



Amendments to the Great Yarmouth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report following Consultation with the Community and Stakeholders

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Amendments to Great Yarmouth Sustainability Scoping Report

Being one of the Governments designated consultation bodies with environmental responsibility, English Nature, Environment Agency, Countryside Agency and English Heritage along with the community and stakeholders were invited to make comments on the draft Great Yarmouth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report as being in line with the Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks 2005. **The draft Great Yarmouth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was subject to a five week period of consultation between 20 December and 27 January 2006.**

The draft Great Yarmouth Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report highlighted issues within the Borough which have assisted in the preparation of the Great Yarmouth Borough Council draft Core Strategy (Issues and Options). We have now considered comments received on the draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (set out in table 1) from the designated consultation bodies and have amended it as set out in this document.

The draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report prompted the reader to answer questions throughout its content. In addition to the questions asked, which has resulted in the document being amended, the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report has also been amended in light of changing legislation and local circumstances.

Throughout this document, a reason is given for the amendment. Table 1 deals with those representations received from the consultation bodies with environmental responsibility only and sets out the changes made.

Amendments

1. Para 1.1 (introduction) should remain. Delete para's 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and figure 1 and replace with the following:

1.2 Sustainability appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy. Its role is to assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will help to achieve relevant environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it provides an opportunity to consider ways in which the plan or strategy can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have.

1.3 The overall aim of the appraisal process is to help ensure that the South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework, and the Local Development Documents it contains, makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The most widely-used definition of this concept is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

1.4 The purpose of this initial Scoping Report is to:

- identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Development Framework;
- assess the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics of Great Yarmouth Borough, and how these are changing;
- in the light of these reviews, consider key issues and problems that the Local Development Framework should address in the pursuit of sustainable development;
- set out an appropriate framework for carrying out the remainder of the sustainability appraisal, including objectives against which draft policies and options may be assessed, and indicators against which progress towards meeting those objectives can be monitored in future

1.5 The Scoping Report should be read in conjunction with both:

1. the Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (which will appraise the key elements of the emerging Local Development Documents, including alternative options); and
2. the Sustainability Appraisal Report (which will appraise the draft Local Development Documents in the light of the preferred options, including its policies and site-specific proposals).

1.6 The relationship between these documents and the related stages of plan production is illustrated in Figure 1. The analysis and appraisal framework contained in this Scoping Report will also provide the first stage of any sustainability appraisals required for Supplementary Planning Documents (whose purpose is to elaborate upon policies and proposals contained in the Core Policies Local Development Document)

Reason: Legislation update.

2. Delete figure 1 and replace with the following table, but the '*This Scoping Report*' arrow symbol is to remain pointing at stage 'A'

Reason: Legislation update.

Figure 1

Figure 5 – Incorporating SA within the DPD process	
DPD Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence Gathering	
SA stages and tasks	
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives. ● A2: Collecting baseline information. ● A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems. ● A4: Developing the SA framework. ● A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA. 	
DPD Stage 2: Production	
SA stages and tasks	
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework. ● B2: Developing the DPD options. ● B3: Predicting the effects the DPD. ● B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD. ● B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects ● B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs 	
Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● C1: Preparing the SA Report. 	
Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report. ● D2(i): Appraising significant changes. 	
DPD Stage 3: Examination	
SA stages and tasks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations. 	
DPD Stage 4: Adoption and monitoring	
SA stages and tasks	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● D3: Making decisions and providing information. 	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring. ● E2: Responding to adverse effects. 	

3. Amend para 3.2 to read as follows:

It should be noted that definition of the key requirements and actions to be undertaken at certain stages of the assessment has evolved during the course of this assessment. The Scoping Report and Initial Sustainability Appraisal Reports were based on the consultation draft guidance issued in September 2004. This was superseded by interim guidance (also a consultation draft), altering certain terms and actions, in April 2005. A small number of further mostly minor changes were introduced when the guidance was formalised in November 2005, and on which the final stage of the SA has been based. More significantly, in the ODPM draft

guidance, Stage A consisted of 6 key tasks including testing the LDF objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report objectives. However, with the release of the ODPM interim advice note on frequently asked questions for Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local development frameworks (April 2005) it stated that Stage B will be revised to encapsulate the body of the appraisal activity, including testing the LDF objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report objectives. Developing and refining options, predicting and assessing effects, identifying mitigation measures and developing proposals for monitoring. Therefore, in line with the present ODPM guidance, this Scoping Report concentrates on Stage A of the process as set out in figure 2 and illustrated in greater detail in figure 1.

Reason: Legislation update

4. Delete para. 3.3

Reason: Duplication of para. 3.4

5. Delete task A5 from figure 2

Reason: Legislation update

6. Amend para 3.4 to read as follows:

The scoping Report is required to set out the findings of the first stage of the process (Stage A) and describe what happens next in the process. The Report has now been through a 5 week period of consultation with the community and stakeholders, including the Environment Agency, English Nature, Countryside Agency and English Heritage (as required by the SEA Directive) and in line with the principles of national Planning Policy Statement PPS12¹ (see task 5) and has been subsequently amended in light of comments received². Over time, it is also likely that the Scoping Report will need to be updated. In line with the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) this document is available on the Council's website.

Reason: Update

7. Delete the first two sentences of para 3.5 ending December 2005.

Reason: Undertaken

8. Amend the international, national, regional, county and local tables to read as follows:

International

- The Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)
- The Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971)
- The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000)
- The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg Declaration (2002)
- EC Council Directive 76/160/EEC: Bathing Water Quality (1976)
- EC Council Directive 79/409/EEC: The Conservation of Wild Birds (1979)
- EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC: The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992)

¹ ODPM (2004) Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks

² Visit the Council's website to view the comments received on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk.

- EC Council Directive 1999/31/EC: The Landfill of Waste (1999)
- EC Council Directive 94/62/EC: Packaging and Packaging Waste (1994)
- EC Council Directive 2003/30/EC: The Promotion of Bio-Fuels for Transport (2003)
- EC Council Directive 2001/77/EC: The Promotion of Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001)
- EC Council Directive 91/271/EEC: Urban Waste Water Treatment (1991)
- EC Council Directive 91/676/EEC: Water Pollution Caused by Nitrates from Agricultural Sources: Nitrates (1991)
- Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC) (1996) with successive Daughter Directives (1999-2002)
- Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) (1998)
- Hazardous Substances Directive (96/82/EC) Waste Directive (75/442/EEC) (1975)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) (2000)

National

- Climate Change – UK Programme (DETR 2000)
- Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – creating a low carbon economy (DTI 2003)
- Farming and Food Strategy: Facing the Future (Defra 2002)
- Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR 2000)
- Rural Strategy (Defra, 2004)
- Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White Paper (DoH 1999)
- Securing the Future: The UK Government Sustainable Development (Defra, March 2005)
- State of Nature – Lowlands – Future Landscapes for Wildlife (English Nature 2004)
- Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra 2002) Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (ODPM 2003)
- The National Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Defra 2000)
- The State of the Countryside Report (Countryside Agency 2005) The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (English Nature, ongoing) Transport Ten Year Plan (Department of Transport 2000)
- UK Waste Strategy (Defra 2000) Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)
- Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy For England (DEFRA 2002)
- National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People (2001) Tackling Health Inequalities - A programme for Action (2003)
- Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact on the planning system (ODPM, 2005)
- Framework for Biodiversity (Association of Local Government Ecologists, 2005)
- Choosing Health Public White Paper (2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (ODPM 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Communities (ODPM 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM 2005)
- Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM 2004)
- Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM 2004)
- Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (DoE 1995)
- Planning Policy Guidance 3: Housing (ODPM 2000)
- Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial and Commercial development and Small Firms (2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 8: Telecommunications (2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 9: Nature Conservation (DoE 1994)
- Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (DETR 2001)
- Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)

- Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE 1994)
- Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1993) Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002) Planning Policy Guidance 21: Tourism (1992)
- Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (1994) Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and Flood Risk (ODPM 2001)

Regional

- A Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA 2001)
- Affordable Housing Strategy: The Provision of Affordable Housing in the East of England 1996-2021 (2003)
- Culture: A Catalyst for Change; A strategy for cultural development for the East of England (Living East 1999+)
- Draft RSS14: East of England Plan (EERA 2004) East of England: The State of the Countryside (Countryside Agency 2004)
- Countryside Character – Volume 6: east of England (Countryside Agency 1999)
- East of England European Strategy 2003-2004 (East of England European Partnership 2003)
- East of England Regional Social Strategy (2004)
- East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy (East of England Region Waste Technical Advisory Body 2002)
- Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) (EEDA, 2003)
- International Business Strategy; Consultation Draft (2003)
- Living with Climate Change in the East of England; Summary Report (East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable 2004)
- Living with Climate Change in the East Of England (East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable 2003)
- Our Environment, Our Future: Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (EERA and EEEF 2003)
- Prioritisation in the East of England (2003) Regional Economic Strategy (EEDA, 2001)
- Regional Emphasis Document SR2004 (2003)
- Regional Housing Strategy 2003-2006 (Regional Housing Forum, 2003)
- Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England: Strategy Document 2005-2010 (EERA 2005)
- Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia (GOEAST 2000)
- Regional Social Strategy (EERA 2003)
- Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2001)
- Regional Transport Strategy (2004)
- Regional Waste Strategy (Regional Waste Technical Advisory Body 2002)
- Towards Sustainable Construction, A Strategy for the East of England (EP, CE, GO-E, PECT 2003)
- Towns and Cities Strategy and Action Plan, Urban Renaissance in the East of England (2003)
- Sustainable Communities in the East of England (ODPM 2003)
- Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the East of England – Draft (East of England Tourist Board 2004)
- Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (EERA, 2005)
- Water Resources for the future: A Strategy for Anglian Region (Environment Agency, 2001)
- Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England (EERA & the Forestry Commission, 2003)

County

- Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Guidance for Norfolk
- Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan (pending)

- Broadland Rivers Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (pending)
- Norfolk Ambition: The Community Strategy for Norfolk 2003-2023 (2003)
- Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan (2004)
- Norfolk Live - Cultural Strategy –2005 – 2010 (2005)
- Norfolk Local Transport Plan 2006 – 2011 (2006)
- Norfolk Minerals Local Plan (2004, final publication pending)
- Norfolk Residential Design Guide (1998)
- Norfolk State of the Environment Report (2003)
- Norfolk Structure Plan (1999)
- Norfolk Waste Management Strategy Norfolk Waste Local Plan (2000, currently under review)
- Shaping the Future: Towards a Strategy for Social Cohesion in Norfolk (2000)
- The Broads Plan 2004: A strategic plan to manage the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads
- Kelling to Lowestoft Shoreline Management Plan (2005)
- Broads Natural Area Profile (Broads Authority and English Nature 1996, reprinted 2001)

Local

Add to the existing Borough Level on page 10

- Great Yarmouth Employment Land Study (2006)
- Great Yarmouth Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2006)

Reason: Needs up dating in light of new legislation and comments received on the draft document from the Environment Agency, English Nature and English Heritage.

9. Add paragraph numbering to page 12 section 6 (6.1 and 6.2)

Reason: Not included in draft report.

10. Add the following sentence to the end of para 6.2 to read as follows:

(para 6.2) *regeneration of the town.....(please add)* ..whilst recognising the environmental degradation associated with such a proposal.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature.

11. Add an additional para (6.3) to page 12 to read as follows:

Adjoining the Plan Area is the Broads Authority's Executive Area. The Norfolk Broads is a series of wetlands of international importance some of which are the best examples of wetland habitat in the world. The area is administered by the Broads Authority which is a Special Statutory Authority, created by the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act (1988), whose duties are similar to those of National Parks. Landscape conservation is a primary function of National Park designation and it is therefore essential that the Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the landscape quality of the neighbouring Broads area.

Reason: Comments received by the Countryside Agency

12. Amend the first key option at the bottom of page 21 to read as follows:

Ensure the expansion of existing businesses and support the development of sheltered business accommodation and start-up units. Subject to sustainability appraisal, protect allocated and important allocated sites from non-employment uses and ensure that adequate land, premises and business support services are available to facilitate diversification of the economy in-line with the Great Yarmouth Employment Land Study (2006).

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature.

13. Change paragraph 20.9 to 20.11 and the Add following paragraphs (20.9 and 20.10) to page 33 of document:

- 20.9 -The Environment Agency produces a number of plans and programmes to address these issues. In particular, the Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) and the Broadland Rivers Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy will exert a considerable influence on the Great Yarmouth Borough Council's LDF. The CFMP is a strategic planning tool through which the Authority will work with the Environment Agency and agree policies for sustainable flood risk management within the river catchment. They may be considered as the riverine equivalent of Shoreline Management Plans which perform a similar role for coastal flooding and erosion risk. CFMPs will have implications for infrastructure locations, flood defence standards and flood defence alleviation options
- 20.10 - It is important that the Great Yarmouth LDF addresses the problems arising from the impact of sea level rise and climate change by formulating strong policies against development on the flood plain. In line with Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and Flood Risk (PPG25) and in partnership with the Environment Agency, Great Yarmouth Borough Council have recently published the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2006) which sets out the strategic overall assessment of flood risk for the urban area of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston (refer to map 3 below). This document will assist in providing guidance for the formulation of policies in the LDF, advise on flood risk relating to the outer harbour and on the probability of defending the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston area with respect to the major regeneration and URC designation.

Reason: Production of documents update

14 Amend page 34, first key option and on page 66 to read as follows:

Avoid development in areas that are subject to flooding and replace allocated land if current defences are endorsed strategic in line with the Great Yarmouth Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and advice from the Environment Agency.

Reason: Consultation comments from English Nature. It is important that formulated policy is in line with the requirements of the Great Yarmouth Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

15 Amend page 34, third key option and on page 66 to read as follows:

Ensure developments are located so that any impacts on sewerage or drainage systems capacity are fully mitigated against. Ensure techniques to manage surface water in ways that mitigate flood risk. Ensure that new development will be located, designed and its implementation planned in such a way as to allow for sustainable water conservation measures. Promote public awareness of the need to reduce water consumption.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

16. Add a new para 22.3 to read as follows:

The Borough of Great Yarmouth adjoins the Plan Area of the Broads Authority's Executive Area. The Broads Authority Area is a nationally important designation of environmental importance. Landscape conservation is a primary function of National Park and it is therefore essential that the LDF seeks to maintain and enhance the landscape quality of the neighbouring Broads Area.

Reason: Agreed comments received by English Nature

17. Amend doubling up of numbering in section 22 (Biodiversity)

Reason: Numbering is wrong

18. Delete the following wording in para 22.3 (will become 22.4 now) ending the sentence on safeguarded for the future.

.....and those can accommodate change.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

19. Amend percentage figure in para 22.5 to read as follows:

50% (delete 80.24%)

Reason: Up to date information on English Nature's website

20. Amend 22.5 (first 22.5) by adding the following under Breydon Water Ramsar & SPA to read as follows:

- Breydon Water Ramsar & SPA including the following SSSI
 - Halvergate Marshes SSSI

Remainder of list to remain in document.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

21. Amend opening sentence to para 22.5 (second 22.5) to read as follows:

Following a County Wide Survey by the Norfolk Naturalists Trust³ some areas have been recognised as County Wildlife Sites (CWS) in the Borough. However, it must be recognised that the CWS series does not cover any part of the Norfolk Broads, however, all parts of the Broads floodplain, except any urban areas will be recognised as CWS standard and protected accordingly. (remainder of the para to be retained)

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

22. Add para 22. 8 to the biodiversity section to read as follows:

The Council are aware that the Norfolk Wildlife Trust as part of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership has been undertaking a biodiversity mapping exercise for all priority habitats. Mapping for this exercise is to be finalised shortly. Upon completion, the mapping data, along with Broads Floodplain data (available from the Environment Agency), will be used to formulate site specific development plan policies.

23. Amend all five objectives on Page 39 (objectives 1 – 5), Page 78 and page 2 & 3 of Appendix 2 (Biodiversity) from 'To maintain and enhance biodiversity, flora and fauna' to the following:

- Avoid damage to designated sites, protected species, losses to special areas and maintain, enhance and expand the range of native habitats and species.

Reason: Agreed comments from the Countryside Agency and English Nature

24. Amend key option 1 and 2 on page 39 of the document to read as follows:

Key option: Networks of natural habitats will be maintained and protected from development that would lead to their isolation or fragmentation. Measures will be put in place to ensure

³ County Wildlife Site Review (1994)

that sites and designs avoid irreversible loss by firstly seeking alternative solutions. Where impacts of development cannot be avoided, the Local Development Framework will put in place measures to mitigate for enhancement, mitigation and compensation for habitat loss.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

25. Amend key option 3 on page 39 of the document to read as follows:

Key Option: Protect and enhance areas covered by national and international designations.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

26. Amend key option 4 on page 39 of the document to read as follows:

Key Option: Protect and enhance areas of biodiversity, species and habitats in accordance with their rarity and importance.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

27. Add a fifth key issue and response to page 39 to read as follows;

Objective: Avoid damage to designated sites, protected species, and losses to special areas and maintain, enhance and expand the range of native habitats and species.

Issue: Many parts of the Borough have been degraded as a result of intensive agricultural drainage

Key Option: Protect and restore degraded habitats through Environmental Stewardship and the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.

28. Add a sixth key issues and response to page 39 to read as follows;

Objective: Enhance the qualities of the Broads, minimise development and encourage a natural functioning floodplain.

Issue: The Broads Authority executive area is a nationally important designation of environmental importance.

Key Option: Protect and enhance areas covered by national and international designations and restore degraded habitats through Environmental Stewardship and the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

29. Add new para 24.1 to section 24 and amend para numbering as a result to read as follows:

24.1 New developments provide an opportunity to provide quality environments that do not harm local amenity, that respond to local surroundings, and bring benefits to the landscapes and townscapes of the area. They must be high quality, integrated, distinctive, sustainable communities that meet the needs of new and existing residents. They must respond to their context, and reflect an understanding of the historic character of the area.

30. Add new para (24.3) to section 24 and amend para numbering as a result to read as follows:

The Borough of Great Yarmouth adjoins the Plan Area of the Broads Authority's Executive Area. Landscape conservation is a primary function of National Park and it is therefore essential that the LDF seeks to maintain and enhance the landscape quality of the neighbouring Broads Area. In addition, the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) extends eastwards to include sites of Winterton and East of West Somerton within the Borough. Its designation recognises that the natural beauty of the area is of national importance and is worthy of protection. The views of the Norfolk Coast Partnership will be

sought in relation to development proposals which may have an adverse impact on designated areas in the Borough.

Reason: Comments received from the Countryside Agency

31. Add new para (24.11) to the end of page 42 to read as follows:

Great Yarmouth Borough Council has recently undertaken an assessment and audit of the formal informal open space need in the Borough against the standards of National Playing Fields Association (NPFA). The majority of the rural and urban areas of the Borough did not meet the NPFA standards to the detriment of the urban and rural scene and health of the communities.

32. On page 43 of the document amend the first issue and key option (1) to read as follows (amend page 63 accordingly):

Issues: The number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land is below the national target, which has resulted in subsequent loss of Greenfield land. Further expansion of Greenfield could adversely affect the unique character and setting of the landscape and townscape.

Key Option: Ensure development makes efficient use of previously developed land in sustainable locations and is sympathetic to the existing urban design in order to mitigate the detrimental effect to the quality of the landscape and townscape.

Reason: Comments received from the Countryside Agency

33. On page 43 of the document amend key options 2 to read as follows (amend page 63 accordingly):

Key option: Ensure developments make efficient use of land, especially developed land in sustainable locations, to help minimise the losses of 'greenfield' site development, areas of biodiversity interest and the use of high quality agricultural land.

Reason: Comments received from the Environment Agency

34. Add the following objective, issue and key option to page 43 to read as follows

Objective: To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes

Issue: The Borough is experiencing shortfalls of formal and informal open space to the detriment of the urban and rural scene.

Key option: Protect important areas of open space for their recreation and amenity value. Ensure good quality open space is provided within new developments.

35. On page 43 of the document delete the second issue (2):

Reason: Repetition

46. On page 43 of the document amend the third issue (3) to read as follows:

4.1% of homes are long-term empty homes resulting in a depressing effect on the townscape.

Reason: Comments received from the Countryside Agency

37. On page 43 of the document amend the final issue and key option (5) to read as follows:

Issue: The landscape and the townscape are potentially vulnerable to unsympathetic new development.

Key Option: Ensure developments recognise the need for landscape and townscape conservation and enhancement, including retention of key landscape and townscape features. Ensure further landscape and townscape protection through strong conformity with the Landscape Character Assessment, including neighbouring Landscape Character Assessments, and Conservation Area Appraisals.

Reason: Comments received from the Countryside Agency

38. Add para 28.4 to page 48

Future look at improving efficient patterns of movement.

28.4 The overall objectives of the Local Transport Plan for Norfolk (2006 to 2011) to improve strategic transport links, improve access to main towns, reduce congestion, prevent declarations of Air Quality Management Areas and target pedestrian and cyclist casualties will have been achieved. Improved public transport services and connections between transport modes will have enabled speedier, more convenient travel throughout the Borough and the wider sub-region, allowing people in rural areas and smaller communities to take advantage of the range of jobs and services available in the main centres. There will have been major investment in a new bridge over the River Yare (the Third River Crossing), helping to relieve congestion, particularly in Great Yarmouth town centre, and provide the missing link between the trunk road and the port. Congestion will have been tackled further by making more efficient use of the road network by junction improvements. A comprehensive and integrated cycle and footpath network will safeguard cyclists and pedestrians, sustain growing use of non-car transport and mitigate increases in carbon dioxide emissions. Great Yarmouth's railway station will also be improved over the coming years, providing better interchange facilities, greater safety and comfort to encourage patronage.

28.5 All in all, there will be particularly marked improvements for those making trips on foot, by bicycle or by public transport, for those with a mobility or sensory impairment, and for others who currently experience barriers to social inclusion. Improved access and accessibility will have reduced deprivation and isolation in those areas of need

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

39. On page 51 under Health and Population the final issue should be two separate issues resulting in four separate issues to read as follows:

Great Yarmouth has an above average of elderly people and below average number of children

The majority of the urban and rural areas in Great Yarmouth have a shortfall of formal and informal open space.

40. On page 52 of the document amend the Landscape and Townscape issues and to read as follows:

The number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land is below the national target, which has resulted in subsequent loss of Greenfield land. Further expansion could adversely affect the unique character and setting of the landscape and townscape.

4.1% of homes are long-term empty homes resulting in a depressing effect on the townscape.

Poor quality and distinctiveness of the urban environment has undermined attempts to attract inward investment.

The landscape and the townscape are potentially vulnerable to unsympathetic new development

The Borough is experiencing shortfalls of formal and informal open space to the detriment of the urban and rural scene.

Reason: changes made to previous section of the document.

41 Add the following issue to the biodiversity section on page 42 to read as follows:

The Broads Authority executive area is a nationally important designation of environmental

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

42. Amend page 59, last point under key options for LDF to read as follows:

Ensure the expansion of existing businesses and support the development of sheltered business accommodation and start-up units. Subject to sustainability appraisal, protect allocated and important allocated sites from non-employment uses and ensure that adequate land, premises and business support services are available to facilitate diversification of the economy in-line with the Great Yarmouth Employment Land Study (2006).

43 Amend 'key option for LDF' column only under biodiversity section (page 68 and 69) to take account of earlier amendments and to read as follows:

SEA Directive Topic	Sustainability Issue in Great Yarmouth	Origin of Issue Supporting data	Key Option for LDF	Can the LDF address? YES/NO
biodiversity	Under Development pressure		Networks of natural habitats will be maintained and protected from development that would lead to their isolation or fragmentation. Measures will be put in place to ensure that sites and designs avoid irreversible loss by firstly seeking alternative solutions. Where impacts of development cannot be avoided, the Local Development Framework will put in place measures to mitigate for enhancement, mitigation and compensation for habitat loss.	Yes
			Protect and enhance areas of biodiversity, species and habitats in accordance with their rarity and importance.	Yes
	Under Sensitive wildlife habitats		Protect and enhance areas of biodiversity, species and habitats in accordance with their rarity and importance.	Yes
	Under Significant biodiversity		Protect and enhance areas of biodiversity, species and habitats in accordance with their rarity and importance.	Yes
	Under Opportunities for habitat enhancement		Identify the opportunities and put in place policy for developers to address. Adopt the Biodiversity SPG as an SPD. Enhance and restore degraded habitats through Environmental Stewardship and the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.	Yes Yes

44 Add a final issue to the biodiversity table on page 69 to read as follows:

SEA Directive Topic	Sustainability Issue in Great Yarmouth	Origin of Issue Supporting data	Key Option for LDF	Can the LDF address? YES/NO
Biodiversity Continued.....	Many parts of the Borough have been degraded as a result of intensive agricultural drainage	English Nature/Environment Agency	Enhance and restore degraded habitats through Environmental Stewardship and the Broads Flood Alleviation Project	Yes
	The Broads Authority executive area is a nationally important designation of environmental importance.	English Nature	Protect and enhance areas covered by national and international designations. and restore degraded habitats through Environmental Stewardship and the Broads Flood Alleviation Project.	Yes

45. Amend the 'favourable and unfavourable' part of the table and add the following data in the biodiversity section of appendix 2 (page 12 and 13) to read as follows (the rest of biodiversity is to remain)

Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trend		Assessment	Data Source
		Great Yarmouth	Regional/ National	Great Yarmouth	Regional/ National		
	Percentage of SSSIs in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition	50% Unfavourable 50% Favourable (English Nature 2006)	12.24% Unfavourable 66.3% Favourable		East of England 2003 64% favourable 36% Un-favourable.		English Nature website Condition of SSSI units - compiled 01 Jun 2006
	The number of Environmental Stewardship Schemes Implement					New indicator to be progressed	English Nature
	Planning permissions granted for development that has resulted in the loss of landscape features such as hedges (notably hedges of importance under the Important Hedges Regulations) and copses.						

46. Add the following data to 'To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes' section in appendix 2, page 14 to read as follows (the data should be added to the beginning of the section and not the end):

Objective	Indicator	Current Situation		Trend		Assessment	Data Source
		Great Yarmouth	Regional/ National	Great Yarmouth	Regional/ National		
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	% of total built-up areas falling within conservation areas					Figure varies as Conservation Areas are designated through development plan review. % is likely to rise considerably as major new developments are completed in the deprived built up areas.	District GIS (no regional comparator) Calculated as % of land within village frameworks that lies within a Conservation Area
	Area of designated landscapes – AONB, Special Landscape Areas (SLA)						
	Number of Environmental Stewardship Schemes (DEFRA)						
	Number of planning applications refused for reasons due to poor design						

47. Amend the biodiversity objective in appendix 3 (table) to read as follows:

Avoid damage to designated sites, protected species, losses to special areas and maintain, enhance and expand the range of native habitats and species.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

48. Add a further biodiversity objective to the table (under the amendment made above) to read as follows:

Enhance the qualities of the Broads, minimise development and encourage a natural functioning floodplain

This leaves a blank section of the table to be filled in. Once amendments are made I'll complete the section.

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

49. Amend appendix 4, point 16 (Biodiversity) and point 18 (landscape and townscape) to read as follows:

16. Biodiversity	<p>Avoid damage to designated sites, protected species, losses to special areas and maintain, enhance and expand the range of native habitats and species.</p> <p>Enhance the qualities of the Broads, minimise development and encourage a natural functioning floodplain</p>	<p>Will it protect and enhance natural/semi natural habitats?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance species diversity, and in particular avoid harm to protected species?</p> <p>Will it protect and enhance sites designated for their nature conservation interest.?</p> <p>Will it enhance the qualities of the Broads, minimise development and encourage a natural functioning floodplain?</p>
18. Landscapes and Townscapes.	To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	<p>Will it reduce the number of long-term empty homes resulting?</p> <p>Will it improve the landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside?</p> <p>Will it improve the shortfalls of formal and informal open space in the Borough?</p>

Reason: Agreed comments from English Nature

49. Amend the biodiversity objective in Appendix 5 (page 5) and add a second objective below it to read as follows:

- Avoid damage to designated sites, protected species, losses to special areas and maintain, enhance and expand the range of native habitats and species.

- Enhance the qualities of the Broads, minimise development and encourage a natural functioning floodplain

Reason: Duplication and comments received.

50. Amend the 'potential policy response' column under Biodiversity to read as follows:

Policies to protect and enhance important species/habitats and to secure appropriate expansion and enhancement areas of high biodiversity value in all cases.

Reason: Duplication and comments received.

