



FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
**OUR LOCAL PLAN**  
WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

# **Forest of Dean Local Plan 2021-2041**

## **Sustainability Appraisal Report – Non Technical Summary**

### **Interim Report for Draft Local Plan Public Consultation (Regulation 18) July 2024**

**Written by Local Plans Team, Forest of Dean District Council**

# **I. Introduction**

- 1.1 This non-technical summary aims to summarise the content and outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal for the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) Draft Local Plan 2021-2041.

## **2. The Draft Local Plan 2021-2041**

- 2.1 The primary role of the Local Plan 2021-2041 is to provide the backbone and precise detail of the overall Local Plan Strategy. It provides the detail of how and where the policies in the Local Plan will be implemented. It also contains allocations for development as well as provides protective designations and revises defined settlement boundaries. This current version is a draft of the Local Plan, and therefore provides sufficient detail for the public consultation (to take place during July/August 2024). It is likely that the draft local plan will be updated following consideration of the public comments made, in preparation for the future pre-publication draft.

## **3. The Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**

- 3.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a required procedure which forms an integral part of the process of producing the Local Plan. There are five stages to the Sustainability Appraisal, these are Stages A-E which are summarised in the text below. By undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal, it is possible to look at the range of policies and plans contained in the LP and examine how they contribute to the aim of sustainable development.
- 3.2 By looking at every policy or document in this manner it is possible to identify areas where policies may not contribute to sustainable development. By identifying these problems at an early stage, it is possible to change and amend policies or text to ensure that they are as sustainable as possible.
- 3.3 In addition to the Government's requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), European Legislation also requires that an assessment of the environmental effects of certain plans and policies (including planning documents) is undertaken. This is through the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 42/2001.
- 3.4 There is a large amount of overlap between the European 'Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)' and the UK Sustainability Appraisal process. They have therefore been combined into one process for the assessment of the Local Plan. For ease of reference, this document will refer to both processes as the Sustainability Appraisal. The requirements of SEA and its relationship to the SA is set out in Section 1 of the main SA report.

## 4. Stage A: Baseline Analysis

- 4.1 Section A1 of the Scoping Report and Section 2 of the Main SA report list the International, National and Local Plans that have influenced the development of the Draft Local Plan document and Sustainability Appraisal. Additional documents were also considered, including reports about the state of the District, previous versions of policies and plans and Parish level plans (NDPs).
- 4.2 During the Scoping Stage (Section A2, chapter 23) the Key Sustainability Issues were identified by analysing the Baseline Information.

Key Sustainability Issues (Section A2, Chapter 23 of Scoping Report):

### *Environment*

#### **LANDSCAPE**

- Lack of landscape designation over Forest edge settlements;
- Agricultural buildings in visually prominent locations under permitted development;
- Decline in traditional primary industries; Glover review of AONB roles (2019), including the Wye Valley and Malvern Hills AONB;
- Potential new Forest edge landscape designation or Forest of Dean district Biosphere reserve; and
- Agricultural commodities under-valued, leading to declining viability of domestic primary production. This leads to increased pressure to convert good quality agricultural land to urban uses.

#### **ECOLOGY**

- Loss of biodiversity and habitat;
- Condition of several of the district's protected areas are in decline;
- Climate change impacts on biodiversity and the natural range of native species; and
- Landscape fragmentation over different tenures and management regimes.

#### **WATER**

- Increased flooding and wider variations in seasonal rainfall due to climate change;
- Existing storm water infrastructure is ageing and inadequate for current flood events, which may become more extreme in future;
- Climate change creating hotter, drier conditions which will impact on water supply and ecology; and
- Additional demands of new settlements and expansions on water resources. Poor water quality in several problem areas.

## **CARBON MANAGEMENT**

- Forest of Dean district council (FoDDC) has set an ambitious corporate target for a carbon neutral district by 2030- how can the Local Plan support this?;
- Current poor quality of existing housing stock in terms of energy efficiency and insulation;
- Some activity for renewable installations, but fairly minimal;
- Housing stock and built environment may be under equipped and poorly designed to respond to more extreme weather events; and
- Financial resources to "climate proof" existing settlements is limited.

## **AIR**

- Air Quality Management areas (AQMAs) in Chepstow (linked to Tutshill and Sedbury) and Lydney; and
- Increased traffic and congestion in key commuting pinch points like the A40 and A48.

## **WASTE**

- Cost of waste collection and recycling on the Council; Limited recycling capacity within the district.

## **HERITAGE**

- Some historical buildings at risk.

## ***Society***

## **HOUSING**

- Some larger schemes may come forward in the next few years which temporarily meet demand, but this is a trend unlikely to continue in the longer term; and
- There are limited policy interventions to improve the situation; however Council officers are working proactively with Registered Providers to bring forward 100% affordable housing sites.

## **EDUCATION**

- Policy at a district level has limited influence over poor levels of educational attainment; and
- Many local schools are at capacity and local children have to travel outside of their Parish to access a school place.

## **COMMUNITY WELL BEING**

- Societal factors leading towards sedentary lifestyles and poor diets are outside the influence of the Local Plan;
- The provision of active transport routes and quality open space is sometimes compromised through the development management process, and at appeal;
- Cinderford West continues to be assessed as the worst area for deprivation within the district. Regeneration efforts may not impact this enclave; and
- An ageing population means that more people have declining mobility and independence and may be effectively marginalised by poor urban design.

## **LOCAL IDENTITY**

- Forest of Dean district is becoming more attractive to out commuters, which may over time result in local identity and local culture becoming diminished; and
- New housing development is relatively generic, and does not respond to local vernaculars.

## ***Economy***

### **EMPLOYMENT**

- Leak of jobs out of the district and high levels of out commuting; and
- Some employment sites are falling into disrepair or are partially abandoned, with low occupancy rates in some employment sites, with many vacant units.

### **BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE**

- Declining commodity values and rising costs for agriculture.

### **TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Lack of investment into new infrastructure and maintaining existing networks;
- Unstable policy environment for investment into renewables;
- Strong national trend toward car born out commuting;
- Declining quality and provision of public transport;
- Very poor existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; and
- Traffic congestion on larger arterial routes continues to increase, meaning freight is slowed in traffic congestion leading to lag times and increased costs to industry.

### **RETAIL CENTRES**

- Online shopping and large out of town retail precincts continue to draw trade from local services and retail centres.

4.3 At the end of Stage A (Section A:4), a Sustainability Appraisal Framework was developed which identified 12 local sustainability objectives and future indicators. This was then circulated to the Statutory Consultees; Historic England, The Environment Agency and Natural England for their comments (see SA Scoping Consultation Responses Report).

<b>SA objective – as per the Scoping Report (and used to appraise the planning policies)</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
1. To improve the health and well-being of the populations and reduce inequalities in health.	Does the policy support healthy living? Does the policy minimise adverse effects to health, e.g. road accidents, crime?
2. To meet local housing needs, by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home.	Does the policy provide for a mix of housing types and sizes to meet the needs of different sections of the community? Does the policy support the provision of affordable housing?
3. To provide accessible community services, recreation and leisure facilities.	Does the policy support ease of access to key services, including education, health, retail and recreation? Does the policy support the use of public transport to access key services? Does the policy help to reduce dependence on the car?
4. To facilitate the development of academic and vocational skills.	Does the policy provide improved access to educational facilities?
5. To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy.	Will the policy encourage an increase in the range of employment opportunities? Does the policy support opportunities for higher paid and professional employment?
6. To protect and enhance the landscape.	Does the policy protect and enhance the landscape including the countryside, areas of landscape value, river valleys and green space? Does the policy provide access to areas of landscape value? Does the policy promote high quality design in keeping with the character of the area? Does the policy protect good quality agricultural land?
7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna.	Does the policy support no net loss to biodiversity? Does the policy promote biodiversity net gain? Does the policy contribute to the protection of designated areas? Does the policy strengthen connectivity between wildlife habitats and promote Green Infrastructure?
8. To maintain and improve air quality.	Does the policy provide opportunities to travel by public transport? Does the policy reduce congestion?

9. To maintain and improve water quality and to achieve sustainable water resources management.	Does the policy seek to conserve water resources and increase water efficiency? Does the policy seek to improve the water quality of rivers, lakes and ground water?
10. To reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change and to achieve net zero.	Does the policy support energy conservation and energy efficient design? Does the policy reduce vulnerability of the built environment to the effects of climate change (e.g. flooding, extreme events) and promote carbon net zero development?
11. To reduce waste generation and achieve sustainable management of waste.	Does the policy support opportunities to reduce waste going into landfill? Does the policy reduce waste generation and achieve sustainable management of waste?
12. To safeguard historical and cultural assets.	Does the policy maintain and enhance cultural and historical assets?

## 5. Stage B: Option Assessment

### Preferred Options

- 5.1 The options assessment considered the impacts of the following:
- Option 1 – Selective planned expansion of existing settlement(s)
  - Option 2 – Maximum incremental change to the extent of absolute constraints (do nothing approach)
  - Option 3 - Planned new settlement(s)
  - Option 4 – Mixture of Option 1 and Option 3 (selective planned expansion of existing settlement (s) and planned new settlement(s))
- 5.2 The outcome from a sustainability perspective is that the best Preferred Strategic Option is Option 1 - **Selective Planned Expansion**. And this has been the preferred strategic option which the draft local plan is now following.
- 5.3 Having established the preferred strategic option, the individual components of the proposed plan have been appraised, which comprises:
- Major Development at Lydney to an enhanced role as a focal point for the FoDD.
  - Development of land at Newent to support a mixed-use site, improvements to circulation and transport and complimentary facilities to the centre.
  - Redevelopment for mixed uses and regeneration of land at Beachley Camp.
  - Supporting Mixed Use Development at Major Villages and Towns and Sustainable development at some villages.

- 5.4 All of the above components to the preferred strategic option have a mixed positive/neutral impact, with any potential negative conflict arising in terms of impact on landscape and biodiversity, especially for larger scale development.
- 5.5 The SA also considers alternative options, such as housing density, BNG at 10% and 30%, net zero carbon, biosphere designation and identifying locations for GI and also renewable energy. Some of these alternatives may be carried forward to the Regulation 19 stage of the plan.
- 5.6 Having established the preferred option and its components for the Local Plan, the SA assessed the range of sites (in excess of 200) for consideration for inclusion as allocations (housing, employment, recreation, mixed development, etc.) in the Local Plan (Appendix I of the Main Report shows the appraisals for all of the assessed sites).
- 5.7 It is not possible to compare each potential allocation site against every other potential allocation. Such an assessment would generate thousands of permutations and fail to consider the strategic approach as set out. Instead, the assessment looked at each site in relation to its size, constraints and opportunities, its fit within the Local Plan preferred strategy and its relationship to settlement/facilities.
- 5.8 This assessment guided the settlement of sites for inclusion and helped identify any specific requirements.
- 5.9 District wide policies were also assessed against the sustainability framework to evaluate their likely effects (Appendix 2 of the main report shows the appraisals of each of the policies).
- 5.10 The general predicted effects of the Local Plan in relation to the sustainability objectives are described below (also see Section 8 of main report – Conclusion on appraisal findings):



SA Objective/Indicator:	Cumulative Impacts of the Draft Local Plan Policies	Cumulative Impacts of the site allocations
1. To improve the health and well-being of the populations and reduce inequalities in health.	The majority of the general policies contribute positively to supporting health and wellbeing by providing access to services and the environment.	The site specific allocation policies will generally have a positive effect. The strategic sites generally promote recreation, active travel, access and housing sites within towns without will improve accessibility and reduce per person air pollute due to reduced reliance on private vehicles. There are cycling policies connecting towns and services (LP.25).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible and adaptable homes LP34</li> <li>• Self and custom-built homes LP.35</li> <li>• One-planet style housing in open countryside <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Space standards</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Construction methods – Design Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Travel policies</li> <li>• Sustainable Design of Housing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Energy efficiency – carbon reduction/climate adaptation.</li> <li>• Plan is not clear on what (if any) GP surgeries will be required, however it does provide mixed use development which allocates land for such types of uses.</li> </ul>	
2. To meet local housing needs, by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home.	The general policies have a positive effect overall although some policies such as LP.12 Biodiversity Net Gain, LP.10 Green Infrastructure and LP.38 Nationally Described space Standards and even LP.2 Construction of buildings may have less positive effects on achieving the objective. These policies reflect potential constraints on housing development and may result in a reduction in potential housing numbers, in particular affordable housing, and viability of a scheme. It turn this would slow the rate of housing development indirectly.	The LP provides for ca. 6600 new dwellings. Site specific allocation policies will generally have a positive effect, particularly around sites providing for housing and affordable housing.  Potential negative effects could stem from allocated employment sites and recreation sites and policies which do not promote new housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan proposes ca. 6600 new dwellings over the plan period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.31 and 32 provide for affordable housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.35 Self and Custom-Build</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>3. To provide accessible community services, recreation and leisure facilities.</p>	<p>The policies mainly have a positive effect in promoting accessibility to community facilities, recreation and leisure facilities.</p>	<p>Approximately two thirds of the site policies are expected to have positive effects, promoting access and recreation. Allocations for employment and housing sites are located in areas which have access to services, recreation and leisure facilities. All of the strategic site locations provide for recreational and community facilities:</p> <p>LP.63 – Lydney East – neighbourhood centre, public park recreation and land for primary school.</p> <p>LP.74 South East Newent – community, education and retail facilities. Active travel. Land for Primary school. Pedestrian and cycle connections and multi function recreation space.</p> <p>LP.78 Beachely Camp – local centre, primary school, place of assembly. Green space.</p> <p>Negative effects are expected from intensive employment sites or sites that are more isolated from facilities or have fewer facilities (in villages) for example LP102 Homelea, Netherend. However, the site allocations are generally in the towns and larger villages.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.24 and LP.25 Active Travel and Cycle Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.18 and 19 Recreation land and Uses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

<p>4. To facilitate the development of academic and vocational skills.</p>	<p>The policies would have an overall neutral effect. Policies could improve the range of employment and skills development opportunities attracting a more diverse employment sector.</p>	<p>Generally, site policies will have a neutral effect. Some site policies will have positive effects, such as LP.89 Hartpury University and college, which supports that particular educational establishment. Other larger strategic sites (LP.27), such as Beachley, Newent and Lydney East, include land for primary school use.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.23 Community Facilities</li> <li>• LP 27 Strategic sites</li> <li>• LP89 Hartpury University and College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.60 Five Acres</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Positive impacts on access to educational facilities may be seen through improvements to active travel, cycle routes and general infrastructure (LP.24, LP.25 and LP.7)</li> </ul>	
<p>5. To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy.</p>	<p>Policies have been assessed to have an overall positive effect in helping to create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy as they could improve the range of employment opportunities by attracting a more diverse employment section. This is supported by a number of site specific policies in the rest of the document which promote specific sites for employment, tourism and recreation. A more vibrant economy is encouraged owing to employment growth as the plan strives to accommodate more land for employment and to intensify existing employment land.</p> <p>The plan's policies seek improvements to town centre through town centre policies aiming to retain and promote retail/financial and professional businesses to ground floor shop frontages as well as providing opportunities and a means for environmental improvements through development applications.</p>	<p>27 of the allocations are specific employment sites and all have positive impacts on employment.</p>

	44 of the policies will have positive impacts.	
	<p style="text-align: center;">           LP.5 Development in the Countryside            LP.6 Mixed Land Uses            LP.23 Community Facilities            LP.27 Strategic Sites            LP.39 Economic Development            LP.40 Employment Generating Uses – Identified Sites         </p>	
6. To protect and enhance the landscape.	<p>Policies will generally have a positive effect, helping to protect and enhance the landscape through sensitive design, character, sustainability and contribution to the protection of biodiversity (net gain) and enhancement of the landscape.</p>	<p>Larger sites and employment could impact on landscape more negatively, however, they have been assessed as being neutral as it will depend highly on each individual application. Plus, biodiversity net gain is now in process and this will ensure more natural habitats for each development site.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.10 Green Infrastructure             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.11 GI allocations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• LP.12 Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.15 Design Principles</li> </ul> </li> <li>• LP.20 Locally Valued Landscapes</li> <li>• LP.18 Land of Recreation and Amenity Value             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.17 Locally Distinctive Areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good quality agricultural land is kept in primary production</li> <li>• Character of landscapes is safeguarded, and designated areas are maintain and/or improved to favourable condition</li> </ul>	
7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna.	<p>The majority of the policies in the LP will have a neutral impact, however, some have positive and very positive impacts, such as those related to nature conservation and biodiversity (see list below).</p>	<p>Some site policies (especially large sites) could have variable impacts, however, much will depend on the planning application and the level of mitigation and biodiversity net gain that will be involved.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.1 Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.3 Climate Adaptation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• LP.8 Nature Conservation – protected sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.9 Habitat and Species Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.10 Green Infrastructure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• LP.11 Green Infrastructure Allocations</li> <li>• LP.12 Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.13 Biodiversity Generally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LP.15 Design Principles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>8. To maintain and improve air quality.</p>	<p>With more housing and associated increase in traffic, this could have cumulative impacts on air quality, particularly if public transport and active travel is not significantly increased.</p> <p>Air quality is a focus of the general planning policies focussed on active travel, cycle routes, climate change measures, renewable energy, green infrastructure and biodiversity.</p>	<p>The majority of the site allocations have a neutral impact on air quality and would be dependent on the details in each future planning application. However, the Lydney Town Centre Highway Strategy is specific to improving air quality.</p>
	<p>LP.1 Sustainable Development  LP.2 Construction and Use of Buildings  LP.3 Climate Adaptation  LP.8 Nature Conservation – Protected Sites  LP.9 Habitat and Species Protection  LP.10 Green Infrastructure  LP.11 Green Infrastructure Allocations  LP.12 Biodiversity and Biodiversity Net Gain  LP.13 Biodiversity Generally  LP.14 Renewable Energy  LP.24 Active Travel  LP.25 Cycle Routes</p>	

<p>9. To maintain and improve water quality and to achieve sustainable water resources management.</p>	<p>Most of the general policies would have a neutral effect with some having positive effects (see list below). Water efficiency measures and rainwater harvesting/grey water recycling systems have been included.</p>	<p>Generally, site policies will have a neutral effect. The LP assumes that flood risk assessments and SUDS will be used as part of development proposals. No housing allocations have been made in flood zones. Larger site allocation policies also require GI and open space to provide ponds/water attenuation.</p>
<p>LP.21 Flooding and Water Conservation LP.15 Design Principles LP.2 Construction and Use of Buildings LP.3 Climate Adaptation</p>		
<p>10. To reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change and to achieve net zero.</p>	<p>More traffic created by increased housing could have a negative impact on climate change. However, the plan provides for increased active travel as well as carbon emissions being reduced to achieve Council's corporate goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.</p>	<p>The impact of the LP site allocation policies is a mixture of neutral and positive. The larger sites include site allocations tend to have carbon change elements written within them expecting to see development which can reduce carbon emissions through construction, renewable energy as well as access to means of active travel.</p>
<p>LP.1 Sustainable development LP.2 Construction and Use of Buildings LP.3 Climate adaptation policies LP.14 Renewable energy policies LP.15– Design principles Opportunities to develop renewable energy sources Increased climate resilience of natural and built environment and adaptation and preparation for changing climatic conditions.</p>		
<p>11. To reduce waste generation and achieve sustainable management of waste.</p>	<p>The general policies would have a neutral effect with the exception of policies LP.2, LP.3, LP.14, LP.15, LP.21 and LP.22 and LP.27 which have positive/very positive impacts through construction, climate adaptation,</p>	<p>Generally, site policies will have a neutral effect. Although an increase in the consumption of resources and materials will increase the district's potential for waste generation.</p>

	renewable energy and design principles to reduce waste.	LP.44 Land at Stowfield, expects environmental impacts from development are acceptable and should not be adversely affected by contamination from past uses.
	<p style="text-align: center;"> LP.2 Construction and Use of Buildings  LP.3 Climate Adaptation  LP.14 Renewable Energy  LP.15 Design Principles  LP.21 Flooding and Water Conservation  LP.22 Site Conditions  LP.27 Strategic Site </p>	
12. To safeguard historical and cultural assets	<p>The general policies will generally have a positive effect on cultural and historical assets.</p> <p>The plan is positive for the safeguarding of historical and cultural assets mainly through the policy provisions of LP.16 – Historic Character and Distinctiveness.</p> <p>Other policies, such as Town Centre policies also ensure the protection of heritage assets and allocations have been made to ensure that heritage assets will not be impacted upon.</p>	<p>Generally, site policies will have a neutral effect with approximately one third of the sites contributing positively to the objective when they protect historical and cultural assets or policies take these assets into consideration when proposed development nearby.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LP.16 will regulation mitigation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"> LP.41 Reinstatement of Herefordshire/Gloucestershire canal  LP.42 Dean Forest Railway  LP.16 – Historic Character and Distinctiveness. </p>	

## **Mitigating adverse impacts**

- 5.11 Stage B4 of the SA examines ways of improving, reducing or mitigating any neutral or negative effects. It is difficult to evaluate the precise effects of the Local Plan. The predicted effects are an analysis based on local knowledge, baseline information, past evidence and expertise, some of which could be subjective in nature. It is, therefore, difficult to propose exact mitigation of any adverse effects due to an inherent element of uncertainty. It is, however, possible to propose some broad approaches to mitigation and proposals for amendments to the policies has been suggested. SA is a cycle of testing and improvement and therefore many alterations to the policies may have already taken place.
- 5.12 Residual impacts of the LP are expected to happen given that the plan seeks to provide for ca. 6600 new houses as well as additional employment land. Residential impacts are like to include land take, impact on landscape, biodiversity and waste management. Air quality in Lydney could be affected. However, the site allocations and planning policies in the LP seek to mitigate these impacts as much as possible, providing very strong policies in terms of carbon reduction (through construction as well as renewables), active travel, increased Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Net Gain.

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

- 5.13 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been carried out alongside the SA and is available as a separate document. The HRA reviews the LP with regard to likely significant effects on European designated nature conservation sites.

## **Conclusion**

- 5.14 In summary following assessment, the LP as a whole can be seen to have strong principles of sustainability or sustainable development embed within its approach and policies. Any residual impacts arising from the plan will need to be monitored (which will be explained in more detail in Stage E).

## **6. Stage C: Report Preparation**

- 6.1 Stage C consists of the preparation of this SA report as a whole, which will continue until the Local Plan is submitted for examination.

## **7. Stage D: Public Consultation**

- 7.1 The Draft Local Plan document was presented to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 where members approved the document to go forward to the Full Council meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> May



2024. At Full Council the document was endorsed to go forward for a 6-week public consultation running from the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024. During that period comments will be invited on both the Draft Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal documents. Details on this public consultation can be found on the council's website at [www.fdean.gov.uk](http://www.fdean.gov.uk).

7.2 The Local Plan and the accompanying SA will be presented for a further consultation period in the spring of 2025 (Regulation 19 stage) and leading on from that stage, the SA will be subject to examination by an independent inspector appointed by the Government prior to the Council adopting the plan (subject to the Inspector's report).

## Stage E: Monitoring

7.3 Monitoring the effects of the Local Plan will be undertaken using the key indicators shown in the table below. These indicators will be report on in the annual Authorities Monitoring Report produced by the Council.

<b>SA Objective/Indicator:</b>	<b>Impact to be monitored</b>
1. To improve the health and well-being of the populations and reduce inequalities in health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by walking, cycling, public transportation</li> <li>• Proportion of journeys made by private transport / car</li> <li>• Average journeys/year/person</li> <li>• No. of applications approved for recreation/leisure uses</li> <li>• Levels of obesity</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure</li> </ul>
2. To meet local housing needs, by ensuring everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent sustainably constructed and affordable home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of home developed both inside and outside of DSB</li> <li>• No. of affordable homes delivered/year.</li> <li>• Tenure of affordable housing achieved.</li> </ul>
3. To provide accessible community services, recreation and leisure facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of applications approved for recreation/leisure uses</li> <li>• Levels of obesity</li> <li>• No. of applications for community uses</li> </ul>
4. To facilitate the development of academic and vocational skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of applications for educational purposes</li> <li>• Request details from GCC regarding school numbers</li> <li>• Educational attainment levels</li> </ul>
5. To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of new employment land/planning applications for employment</li> <li>• Employment data (record businesses on each business parks)</li> <li>• % of workforce in employment</li> <li>• Out-commuting</li> <li>• Retail floorspace</li> </ul>
6. To protect and enhance the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of greenfield development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of applications and area of land approved for housing inside and outside of DSB</li> <li>• Monitor density of housing approved.</li> <li>• Green and Blue Infrastructure</li> </ul>
7. To conserve and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BNG (No. of applications with BNG provision (and % of BNG provided))</li> <li>• Green and Blue Infrastructure</li> </ul>
8. To maintain and improve air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality in AQMA</li> </ul>
9. To maintain and improve water quality and to achieve sustainable water resources management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding incidents recorded</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Applications review of SUDs provision</li> <li>• Water use (dwellings &amp; businesses)</li> </ul>
10. To reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change and to achieve net zero.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per capita CO2 emissions</li> <li>• Monitor planning applications for construction methods to reduce carbon (Passivhaus applications)</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Schemes</li> </ul>
11. To reduce waste generation and achieve sustainable management of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of applications for re-use of buildings</li> <li>• Construction methods</li> </ul>
12. To safeguard historical and cultural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of listed buildings at risk</li> <li>• No. and outcome of planning applications associated with heritage assets and assess mitigation</li> </ul>