



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

*Sustainability Appraisal of
Regional Spatial Strategies and
Local Development Documents*



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and
Local Planning Authorities

November 2005

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: London

3.5 SA Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

What the SEA Directive says:

“The authorities [with relevant environmental responsibilities] and the public... shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme” (Article 6(2)).

“The environmental report, ... the opinions expressed [in responses to consultation] ... and the results of any transboundary consultations ... shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption...” (Article 8).

“...when a plan or programme is adopted, the [environmental] authorities [and] the public ... are informed and the following items [shall be] made available to those so informed: (a) the plan or programme as adopted, (b) a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme...[including] the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and (c) the measures decided concerning monitoring” (Article 9(1)).

Task D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

3.5.1 The SA Report must be issued with the DPD during the pre-submission public participation stage on the preferred option or options under Regulation 26 of the Local Development Regulations.

Task D2(i): Appraising significant changes

3.5.2 The LPA prepare a DPD for submission, taking into account the consultation on the Preferred Options. The DPD may simply be a refinement of one of the Preferred Options to provide greater clarity about how it will be delivered, including for example, detailed policy wording. In this case further SA would not be needed, but an annex to the SA Report would explain the position. The DPD may be based on a combination of Preferred Options or strike a mid position between them. Again, it may not be necessary to undertake further SA, but the position should be clear in an annex to the SA Report.

3.5.3 On the other hand the DPD may contain strategy which was not included in the Preferred Options to the extent that it has significant impacts which have not hitherto been appraised. In this case these effects must be appraised and the SA Report may need more extensive supplementation or even rewriting.

3.5.4 It is for the LPA to undertake this further appraisal. However, where new strategies emanate from the representations made by stakeholders on the Preferred Options it may be helpful for those stakeholders to provide information on their effects.