

Cinderford Northern Quarter Area Action Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Report
Non-Technical Summary

Draft for Consultation

Forest of Dean District Council

October 2009

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1 THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE DRAFT AAP FOR REGENERATION OF CINDERFORD NORTHERN QUARTER: NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Non Technical Summary (NTS) accompanies the Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR).

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Forest of Dean District Council is developing an Area Action Plan (AAP) and Masterplan for the regeneration of Cinderford Northern Quarter. To inform the development of this, a Sustainability Appraisal (SEA/SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹, has been undertaken. The SEA/SA is undertaken in order to fulfil legislative requirements and to help decision-makers develop an AAP which has thoroughly considered the sustainability of its policy direction, options and chosen interventions, pre-empting potential negative impacts and exploring opportunities to enhance the beneficial impacts of its preferred policy route.

1.2 THIS REPORT

The SEA/SA Report, hereafter referred to as SAR, integrates the requirement for, and components of an Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations. This Report comprises the Non Technical Summary (NTS) of the SAR. As set out in the SEA Regulations, Section 12(3) and Schedule 2(10), the NTS must provide a summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.

This information and where it can be found in this NTS, is set out in the following table:

NTS Requirement - To provide a short summary of the following key elements:	Where the Information is provided in this NTS
Outline the contents and main objectives of the Draft AAP	Section 2
Explain the relationship of the Draft AAP with other plans, policies and programmes	Section 3
Summarise the environmental characteristics of Cinderford, concentrating on the current state of social, economic and environmental sustainability and problems associated with it	Section 3

¹ The SEA Directive: 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment.

NTS Requirement - To provide a short summary of the following key elements:	Where the Information is provided in this NTS
Summarise how the baseline is likely to evolve without the Draft AAP	Section 3
Summarise the environmental objectives established at Community or UK level which are relevant to the Draft AAP and how those objectives have been taken into account in the strategy	Section 3
Summarise the likely significant short, medium, long term, cumulative and synergistic effects of the Draft AAP on the list of matters in Schedule 2 (a) to (m)	Section 3
Summarise the measures to prevent or off-set significant adverse effects (if any)	Section 4
Summarise the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including difficulties in terms of gathering information (if any)	Section 2 and 3
Summarise the monitoring measures	Section 4

This NTS report therefore includes a summary of all the information required by the SEA Directive, but has included additional aspects of the SA, rather than just the SEA elements of the assessment.

2.1 *THE DRAFT AAP*

Cinderford has been identified by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), previously English Partnerships, as a priority regeneration area for the south west of England under its National Coalfields Programme. The District-wide Local Plan was adopted in November 2005 and sets out policies and proposals to guide development in the Forest of Dean up to 2011. While this sets a broad strategic context for the Northern Quarter and allocates development sites, it does not provide detailed site specific guidance in relation to urban design, landscape, environmental, transport, delivery and phasing. In December 2008 the Cinderford Regeneration Board published the Cinderford Business Plan, which is a 10 year action plan for the regeneration of the town.

The AAP is the next stage in the process, setting out the plans for future development within the Northern Quarter of Cinderford, with the Preferred Option having been developed following the consideration of a number of Preliminary Options.

2.2 *THE EVIDENCE BASE FOR THE APPRAISAL*

Key to the development and assessment of Options for the AAP, and ultimately the selection of the Preferred Option itself, has been the series of independent studies and reports, undertaken on behalf of FoDDC and HCA. These reports have provided a strong evidence base for the Appraisal, enabling a full understanding of the implications of the various Options, from an economic, social and environmental perspective.

The key reports and documents used to inform the development and Appraisal of the AAP Preferred Option (and constituent Masterplan) are as follows:

Evidence base

Cinderford Business Plan (2007)
Transport Options Assessment (2009)
Transport Strategy (2009)
Baseline Report (2009)
Cinderford Regeneration Site Ecological Appraisal Report (2009)
Market Review (2009)
Screening against Habitats Regulations (2009)
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Cinderford, Level 2 (2009)
Appraisal of Flood Risk (2009)
Consultation Report (2009)
Mining Legacy Assessment (2009)
Heritage and Archaeological Study (2009)
Strategic Feasibility of Renewable Energy (2009)

Other documents

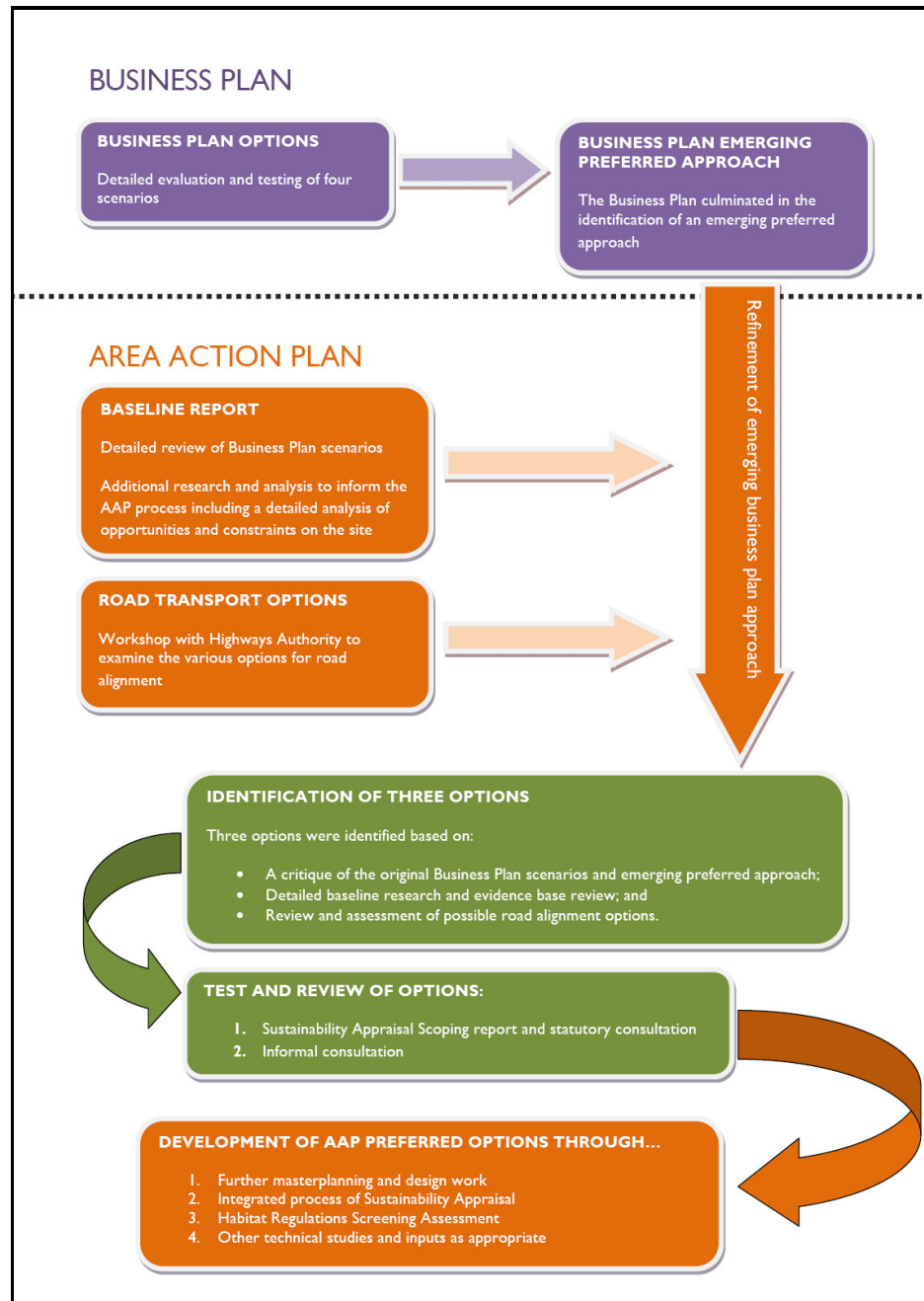
SA Scoping Report (2009)
Sustainability Appraisal (2009)
Sustainable Development Framework (2009)
Masterplan and Design Code (2009)

2.3***OPTIONS CONSIDERED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AAP AND THE PREFERRED OPTION***

Taking the option which was identified through consultation on the Cinderford Business Plan (2007) as the 'preferred option' as a starting point, the AAP drafting team prepared three further variants on this approach (the 'Preliminary Options') through a process of informal consultation in May 2009, as detailed in Section 3 of the Appraisal Report. These Preliminary Options detailed differing visions of what the mixed use development could comprise, and take into account flood and wider constraints mapping.

Figure 2.1 provides a summary of the process of developing the Options, through which the AAP Preferred Option emerged.

Figure 2.1 Options Development Process



2.3.1 The Preferred Option

The Preferred Option provides the basis for the Masterplan which is being developed for the Northern Quarter. It aims to facilitate the integration of the Northern Quarter area with the Statutory Forest, Steam Mills and Newtown residential areas, Steam Mills Lake, green spaces and town centre facilities, considering the ways in which sustainability can be embedded within the regeneration of the Cinderford area.

The plans for a mixed use development within the area include provision of a hotel, office space and a potential education hub, along with accommodation

for innovation / enterprise businesses, residential accommodation and a multi-purpose community leisure facility. The residential accommodation will provide a mix of unit types and tenures and will include up to 40% affordable housing provision. There will also be provision of safe pedestrian and cycling linkages, as well as improved highways access and the development of public transport facilities to enable easy access between the site and the surrounding areas and facilities.

The objectives of the Draft AAP and Masterplan are as follows:

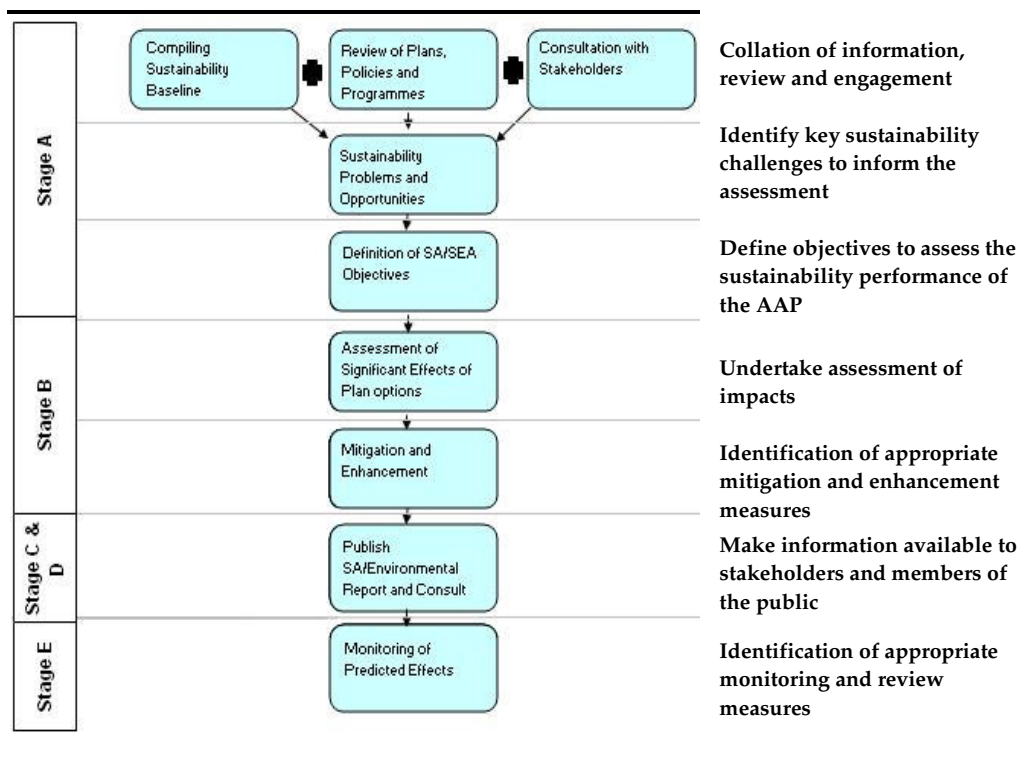
1. To promote high standards of sustainable design including climate change adaptation and mitigation and renewable energy provision;
2. To realise the site's potential as a local amenity centre for surrounding communities;
3. To unlock the development potential of the site through the development of a new spine road which will enhance the accessibility of the Northern Quarter and Cinderford;
4. To achieve sustainable transport patterns through improved accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists and buses;
5. To facilitate the regeneration of the Northern Quarter through the development of an educational facility;
6. To ensure that development respects the area's important landscape, habitats and cultural heritage;
7. To protect and enhance the biodiversity value of the Northern Quarter;
8. To deliver an appropriate balance of employment, residential, community and leisure uses across the site;
9. To promote a wide range of leisure activities in the Northern Quarter to promote access to the forest;
10. To ensure that the development is carefully integrated with Steam Mills, New Town and Cinderford Town Centre in terms of amenities and physical connections; and
11. To ensure that the plan is deliverable and has a broad base of support.

The identification of Appraisal objectives – outlined within Section 3 – informed the development of the Draft AAP and Masterplan, ensuring that these objectives aligned with, and reflected the sustainability objectives or aspirations established for the area, and more broadly at regional and national level.

3.1 WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL?

Sustainability Appraisal is a process driven in part by compliance with European and English law⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ and also by best practice. It incorporates both the process of SEA, and its principal output, the Environmental Report, seeking to augment this with thorough and effective integration of all aspects of sustainability. The key stages involved in the SA/SEA process (as per Guidance and the SEA Directive) are detailed overleaf. For a more detailed explanation of the Appraisal process, please refer to Chapter 3 of the SA Report.

Figure 3.1 The Flow of Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process



3.1.1 Strategic Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes and Baseline Conditions to Inform the Appraisal

A review of the wider strategic context (relevant plans, policies and programmes) was undertaken to inform the Appraisal; as required by the Regulations and guidance. In particular, the review identified the ambitions of Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy, the Cinderford Business Plan, and the South West Regional Economic Strategy

(1) Ibid
 (2) Town and Country Planning Act, 2004

as being shared priorities for the AAP. From the review of policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives, the Appraisal identified the generic policy imperatives which have influenced the preparation of the Draft AAP, the assessment itself.

A review of baseline conditions in the Cinderford area highlighted key issues for consideration, which are outlined both within the main body of the SAR and the accompanying Annexes. The review identified those challenges which were likely to evolve in the absence of the Draft AAP. A full overview of these challenges is provided within the SAR. These issues, alongside the strategic review of key plans and programmes, collectively informed the selection of key 'sustainability objectives' or aims which were established to inform and assess the development of the AAP. These objectives - categorised into primary and secondary objectives - are set out in the form of a Sustainability Appraisal Framework, which forms the basis for assessment of the AAP and the 'options' which guided its development.

The Assessment Framework

Sustainability Objectives
1) Environmental and Resource Sustainability
1a) To Protect and Enhance the Physical and Built Environment
<p>To ensure sensitive integration of the development within the wider Cinderford area to maximise sustainability for the town and its surrounding area</p> <p>To ensure the development does not involve building in areas at risk of flooding or contribute to flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>To protect and enhance water resources within and surrounding Cinderford</p> <p>To improve the current low flow situation in Cinderford Brook and in doing so improve water quality and biodiversity.</p> <p>To investigate opportunities to further reduce existing flood risk within Cinderford</p> <p>To promote sustainable procurement of both materials and personnel through construction and operation of the development</p> <p>To reduce the carbon footprint of the development, and its wider area, through design, delivery and operation</p> <p>To develop new residential building to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 (by 2010 and increasing with Government policy thereafter); non residential Buildings to achieve at least BREEAM excellent or relevant equivalent.</p> <p>To integrate sustainable waste management facilities and services within the development, to the benefit of it and Cinderford more broadly</p> <p>To support the improvement of contaminated and derelict land and reduce the impact of unstable land.</p> <p>To ensure contaminated and derelict land is restored and returned to beneficial use.</p> <p>To reduce the potential of pollutant emissions impacting on land, through implementing and monitoring the use of best practice environmental management techniques.</p> <p>To protect and enhance air quality</p>
1b) Designated & Non-Designated Ecological Sites: Biodiversity
<p>To protect and enhance designated and non-designated sites within and adjacent to the development, and across Cinderford</p>

Sustainability Objectives
To ensure that the development contributes to the protection of the wider wildlife interest of the district, especially strengthening of links between 'wild' areas to better enable adaptation to climate change
1c) To Promote More Sustainable Forms of Transport Provision
<p>To promote sustainable access into and out of the area To promote more sustainable patterns of travel and modes of transport, such as the use of public transport, walking and cycling</p> <p>To enhance sustainable transport infrastructure To help reduce the need to travel, such as by ensuring that people can live closer to their work and by improving local access to services</p> <p>To promote economic patterns that avoid unnecessary dependence on long-distance trade and travel To reduce the distance to, and/or ease of accessing, schools, shops, places of work and recreation</p>
2) Economic Sustainability
<p>To promote/help facilitate economic sustainability within the area To enhance infrastructure and services, to support local businesses To promote sustainable business practice within Cinderford To enhance the attractiveness of Cinderford as a place for business investment To diversify the range of employment opportunities within Cinderford To enhance access to employment and up-skilling opportunities To promote integration of educational and skills training in line with identified need To help increase the number of people who stay in/visit the area To promote sustainable tourism initiatives in the Forest of Dean (such as walking/cycling tourism)</p>
3) Social Sustainability
3a) To Promote Sustainability Skills and Learning
<p>To promote and facilitate awareness raising and understanding of sustainability To promote access to education and vocational skills training</p>
3b) To promote social integration
<p>To promote social connectivity and integration between and across communities in Cinderford and the area To enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and workers within Cinderford To enhance access to social, leisure and sporting facilities in and surrounding Cinderford, including the Forest, for all To enhance access to social, leisure and sporting facilities in and surrounding Cinderford, including the Forest, for all</p>
3c) To Promote Equality of Opportunity
<p>To meet identified housing need, in particular, the provision of affordable housing To promote equality of opportunity and access for all within Cinderford To ensure physical and social access to infrastructure, services and opportunities.</p>
3d) To Protect and Enhance the Historical and Cultural Identity of the Area
To protect and enhance local identity and heritage within and across Cinderford

Sustainability Objectives

To ensure that the social and cultural heritage of the area is maintained through development works

To support the protection of culturally and historically significant assets and qualities. Not just designated sites and buildings, but also locally valued features and landmarks

3.2 ASSESSING STRATEGY OPTIONS ('ALTERNATIVES')

The assessment of alternatives or options is a key requirement of both the SEA Directive and Regulations, and UK Government guidance. Guidance reflects that those options which were considered realistic or feasible, and only such options, should be appraised. In accordance with this, the Appraisal assessed those options which were considered by the AAP drafting team through the process of developing the Preferred Option; these being the three Options detailed in Section 2 of this NTS and illustrated within Chapter 3 of the SAR.

3.3 PRELIMINARY OPTIONS ASSESSMENT

The Preliminary Options assessment findings are set out in detail in *Annex E* of the Appraisal Report. The assessment demonstrates that all Preliminary Options create opportunities to deliver sustainability benefits. However, issues of potential negative impact remain with all Options. Consultation with local people and stakeholders indicated that Option 2 was the preferred Masterplan. The diversification of land use, sensitive integration into surrounding environment, enhanced access and connectivity, as well as educational and visitor centres, all appealed to stakeholders.

Option 2 also allocated the greatest proportion of the development site for employment-related land use and it would follow, therefore, that it affords the greatest job creation potential. Further, allocating the Northern United site for industrial land use constitutes most to preserving the industrial character of that part of the site.

However, the assessment did identify less positive aspects of Option 2, notably: scale of residential land use, ecological impacts and flood risk:






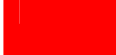
- Option 2 has the lowest proportion of residential land use, which might result in the lowest number of new residents being introduced into the area, making the lowest contribution to FoDDC housing targets.
- As noted in the summary table of the Appraisal of Flood Risk, Option 2 (as with all options) had elements potentially incompatible with planning requirements, primarily in respect of the location of designated industrial units within possible development of Flood Zone 3B.
- As with all Options, Option 2 would have potentially negative effects on habitat and biodiversity, which would require mitigation.

It was recognised that in taking Option 2 as a starting point for the Preferred Option, these key negative elements would need to be addressed. To this end, Option 2 was subject to ongoing refinement and several iterations.

3.4

APPRAISAL SCORING AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (PREFERRED OPTION)

This Section provides a summary of the key findings of the assessment of the AAP Preferred Options. It is intended as a brief summary guide only, with the full narrative of the assessment being provided within the main body of the Appraisal Report. The ratings devised to highlight the level of significance of impacts are as follows:

Nature and Scale/severity of Significant Impact	Colour Code	Description
Strong positive		A positive impact which is likely to result in moderate to major benefits.
Positive		A positive impact which is likely to result in minor to moderate benefits.
Neutral		An impact where no change from the current situation is expected.
Uncertain		An impact where there is insufficient information to determine if it will be positive or negative.
Negative		A negative/adverse impact which is likely to result in minor to moderate disbenefits
Strong negative		A negative/adverse impact which is likely to result in moderate to major disbenefits.

The assessment findings are summarised below but the detailed assessment is provided within the SAR:

Environment and Resource Sustainability	
To Protect and Enhance the Physical and Built Environment	
To ensure sensitive integration of the development within the wider Cinderford area to maximise sustainability for the town and its surrounding area	Positive
To ensure the development does not involve building in areas at risk of flooding or contribute to flooding elsewhere To protect and enhance water resources within and surrounding Cinderford To improve the current low flow situation in Cinderford Brook and in doing so improve water quality and biodiversity To investigate opportunities to further reduce existing flood risk within Cinderford	Positive
To promote sustainable procurement of both materials and personnel through construction and operation of the development To reduce the carbon footprint of the development, and its wider area, through design, delivery and operation	Positive

To develop new residential building to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 (by 2010 and increasing with Government policy thereafter); non residential Buildings to achieve at least BREEAM excellent or relevant equivalent. To integrate sustainable waste management facilities and services within the development, to the benefit of it and Cinderford more broadly	Positive
To support the improvement of contaminated and derelict land and reduce the impact of unstable land To ensure contaminated and derelict land is restored and returned to beneficial use. To reduce the potential of pollution incidents impacting on land, through implementing and monitoring the use of best practice environmental management techniques.	Positive
To protect and enhance air quality	Uncertain
To encourage the use of renewable energy where appropriate	Positive
Designated and Non-Designated Ecological Sites: Biodiversity	
To protect and enhance designated and non-designated sites within and adjacent to the development, and across Cinderford	Negative
To ensure that the development contributes to the protection of the wider wildlife interest of the district, especially strengthening of links between 'wild' areas to better enable adaptation to climate change	Negative
To Promote More Sustainable Forms of Transport Provision	
To promote sustainable access into and out of the area	Positive
To promote more sustainable patterns of travel and modes of transport, such as the use of public transport, walking and cycling To enhance sustainable transport infrastructure	Positive
To help reduce the need to travel, such as by ensuring that people can live closer to their work and by improving local access to services To promote economic patterns that avoid unnecessary dependence on long-distance trade and travel	Positive
To reduce the distance to, and/or ease of accessing, schools, shops, places of work and recreation	Positive
Economic Sustainability	
To promote/help facilitate economic sustainability within the area	Strong Positive
To enhance infrastructure and services, to support local businesses To promote sustainable business practice within Cinderford To enhance the attractiveness of Cinderford as a place for business investment	Strong Positive
To diversify the range of employment opportunities within Cinderford To enhance access to employment and up-skilling opportunities To promote integration of educational and skills training in line with identified need	Strong Positive
To help increase the number of people who stay/visit the area To promote sustainable tourism initiatives in the Forest of Dean (such as walking/cycling tourism)	Strong Positive
Social Sustainability	
To Promote Sustainability Skills and Learning	

To promote and facilitate awareness raising and understanding of sustainability	Positive
To promote access to education and vocational skills training	Strong Positive
To Promote Social Integration	
To promote social connectivity between and across communities in Cinderford and the wider area	Positive
To promote civic and wider stakeholder engagement amongst the population of Cinderford and surrounding area	Positive
To enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and workers within Cinderford	Positive
To enhance access to social, leisure and sporting facilities in and surrounding Cinderford, including the Forest, for all	Positive
To Promote Equality of Opportunity	
To meet identified housing need, in particular, the provision of affordable housing	Positive
To promote equality of opportunity and access for all within Cinderford	Positive
To ensure physical and social access to infrastructure, services and opportunities	
To Protect and Enhance the Historical and Cultural Identity of the Area	
To protect and enhance local identity and heritage within and across Cinderford	Positive
To ensure that the social and cultural heritage of the area is maintained through development works	Positive
To support the protection of culturally and historically significant assets and qualities. Not just designated sites and buildings, but also locally valued features and landmarks	Neutral

3.5

CUMULATIVE & SYNERGISTIC IMPACTS

Integrated delivery of the AAP and Masterplan for the Northern Quarter with other local and regional plans has the potential to give rise to significant positive cumulative impacts; recognising also the key role of other AAPs emerging from the areas surrounding the Northern Quarter. It will be important to ensure consistency of approach and objective across the Forest of Dean area. A collective strategic approach will be critical to delivering beneficial impacts which affect the wider area, notably improved public transport provision as well as wider objectives for driving improvement in areas such as housing, education, skills and welfare.

Engagement with stakeholders and their active participation at future design stages has the potential to significantly enhance projected beneficial impacts, in line with wider sustainability aspirations. The next Section explores key considerations for enhancing positive impacts and the cumulative beneficial impact of delivering the AAP as a whole.

The AAP sets a positive framework for regeneration within the Northern Quarter and Cinderford. It addresses key social and economic needs within the area, through the provision of necessary infrastructure to allow regeneration to occur. Education, housing and commercial needs have been prioritised, whilst recognising the environmental value of the area and the need to retain the identity of Cinderford with its close proximity and links to the Forest of Dean. The proposed development has firmly recognised the importance of local character and context, the Masterplan accommodates the known conditions of the Northern Quarter and the socio-cultural issues which the Council is conscious of the need to address, such as enhancing connectivity, accessibility and engagement. It is essential that the positive platform of engagement which characterised the development process to date is continued.

While it is recognised that there are a number of outstanding areas to be considered during the outline planning stage, the AAP represents a positive commitment by the Forest of Dean District Council to progressing sustainability within the Cinderford area and a genuine platform for stimulating development in a sensitive and sustainable manner. Mitigation and enhancement can be provided through the implementation of the AAP and Masterplan in line with the recommendations outlined in the next Section, and at the outline planning stage.

In conjunction with identifying the likely significant effects on the environment, the SEA Directive and Regulations also require the identification of measures to prevent, offset or reduce any significant adverse effects that are anticipated to arise.

4.1.1 *Embedded Mitigation*

The primary mechanism through which mitigation has been addressed, is through the process of iterative development of the AAP and Masterplan in conjunction with stakeholder and the multidisciplinary client and consultant team. The objective has been to ensure that mitigation is incorporated in a timely and effective manner in order to avoid negative effects as far as is practicable. This is the key means by which an Appraisal can add value, through guiding the development of the AAP and its policy interventions, maximising the sustainability of its impacts. The principal means by which this has occurred, are as follows:

- Open public consultation on Preliminary Options to capture public opinion on what the proposed AAP and Masterplan should encapsulate;
- Reflecting diversification of land use in line with identified need e.g. educational facility and refining on basis of ongoing feedback;
- Iterating and refining on basis of ongoing environmental assessment of constraints and embedding mitigation in the form of green corridors to offset loss of biodiversity elsewhere;
- Specifically changing Masterplan to reflect ongoing flood risk assessment;
- Seeking to integrate the highest sustainability standards of housing and incorporation of renewables in the form of the Energy Centre;
- Incorporating progressive environmental education/awareness raising initiatives, in the form of the Eco Visitor Centre; and
- Seeking to address known local issues surrounding the need for enhanced connectivity and reducing severance wherever possible.

The AAP's high level nature provides the context and direction of development in Cinderford Northern Quarter. The detailed measures necessary to deliver the policies within the AAP will be developed through ongoing Masterplanning and in the design of individual projects seeking planning permission. The following Section identifies recommendations for enhancement and further mitigation.

4.1.2

Further Mitigation and Enhancement Opportunities

The following table outlines key factors and considerations to guide implementation of the AAP and Masterplan, with the aim of maximising the beneficial impacts identified in previous analysis and any unrealised potential and as well as mitigating against any negative impacts. A summary of issues raised and accompanying recommendations under the respective strands of sustainability, is presented in Section 8 of the Appraisal Report, in terms of the following topics:

Key Issues and Considerations

Overarching <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliverability• Community engagement
Environmental Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site assessment• Protected habitats and species• Reducing flood risk• Sustainable management of the Forest• The Energy Centre
Social Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Eco-visitor and activity centre• Sustainable Travel and Transport
Economic Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated strategic delivery• Assessment of the property market• Northern United area• Wider development of industrial land• Sustainable procurement

4.1.3

Monitoring Delivery of the AAP

The Strategy commits the Forest of Dean District Council to work with key stakeholders to monitor sustainability performance of the AAP. The box below details the range of indicators which it is suggested will be used to monitor performance of the AAP during its lifetime. It is important to recognise that the indicators identified to date will be subject to ongoing review and amendment.

Sustainable Development Indicators

Environmental indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local environment quality;• Greenhouse gas emissions;• Carbon dioxide emissions by end user;• Waste;• Bird populations;• Land use;• Emissions of air pollutants;• River quality;• Groundwater vulnerability;
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Economic indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of sites/ area remediated in district. • Economic activity; • Productivity; • Investment; • Employment and Economic Inactivity; • Access to Services; • Household income and childhood poverty; • Pensioner poverty; and • Households living in fuel poverty
Social indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demography; • Satisfaction in local area; • Active community participation; • Crime and fear of crime; • Access to education; • Educational attainment; • Access to healthcare services; • Healthy life expectancy; • Mortality rates; • Smoking; • Childhood obesity; • Road accidents; • Housing conditions; • Homelessness; and • Wellbeing.

The selection of indicators reflects those aspects of AAP delivery which can be qualitatively and quantitatively monitored to assess the success of AAP delivery, noting that it is not necessary to attempt to capture all aspects of benefit but instead focus on those primary areas where there is the potential to effect most impact, and benefit.

4.2 *NEXT STEPS*

The findings of the consultation on the Draft AAP and this Appraisal Report will be subsequently considered and used to finalise the Appraisal and the AAP itself. Upon completion of this, a Post Adoption Statement should be produced to accompany the AAP. The purpose of this Statement, as previously noted, is to summarise how the Appraisal has influenced the drafting of the AAP and what was undertaken in respect of this.

4.3 *FURTHER INFORMATION & RESPONSES*

Copies of the Draft AAP and Masterplan, the SAR and the NTS and the evidence base of documents are available to view online at the council website www.fdean.gov.uk. All documents are available on CD / paper on request from the Forest of Dean Forward Planning section on telephone 01594 812335, 812325 or 812326 or email wendy.jackson@fdean.gov.uk.

If you wish to make any comments, regarding either the AAP or Sustainability Appraisal, they should be sent in writing to Forward Plans, Planning Services, Forest of Dean District Council, High Street, Coleford, Glos. GL16 8HG **before 5pm on Friday 27th November 2009**. Comments can also be submitted electronically to wendy.jackson@fdean.gov.uk.