of the SA process:

a) Scoping Report Consultation

3.11 This first stage of consultation was carried out between 11th January – 15th February 2010. The consultation sought to:

- Ensure the SA methodology is comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD during the later stages of public consultation.
- Advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data.
- Advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues.
- Advise on the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives.

3.12 Two responses were received in response to the Scoping Report. The main comments were biodiversity issues related to whether or not the SPD would unlock development potential. In the light of these responses the Scoping Report was revised and published in March 2010.7

b) The SA Report

3.13 The Draft SA Report was produced in March 2010. This is a key output in the appraisal process as it presents information and changes made during the whole of the appraisal. The SA Report was published for consultation in support of the public consultation on the SPD from 19th March to 30th April 2010.

3.14 One response was received, which reiterated a previous response and did not require any changes to be made to the SA Report.8

What difference has the process made?

3.15 The SA has provided a means of assessing the positive and negative effects of the SPD in the light of the key issues and problems relating to the ageing population within the borough and against baseline data.

3.16 Local Plan Policies are likely to be superseded by new policies in the Local Development Framework in time. The findings in this SA Report will need to be considered when reviewing these policies in the new DPD and have been taken into account in writing the SPD.

3.17 The SA explored two different options for providing supplementary information on planning for the ageing population. These were:

a) Business as usual (continued use of saved Local Plan policies); and
b) The development of a new SPD.

8 Planning for an Ageing Population SPD Consultation Statement (June 2010).
3.18 It was clear from this process that the development of a new SPD would bring the most benefits for the ageing population in the Royal Borough.

3.19 The findings of the SA Report are:

- This SA has found that the Planning for an Ageing Population SPD generally has very positive effects on most of the SA objectives. In particular it is likely to have an especially positive impact on those objectives seeking good quality housing, improvements to health, poverty reduction and vibrant and distinctive communities.
- The SPD will need to be carefully monitored to ensure that its requirements are not so onerous that the number of development completions is being reduced.

**Future Stages and Monitoring**

3.20 This Adoption Statement reflects the adoption of the SPD. However, the SA process is iterative, meaning that its success and effectiveness will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data according to the identified indicators. The SA report sets out relevant indicators to monitor the significant effects of the plan and identifies any remedial action required if the trends or targets detailed in the SA Framework table are not met. The indicators are:

- Permissions granted for C2 (net increase in floorspace) and C3 (net increase in dwellings) use classes: year-on-year comparison.
- Proportion of relevant applications complying with the Building for Life requirements: year-on-year comparison.

3.21 This information will be included within the Annual Monitoring Report, which can be downloaded from the council’s website at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_annual_monitoring_report.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_annual_monitoring_report.htm)

**Further information**

3.22 The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report can all be viewed on the council’s website at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_ageing_population_spd.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_ageing_population_spd.htm).

3.23 The document may also be viewed at the usual hours of opening at the following locations:

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3.24 The document can also be purchased from the council. Please contact the Planning Policy Unit for further information.