

Appendix 2: Summary of Comments on SA/SEA Scoping Report

The SA Scoping Report received four comments during the consultation period, two of which were from statutory consultees. All comments were supportive in nature and welcomed the content and structure of the report. Where feedback was received, it was specifically in relation to the questions posed at the end of the document on page 35. A brief summary of the observations received is included below:

In relation to question 1, the Environment Agency (EA) suggested the following documents also be reviewed as part of the evidence base: the River Basin Management Plan for the South East River Basin District (2008), the EA Groundwater Protection Policy & Practice document and the Water Resource Management Plans for Southern and Thames Water. Natural England also recommended the inclusion of Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006).

In response to question 2, the EA recommended that the 'potential impact on water quality from an increase in development' be identified as an emerging sustainability issue due to the resulting pressure on existing sewage treatment capacity.

Several comments were received in relation to the SA Framework (question 4), specifically these included recommendations to re-word the following decision making criteria;

- Q15a: 'Will it make use of PDL and/or buildings' to '*Will it bring PDL back into beneficial use*'; and
- Q17a: 'Will it reduce car use' to '*Will it reduce the need to use a car*'
- Q17c and 17d; include reference to community transport, where reference is made to public transport.

And to add '*Could it harm the local economy*' and '*will it provide increased local employment*' to Q18.

Suggestions were also received to include sustainability indicators relating to the following issues;

- Groundwater;
- Health walks;
- Number of new residential developments incorporating open/recreational space;
- Condition of SPA's;
- Proportion of people using public transport, community transport and walking & cycling regularly to facilities;
- Number, area & condition of local wildlife and geological sites (SNCIs, LNRs & RIGS);
- Achievement of BAP targets as set out in Sussex BAP and the Horsham BAP;
- Populations of farmland birds;
- Area of Ancient Woodland;
- No. of schemes permitted which impact significant habitats, protected species and areas of nature conservation;
- Area of land allocated for green infrastructure;
- Amount of land under environmental stewardship schemes; and
- Achievement of Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards.

As the Scoping Report will be used as a baseline document for the appraisal of policies over a number of years, it was recommended that the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework include enough flexibility to enable indicators to be updated to include the most appropriate and up to date information.

Southwater Parish Council also provided topic based comments which will be useful during the appraisal of the Southwater Potential Strategic Site Option in the draft SA report.