

Open Space in New Residential Developments Supplementary Planning Document Sustainability Appraisal

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Introduction and invitation to comment

This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been undertaken for the draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Its purpose is to set out how sustainability issues have been taken into account during the preparation of the SPD, and identify any impacts it may have.

Methodology

This SA incorporating SEA has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This SA has been undertaken in line with the proposals set out in the scoping report. The Scoping Report provides a review of all the relevant plans, programmes and strategies, and also sets out the sustainability objectives against which the SPD will be assessed.

The evidence base for the SPD was published as a Background Paper to the Re-deposit Local Plan (now adopted) in April 2005. This background paper identified that in three of the District's five towns there is a shortage of open space in relation to the standards advocated by the National Playing Fields Association.

The baseline information for the sustainability framework has been collected from a range of sources, both from within the Council and externally, sources are quoted within the framework. The sustainability framework has been put together specifically for this SA of the draft Open Space SPD. Although work on the SPD and SA started in 2005, the majority of the work has been undertaken during the period of June to August 2006, following the Local Plan Inquiry.

Assessment of Impacts of the SPD

When assessing the impacts of the draft Open Space SPD, the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability objectives was the first stage. Generally the two sets of objectives proved to be compatible, or have a neutral compatibility.

When considering the implementation of Local Plan policies, two options were considered, to rely solely on the Local Plan, or to produce additional guidance in the form of a SPD. The SPD option was decided upon as it would provide a more detailed guidance on design, conservation and the provision of equipment. The base policy for the SPD is Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments. Although it may also be relevant to the implementation of Policy LT1 Leisure, Recreation and Sports facilities, and Policy LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure.

Appraisal of the draft SPD

The SPD was assessed against the sustainability objectives. The results of this appraisal show that the SPD scores well, generally having a minor positive impact.

As the focus of the SPD is restricted, it is unlikely that it would have any major impacts. No negative impacts were identified.

No specific mitigation measures have been proposed, as no negative impacts were identified during the appraisal. However, should any negative impacts occur as a result of implementation, corrective policy measures will be taken.

Monitoring

As a majority of the baseline information was collected from Council sources, monitoring can be primarily undertaken through existing methods of data collection. Following adoption of the SPD a detailed monitoring framework will be produced setting out how monitoring will be undertaken.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Structure of Report

Following Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) each new plan prepared must be accompanied by a strategic environmental assessment that will assess the impact of the plan on the environment. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has widened this assessment into a requirement for a Sustainability Appraisal which in addition to meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive, also assesses the impacts of the plan on social and economic factors.

This sustainability appraisal (SA) document sits alongside the Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which has been produced to provide additional guidance in relation to the implementation of Policy HS11 (Open Space in New Residential Developments) of the Local Plan. Its purpose is to set out how sustainability issues have been taken into account during the preparation of the SPD and identify any impacts that its implementation may have.

The Scoping Report, published in May 2006 and revised following consultation with the statutory consultees sets out the scope of the SA, and the Council's sustainability objectives that are relevant to the SPD. As the Open Space SPD is specific in its focus, this is reflected in the scope of the SA.

The structure of this report is as follows:

Section 1 contains the background to the report, including the requirement for SEA/SA, and details of the consultation arrangements in line with SEA requirements.

Section 2 contains the methodology and how the process of the sustainability appraisal has been carried out. Information on the linkages to other plans and strategies and the baseline is also included in this section.

Section 3 assesses the impacts of the SPD, comparing the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability framework, and considers the alternative options.

Section 4 contains the appraisal of the draft SPD against the sustainability objectives. This section also includes any impacts of the SPD and mitigation measures.

Section 5 contains details of how the SPD will be monitored.

1.2 Compliance with SEA Directive and Regulations

This SA has been produced in compliance with the ODPM guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (2005) and the ODPM's 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'. In following the guidance set out in these two documents it is considered that this appraisal meets the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC. The table below sets out the requirements of the SEA Directive, and where each requirement is covered in the report.

Table 1. The requirements of the SEA Directive and where covered in this report

Requirements	Where Covered in SA Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationships with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 2.2
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	Section 2.3
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 2.3
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Section 2.2, 2.3 and Background Paper
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 2.2
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative.	Sections 4.1 and 4.2
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Section 4.3
An outline of reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.	Section 3.2
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10.	Section 5
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Non-technical summary above

1.3 Consultation arrangements

Consultation on the SPD and this SA has been carried out wherever possible in line with the Councils Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and the ODPM guidance 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents' (2005). In addition to the four statutory consultees (Environment Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency) Sport England, Government Office East Midlands (GOEM), the East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and all of the District Councillors were also consulted on the Draft Scoping Report. Following this consultation, whereby comments were received from EMRA, Environment Agency, English Nature, English Heritage and Sport England, some minor amendments were made, and the Scoping Report put on the website (www.sholland.gov.uk) and made available at the Council Offices, Spalding, the Market House at Long Sutton, and the District's libraries.

The evidence base for the SPD has not been consulted upon strictly in line with the SCI:

- because this information, and the commencement of work on the SPD itself and the draft Scoping Report, pre-dates the SCI;
- it has been within the public realm since Spring 2005 as it formed the part of the evidence base of the Re-deposit Local Plan.

The SEA Directive requires that certain steps are carried out when consulting on the SA. These requirements, and where they are covered in the report are detailed in the table below

Table 2. The consultation requirements of the SEA Directive and where covered in this report

Requirements	Where covered in report
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4)	Section 1.3
Authorities with environmental responsibility, and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity to, within appropriate time frames, express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2)	Section 1.3
Other EU Member States, where the implication of the Plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7)	Not relevant to this SPD
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision making (Art. 8)	Section 4.2

This SA, as it sits directly alongside the SPD, has been consulted on as a part of the SPD consultation.

Following on from the public consultation, changes have been made to the SPD in response to the comments received from those who made representations. The comments received, and the Council's responses are set out in the Statement of Consultation produced to meet regulation 18(4) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. In general most of the comments received seeking changes to the SPD related to relatively minor changes. However, the issue of protecting and enhancing wildlife and biodiversity was considered by a number of parties to have not been made strongly enough within the SPD, resulting in the SA identifying neutral impact upon wildlife and biodiversity. This was not considered acceptable by those parties raising the issue. As a result of these comments, the references to protecting and enhancing biodiversity have been strengthened as much as is possible within the scope of the SPD. The appraisal of the impacts of the SPD on the sustainability objectives has been re-visited and the impacts re-appraised.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Approach to the Sustainability Appraisal

The undertaking of a Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, is now mandatory for all new Development Plan Documents (DPD's) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's). As the adopted Local Plan was adopted before the 21 July 2006, the critical date for the requirement of the production of Sustainability Appraisals incorporating SEA, this SA is the first that the District Council has had to undertake. In effect this document is testing the water for those that will follow. It will provide lessons for officers to take on board in the future when preparing DPD's and their sustainability appraisals.

It is considered that the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment for the Open Space SPD is not necessary, as the increase in the amount of green space in new residential areas will not have a detrimental impact on The Wash. The inclusion of open space within residential developments should contribute to a reduction in run off water, which in turn should reduce the likelihood of pollution to the waterways. Following the consultation on the draft Scoping Report, and the draft version of this report, with the statutory consultation bodies and other groups, as detailed below, no comments were received indicating that an Appropriate Assessment should be carried out.

2.2 Linkages with other plans and strategies

The Scoping Report provides a review of all the relevant plans and strategies that relate to the provision of open space. This list has been added to following consultation of the draft Scoping Report, when additional documents were recommended for inclusion by the statutory consultees and Sport England. The list has been broken down into a number of categories in order to stop it becoming unwieldy to the user and to group documents from similar sources or at similar levels in the governmental hierarchy. This review of plans and strategies is appended to this report at Appendix A.

The evidence base for the Open Space SPD was published in April 2005 alongside the Re-deposit Local Plan when it was published for consultation in the form of the 'Open Space in the Five Towns Background Paper'. This evidence was published in support of a number of policies, but in particular Policy HS11, on which the Open Space SPD expands. This background paper is available to view on the District Council's website www.sholland.gov.uk and at the Council Offices in Spalding, Market House in Long Sutton and the District's libraries. The Scoping Report, which sets out the scope of this SA and the sustainability framework containing the baseline data for the SA can also be viewed at these locations. Although the background paper focuses on the District's five towns, Policy HS11, and the Open Space SPD are applicable to any new residential development in the District.

The information that was collected as a part of the Background Paper to the Local Plan was not collected in line with advice given in PPG17. The information collected is a quantitative assessment of provision, rather than a qualitative assessment. The aim was to establish, regardless of quality what the level of provision in the District in term of open space, in order to inform the policies of the Local Plan. The apparent deficit of open space that emerged from the collection of the evidence base for the background paper has been used to justify the requirement of open space on new residential developments. The background paper was used during the inquiry to justify the Council's policy stance in respect of the provision of new open space. In his report, the Inspector has not made any comment in respect of the suitability of the evidence or its compatibility with guidance given in PPG 17.

The Open Space SPD is being produced to supplement policies from the Local Plan that deal with open spaces. This will primarily be in respect of Policy HS11 – Open Space in New Residential Developments. Policy LT2 – Safeguarding Open Space for Sport, Recreation and Leisure also has implications for the level and quality of open space provision in the District. Finally Policy LT1 – Leisure, Recreation and Tourism is also relevant to the provision of open space; however it is likely to impact on such provision to a lesser extent as its focus is not solely on open space. The SPD will provide guidance on the implementation of the policy, such as the amount of equipment to be provided on an area of open space, and landscaping issues.

Planning policies in the Local Plan, and in future in the documents that will comprise the Local Development Framework, are prepared in a form to ensure consistency and close integration with the Community Plan, as the documents share a common vision. The provision of open space is particularly relevant to three of the five priority themes within the 2006-2009 Action Plan of the Community Plan. These themes are Health, Sustainable Communities and Thriving and Safe Communities. This is reflected in the objectives and sub-objectives in the sustainability framework.

2.3 The baseline information

The baseline information collected for the sustainability framework in the Scoping Report covers a range of information in relation to the sustainability issues identified in the framework as being relevant to open space provision. A large proportion of the information collected was already held by the District Council in results from Annual Monitoring Reports and residents surveys sent out from various departments. However, it was necessary to obtain some of the information from other sources such as the Environment Agency and the 2001 Census. The information included as the baseline for the amount of open space in the District, taken from the Open Space Background Paper, shows that three of the towns have provision that is far short of the standards advocated by the National Playing Fields Association. Only Crowland and Long Sutton have provision above such standards.

The collection of the baseline data has highlighted a number of issues in respect of the current state of the environment, in its widest sense. Some of the key issues and facts that it has identified are as follows:

- Of the four Environment Agency river quality monitoring stations in the District, two are significant failures, one is marginally compliant, and the other is compliant.
- Within the District there are 2 local nature reserves, 3 SSSI's and 8 sites of local nature conservation interest.
- There are 338 Tree Preservation Orders within the District.
- There is 14.1Ha of open space in Crowland, 9.5Ha in Holbeach, 12.6Ha in Long Sutton, 32.1Ha in Spalding, and 5.0Ha in Sutton Bridge.
- The age profile for the District shows that 17.9% of residents are under 16, while 25.2% of residents are over retirement age.
- 62% of residents are satisfied with the quality of the natural environment.
- There are 46 pitches in South Holland for Football, Rugby, Cricket and Hockey.
- 71% of residents find it easy or very easy to get to their local park or garden.

As the SPD is District wide, and does not apply specifically to one settlement or area, the baseline data has in the majority been given at a District Wide level. Of the baseline data included within the sustainability framework, probably the most directly relevant to the Open Space SPD is that giving the amount of open space by town, as it sets down existing provision. With out the SPD it is expected that the amount of open space in each of the towns would continue to increase, albeit slowly and on a more ad hoc basis, and accessibility to open space should not alter dramatically, as the Local Plan policy HS11 would ensure that open space is provided on new residential developments. However, without the SPD it would be unlikely that there would be an increase in nature conservation sites, and subsequent biodiversity. Levels of run off and water quality would be unlikely to be particularly different

without the SPD to what they would be with an SPD, as the requirement for the provision of open space is set in policy.

2.4 How and when the Sustainability Appraisal was carried out

Work on the scoping report began in the second half of 2005 with the collection of the baseline data from a number of sources. This baseline data, combined with the evidence base put together for the Re-Deposit Local Plan which was published for consultation during spring 2005 have had an influence over the content of the SPD. Work on the Scoping report and SPD started in July 2005 with the sustainability framework and a draft of what the open space SPD should cover. Due to the scheduling of the Local Plan Inquiry, there was some delay in finalising and publishing the Scoping Report, which was published for consultation with the statutory consultees in May 2006. Following this consultation and the receipt of responses from the consultees, some amendments were made to the Scoping Report and sustainability framework before it was finalised.

The draft Open Space SPD and draft SA, which has been produced following the finalisation of the Scoping Report, were presented to the Councils Cabinet at their meeting on 5 September 2006 for approval for consultation. The consultation period for the documents then ran for a 6 week period from 10 October to 28 November 2006. Following the consultation, some changes have been made to the SPD, and subsequently to the SA, and the assessment section itself to take on board the changes made to the SPD. A review of the contents of the SA against the requirements of the SEA Directive and Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has also been undertaken to ensure completeness.

This Sustainability Appraisal report was finalised in March 2007 following the finalisation of the SPD ready to be presented to Cabinet for adoption.

2.5 The Sustainability Framework

The framework for undertaking this sustainability appraisal is set out in the sustainability framework at Appendix B of the Scoping Report. The sustainability framework is also attached to this report at Appendix B. The framework sets out the baseline data in tabular form alongside the 10 sustainability objectives and the more detailed sub-objectives. Within the framework, assessment criteria and indicators are also set, which will form the basis of the sustainability appraisal itself.

The sustainability framework has been put together specifically to assess the impacts of the Open Space SPD. As the council produces more documents for the Local Development Framework, and sustainability appraisals are carried out, a comprehensive sustainability framework covering all the areas of planning policy will be formed, providing a general set of sustainability objectives that can then be selected specifically and added to for new documents.

As the SPD is to be focused on a tightly defined subject and is therefore limited in scope, it will only ever have a limited impact on the baseline data. However, it is still possible that there may be some relatively significant impacts that arise from the SPD, and it is the purpose of this SA to assess any impacts that may arise.

There are 10 sustainability objectives for this sustainability appraisal that cover a range of SEA issues, the table below provides details of the objectives and the issues they cover.

Table 3. The Sustainability Objectives

Sustainability Objective	SEA Issue	Comments
1. To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	Population Material Assets	The SPD may influence the creation of a sense of community among residents, and may help achieve social inclusion
2. Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	Population Human Health	The SPD will help to provide access to quality recreation facilities
3. To improve accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community	Population	The SPD will help to provide open space that is appropriate and accessible for all users
4. To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	Population Human Health Landscape	The SPD will help to provide open space that can be used for recreational activities and informal play
5. To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	Population	The provision of open space, guided by the SPD, will make residential areas attractive as places to live
6. To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	Landscape Cultural Heritage	The SPD encourages well designed open space that is appropriate to the area in which it is situated
7. To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment	Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	The SPD encourages the retention of existing on site features which may protect and enhance wildlife and habitats
8. To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	Water Population	The SPD through the provision of open space may help facilitate a reduction in run off, which in turn may help to reduce pollution. Open space in walking distance of homes may help to reduce car use
9. To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	Material Assets	The provision of open space on site with residential developments provides a good use of land, by reducing the need for further development to meet needs of residents
10. To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	Water Climatic Factors Material Assets	The provision of open space and green areas can help to reduce run off and absorb rainwater, reducing the risk of flooding

The SEA issues of soil, air and cultural heritage are not included within the above table as the sustainability objectives do not directly impact them, and the table only includes those impacts which are direct. There are, however, indirect impacts that were identified, in the case of soil; sustainability objective's 8 and 9 may have indirect impacts. For air, sustainability objectives 4 and 8 may have in direct impacts. Although normally all impacts, including indirect impacts, should be included. The limited scope of the SPD has resulted in the decision that such indirect impacts should not be included as their impact on the wider environment is likely to be so small that it would be negligible.

3.0 Assessment of impacts of SPD

3.1 Compatibility of objectives

The Open Space SPD has a number of objectives that supports its purpose of providing more detailed guidance for Policy HS11 in respect of the type of open space to be provided, and more detailed guidance regarding design matters. The objectives of the Open Space SPD are:

- a) to supplement the Local Plan/Local Development Framework policies on open space – primarily Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments, but also Policy LT1 Leisure, Recreation and Tourist Facilities and Policy LT2 Safeguarding Open Space for Leisure, Recreation and Sport;
- b) to ensure that adequate open space is provided in new residential developments so that the overall level of provision for our population does not decline further;
- c) to provide guidance regarding the size and type of open space that will be required;
- d) to provide guidance on what and how much equipment will be required on an area of open space;
- e) to provide guidance on maintenance standards and costs for open space;
- f) to facilitate an increase in provision of equipped play areas where there is a need;
- g) to protect/provide area of nature conservation/biodiversity where possible;
- h) to better match the type of provision with needs across the District;
- i) to provide guidance on the requirement for the payment of commuted sums in respect of the maintenance of open space.

The first stage of the sustainability appraisal that was undertaken was to test the compatibility of the SPD objectives with the sustainability objectives in the sustainability framework. The table below sets out how the SPD objectives compared against the sustainability objectives. Objective ‘a’ from the SPD has not been included, as this is a general objective seeking to support the Local Plan policies.

Key for table 4

- ✓ objectives compatible
- neutral compatibility
- ✗ objectives not compatible

Table 4. The compatibility of SPD objectives with SA objectives

SA \ SPD	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
3	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓
4	-	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-
5	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	✓	-
6	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	✓	-	-
9	✗	✗	-	-	✓	-	-	-
10	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

From the table it is possible to see that the SPD objectives are broadly in line with the sustainability objectives. SPD objectives b and c do raise some conflict with sustainability objective 9, however in plan making a balance needs to be achieved,

and it is possible to say that on greenfield sites the provision of open space may not be the best use of agricultural land. It is considered that the benefit of the provision of open space in new residential developments outweighs and disadvantages arising from the loss of agricultural land.

3.2 Options considered

When considering the implementation of the Local Plan policies on open space, and achieving the objectives of the plan in respect of the provision of open space in the District, two main options were considered:

- to do nothing and therefore rely only on the Local Plan policies;
- to produce an SPD to provide additional guidance and detail to help the implementation of the policies.

The option to do nothing and rely only on the Local Plan policies was not considered to be an option that could realistically be followed through, as it would not achieve well designed and integrated open space. An SPD would provide guidance on issues such as design, nature conservation and matters relating to play equipment. The presence of an SPD would also help to reduce the need for staff time to be spent in negotiation with developers over matters of design on which guidance could be given in an SPD and also generally ease implementation of the policy.

There has been no formal assessment carried out on these options, as the principle for the need for open space contributions, and the need for the open space needs of a development to be met onsite has been established through the adoption of Policy HS11 Open Space in New Residential Developments requiring not less than 14% of gross site area. The options only related to how best this could be achieved.

3.3 The base policy

The South Holland Local Plan was adopted at a special meeting of the Council on 18 July 2006. An inquiry had been held into the objections to the Local Plan. The Inquiry opened on 5 January 2006. Hearings were held during January, and the Inquiry formally closed on the 28th April 2006. The Council received the binding report of the Inspector on 30 June 2006. The Local Plan was adopted at a special meeting of the Council on 18 July 2006.

Although the Plan has not been subject of a SA incorporating SEA, it has been subject to an old style sustainability appraisal, the results of which for Policy HS11 are attached at Appendix C. Within this assessment Policy HS11 did not score negatively against any of the sustainability objectives. As the policy has been subject to some form of sustainability appraisal, and has been formally adopted as a part of the Local Plan. This sustainability appraisal therefore focuses on the impact of the SPD above and beyond any impacts of the adopted Local Plan policies.

4.0 Appraisal of the Draft SPD

4.1 The sustainability appraisal of the SPD

The results of the sustainability appraisal are set out in order of the sustainability objectives. A summary table is included at Appendix D. The results tables set out the likely effects, and the likely timescale, permanence and scale of any effects. An explanation and comment is also given.

Key to appraisal tables

- ✓✓ option has significant positive impact on the SA objective
- ✓ option has minor positive impact on the SA objective
- option has neutral impact on the SA objective
- ✗ option has minor negative impact on the SA objective
- ✗✗ option has significant negative impact on the SA objective
- ? the impact on the SA objective is uncertain
- ST Short term (during the construction of the development)
- MT Medium term (5-10 years post completion)
- LT Long term (more than 10 years post completion)

Likelihood – High, Medium or Low

Scale – Local, Regional, National, Global

Permanence - Temporary or permanent

Effect – Secondary, Cumulative, Synergistic

Monitoring – Proposals for monitoring effects

Sustainability Objective 1 – To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community.

Sub-Objective – Ensure that the needs of the District's residents are catered for.

Assessment of effects			Explanation and comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The policy will help to create a sense of community and reduce social exclusion by providing communal facilities close to where people live. New open space will be required to be of a size and design to serve the needs of the residents of the new development.</p> <p>Likelihood: medium to high</p> <p>Scale: Local</p> <p>Permanence: Permanent</p> <p>Effects: a reduction in social exclusion can have positive impacts for health of residents, and increase community interaction.</p> <p>Monitoring: The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures, such as the Annual Monitoring Report and Quality of Life survey.</p>

Sustainability Objective 2 – Improve Access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities

Sub-Objectives – To ensure that the District’s children have access to high quality play areas and natural environment.
To ensure that there is an adequate supply of high quality sports pitches to cater for the District’s needs
To improve peoples perception of their own health

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The SPD requires that the open space to be provided must meet the standards as set out if it is to be adopted and maintained by the relevant Parish Councils. An increase in open space in the district will improve opportunities for informal recreation, and activity among children. The increased use of native species and encouragement of biodiversity may also have educational benefits.</p> <p>Likelihood: Medium to high Scale: Local (district wide) Permanence: Permanent Effects: an increase in quality open space will increase the opportunity for residents to take part in informal recreation. Monitoring: Through existing monitoring practices such as the Annual Monitoring Report and Quality of Life survey, and the undertaking of a PPG17 compliant open space audit, that can than be updated.</p>

Sustainability Objective 3 – To improve the accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community

Sub-Objective – To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space.

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓✓	✓✓	<p>By requiring open space provision a greater number of areas will improve access. The SPD requires that provision should take account of the needs of future residents. Financial contributions will improve access to better quality facilities by helping to provide increased ranges of equipment and maintenance in existing areas of open space.</p> <p>Likelihood: high Scale: Local Permanence: Permanent Effects: provision will increase accessibility for all Monitoring: the effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

Sustainability Objective 4 – To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities

Sub-Objective – to ensure that everyone has access to multi functional open spaces

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>On larger sites open space provision will increase the opportunities for residents to access multi functional open spaces. Financial contributions to improve existing areas of open space will increase access to quality open space in existing areas of settlements.</p> <p>Likelihood: Medium Scale: Local Permanence: Permanent Effects: access to multi functional play areas will be improved. Monitoring: This is not currently monitored, but information can be collected and monitored through open space audits.</p>

Sustainability Objective 5 – To make South Holland a Place where people want to live, work and visit

Sub-Objectives – To improve peoples perception of crime
To improve peoples perception of anti-social behaviour

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>Well designed open space can reduce a poor perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. Well designed open space should be overlooked to reduce the possibility for instances of crime and anti-social behaviour, while providing somewhere for youths to go and meet with friends etc.</p> <p>Likelihood: Medium to high Scale: Local Permanence: Permanent Effects: to help facilitate and improves perception of crime and anti-social behaviour Monitoring: The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring practices.</p>

Sustainability Objective 6 – To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area’s landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings

Sub-Objectives – To protect and enhance the Districts valuable green spaces
To ensure the highest quality of design in the built environment
To contribute towards a ‘greener’ District by protecting trees

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
✓	✓✓	✓✓	<p>The SPD requires that wherever possible existing natural features of a site are retained, and that open spaces are in keeping with the wider landscape. The provision of open space will also serve to enhance the level of green spaces in the District, contributing to the quality of the built environment. The use of native species in keeping with the wider landscape will add to rather than detract from local distinctiveness.</p> <p>Likelihood: high Scale: Local Permanence: Permanent Effects: to increase green space and to improve the quality of the built environment. Monitoring: The effects of the SPD can be monitored using existing monitoring practices such as the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

Sustainability Objective 7 – To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the environment

Sub-Objective – there is no sub-objective for this SA objective

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
✓	✓	✓	<p>The requirement for the retention of existing on site features will have a positive impact on the protection of wildlife and habitats, as will the encouragement of the provision of natural green areas; however the overall effect is likely to be neutral or only a small positive effect, given that there are likely to be some losses resulting from development.</p> <p>Likelihood: medium Scale: Local (District Wide) Permanence: Permanent Effects:The SPD will help to prevent the loss of habitats and wildlife, and in some cases will also create new sites. Monitoring: the effects can be monitored through existing monitoring process. There is scope to widen such processes to capture more detailed information on effect. This can be done though monitoring undertaken for the Annual Monitoring Report</p>

Sustainability Objective 8 – To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve

Sub-Objective – To improve the water quality of the District’s waterways

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The provision of green spaces within developments can help to reduce run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping on a development. A reduction in run off will reduce the likelihood of pollutants making their way into watercourses.</p> <p>Likelihood: medium to low Scale: Local (District Wide) Permanence: Permanent Effects: Possibility that the SPD will contribute to improving the water quality in the District by reducing run off. Monitoring: Water Quality can be checked using the Environment Agency website.</p>

Sustainability Objective 9 – To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land

Sub-Objectives – To ensure that developments are making the best use of land
To make the best use of previously developed land

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	-	-	<p>It is essential that well designed open spaces are provided in order to enhance the quality of life on new residential developments</p> <p>Likelihood: medium to high Scale: Local Permanence: Permanent Effect: new residential development will contribute to the loss of agricultural land; however, the provision of on site open space will not increase such losses. Monitoring: this can be monitored through existing monitoring processes such as the Best Value Indicator 106 and monitoring undertaken for the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

Sustainability Objective 10 – To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk

Sub-Objectives – To facilitate a reduction in run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping in new developments
Increase the number of developments that utilise SUDS which can be incorporated in landscaping/open space design

Assessment of Effects			Explanation and Comments
ST	MT	LT	
-	✓	✓	<p>The provision of open space in new residential areas will help to facilitate a reduction in run off, and also a reduction in flood risk resulting from heavy rainfall. The SPD whilst supportive of the use of SUDS is unlikely to impact upon their use, although the Local Plan does contain a policy that addresses the use of SUDS.</p> <p>Likelihood: Medium to low Scale: Local (District Wide) Permanence: Permanent Effects: The SPD may have some effect on the increased use of SUDS and the reduction in run off rates. Monitoring: The use of SUDS in new developments can be monitored as a new indicator through existing monitoring processes such as new indicators within the Annual Monitoring Report.</p>

4.2 Effects of the SPD

The appraisal of the SPD has identified that generally the SPD will make a positive contribution to the adopted Local Plan Policies. In particular the following benefits to the District have been identified:

- to promote the provision of open space in new developments, thus ensuring that the overall standard of provision does not become any worse;
- to promote social inclusion by providing facilities that meet the needs of residents;
- to improve accessibility to recreation and sports facilities;
- facilitating a reduction in run off, thus reducing the potential for pollution and risk to properties.

The appraisal has not identified any major negative impacts resulting from the implementation of the SPD. The only likely possibility for a negative impact relates to the loss of agricultural land, but as has been discussed at section 3.1. A balance has to be achieved between the best use of land and the achievement of sustainable communities.

4.3 Mitigation of negative impacts

As the results of the sustainability appraisal do not identify that the SPD will have a negative effect on any of the sustainability objectives, no mitigating measures have been proposed. However if monitoring of the effects of SPD should uncover any negative effects, then corrective policy action will be taken.

Despite there being no anticipated negative effects as a result of the SPD, it is not envisaged by the Council that the level of brownfield completions will be able to continue at a rate of 32% for the long term future. This anticipated decline is unlikely to be as a direct result of the SPD, but rather as a result of the fact that there is not a large supply of brownfield sites to come forward given the District's agricultural heritage. As developments on previously developed land are monitored as a best value indicator on a quarterly basis the Council will be able to keep a close watch on any changes and if necessary act accordingly.

5.0 Monitoring

As a majority of the baseline information in the sustainability framework has come from sources within the Council the monitoring of the impacts of the SPD, either positive or negative, will predominantly be through established existing methods of data collection that occur at least annually. A majority of the indicators identified are already monitored through the Annual Monitoring Report with data collected at least quarterly, the annual Quality of Life survey, sent out to residents also provides annually updated data for indicators such as the proportion of residents who think anti-social behaviour is a problem.

For one or two of the sustainability objectives, there are not existing monitoring procedures in place, in order to rectify this, the Council will set up procedures to obtain baseline information and then monitor any changes on a regular basis along side existing monitoring activities.

Should any adverse effects become apparent through the monitoring of indicators mitigation measures will be put in place. As the Council adjusts to the new ways of working under the Local Development Framework system, the monitoring systems will be improved and refined to improve the quality of monitoring of the indicators in sustainability appraisals that are not key annual monitoring report indicators.

Appendix A – Relevant Plans, Strategies and Documents

EU Legislation			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
<p>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</p> <p>Author European Union (then EC) Publication Date June 2001 http://europa.eu.int</p>	<p>To provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>		<p>This SPD must be subject to a sustainability appraisal, incorporating strategic environmental assessment.</p>
<p>EC Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.</p> <p>Author European Union (then EC) Publication Date June 2001 http://europa.eu.int</p>	<p>Authorities with relevant environmental responsibilities and the public are to be consulted during the assessment of plans and programmes and appropriate time frames for consultation should be set.</p>		<p>Consultation on the sustainability appraisal will need to be undertaken at the relevant stages in the SPD preparation process as defined in the ODPM's SA guidelines and PPS 12.</p>
<p>Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice (The Sixth Environmental Action Programme of the EC)</p> <p>Author European Communities Publication Date 2001 http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm</p>	<p>Achieving sustainable development. Document sets out 5 key methods and 4 priorities for action.</p>		<p>There is a key relationship between creating sustainable communities and the provision of open space.</p>

UK Legislation, Policy and Strategy			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
<p>Circular 5/2005 Planning Obligations</p> <p>Author ODPM Publication Date July 2005 www.odpm.gov.uk</p>	<p>Planning obligations provide a means to ensure that proposed development contributes to the creation of sustainable communities, particularly by securing contributions towards the provision of necessary infrastructure and facilities.</p>		<p>Guidance on open space contributions must take account of all the principles set out in the Circular - can include formulae and standard charges</p>
<p>Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended)</p> <p>Author Publication Date 1981 www.naturenet.net/law/wca.html</p>	<p>Principle legislative mechanism for the protection of wildlife in Great Britain. Deals in particular with the protection of wildlife and the protection of designated areas.</p>		<p>Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.</p>
<p>A Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK.</p> <p>Author UK Government Publication Date May 1999</p>	<p>The effective protection of the environment - limit global environmental threads; protect human safety from hazards such as poor air quality; protect things which people need or value such as wildlife, landscapes and historic buildings.</p>	<p>Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of life Counts'</p>	<p>The SPD will seek to maintain and improve existing open spaces throughout the District that people need and value, and where necessary ensure the provision of new open spaces to meet new demand.</p>

<p>Quality of Life Counts - update 2004</p> <p>Author UK Government Publication Date April 2004 www.sustainable-development.gov.uk</p>	<p>Update of indicators from 1999 'Quality of Life Counts' document, which set out indicators to provide a baseline assessment from which progress can be judged. Indicators based on objectives in 'A Better Quality of Life' (1999)</p>	<p>15 headline indicators; about 150 sub indicators</p>	<p>Some indicators may be relevant, as open space contributes to quality of life.</p>
<p>Biodiversity - The UK Action Plan</p> <p>Author UK Government Publication Date January 1994 www.ukbap.org.uk</p>	<p>To conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.</p>	<p>Specific targets set out in individual action plans</p>	<p>Open space contributions will seek to maintain enhance or add to biodiversity, where appropriate.</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities Plan</p> <p>Author ODPM Publication Date February 2003 www.odpm.gov.uk</p>	<p>The main objective is to create sustainable communities; involves ensuring there are enough decent homes, access to jobs, local environment in protected and enhanced etc.</p>	<p>60% of homes to be built on brownfield land</p>	<p>This will need to ensure an adequate level of provision of open space for local communities.</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity</p> <p>Author ODPM Publication Date January 2005 www.odpm.gov.uk</p>	<p>To ensure that everyone has a share of the nations prosperity and a pleasant, safe and green place to live with excellent local services.</p>		<p>The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of pleasant, safe and green open spaces.</p>

<p>Sustainable Communities: Homes for All</p> <p>Author ODPM Publication Date January 2005 www.apse.org.uk/05-04.pdf</p>	<p>To offer greater choice and opportunity in housing across the country; ensure enough decent homes at prices people can afford with good access to services and jobs.</p>	<p>All social homes to reach the decent homes standard by 2010.</p>	<p>The provision of open space or the improvement of existing spaces can contribute to the creation of clean, green and safe environments.</p>
<p>Our Towns and Cities: The Future (The Urban White Paper)</p> <p>Author DETR Publication Date November 2002 www.odpm.gov.uk</p>	<p>To create places which offer a high quality of life and opportunity for all, not just the few.</p>		<p>Quality and quantity of public open space is considered an important factor in quality of life.</p>
<p>A Better Quality of Life: A strategy for Sustainable Development for the UK</p> <p>Author UK Government Publication Date May 1999</p>	<p>Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone - improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, reduce harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing etc.</p>	<p>Specific indicators set out in 'Quality of Life Counts'.</p>	<p>SPD should seek to secure new or improved open spaces which are accessible to local people, especially in areas of deficiency.</p>
<p>Walking and Cycling: an action plan.</p> <p>Author DfT Publication Date June 2004 www.dft.gov.uk</p>	<p>To increase levels of walking and cycling in order to promote a healthy lifestyle, encourage sustainable travel, improve public space and increase levels of social inclusion.</p>		<p>Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bike where they are close to housing developments.</p>
<p>Accessibility Planning Guidance (summary)</p> <p>Author DfT Publication Date September 2004 www.dft.gov.uk</p>	<p>To promote social inclusion by helping people from disadvantaged groups or areas to access jobs and essential services.</p>	<p>LTP will need to set local targets for accessibility improvements.</p>	<p>The SPD should consider including provisions for improving accessibility to existing and proposed open spaces.</p>

<p>By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System - Towards Better Practice.</p> <p>Author DETR/CABE www.odpm.gov.uk Publication Date May 2000 www.odpm.gov.uk</p>	<p>Provides a companion guide to the PPG series and provides guidance on how to deliver better quality urban design through the planning system.</p>		<p>Provision of open space should adhere to the principles set out in 'By Design'.</p>
<p>National Playing Fields Association: Six Acre Standard</p> <p>Author NPFA Publication Date 2001</p>	<p>For Local Authorities/developers to accept the recommendations within the document and implement them.</p>		<p>The SPD will take into account the recommendations, as Local Plan policy has, when establishing open space standards to be provided.</p>
<p>Game Plan: A strategy for delivering the Governments sport and physical activity objectives.</p> <p>Author: Department for Culture, Media and Sport Publication Date: December 2002</p>	<p>To get more people playing sport and taking physical activity.</p>		<p>Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.</p>
<p>Planning Bulletin 12: Planning for Open Space</p> <p>Author: Sport England Publication Date: September 2002 www.sportengland.org</p>	<p>To provide guidance for local planning authorities through good practice examples on planning for sport.</p>		<p>Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision.</p>
<p>Making Space for Water</p> <p>Author: DEFRA Publication Date: 2004</p>	<p>To reduce the threat to people and their property and to deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefits consistent with government advice.</p>		<p>The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding.</p>

<p>Landscape Character No 46 The Fens</p> <p>Author: Countryside Agency Publication Date: www.countryside.gov.uk</p>	<p>To ensure that new developments do not harm the character of the fens.</p>		<p>New development, and open space provided in accordance with the local Plan and this SPD may have some impact on the fenland landscape.</p>
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Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development	LPA's should adopt a spatial approach to planning through the integration of land use policies with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function, including transport and regeneration.		Considering open space contributions as a part of development proposals will contribute towards the aim of adopting a spatial approach to planning.
	Development plans should promote social inclusion and cohesion. They should contain clear and comprehensive access policies, in respect of both location and physical access.		The location of, and physical access to open spaces should be considered carefully in order not to exclude any members of the community.
	LPA's should ensure that communities are able to contribute to ideas about how sustainable development can be achieved, to participate in forward planning and be involved in development proposals.		Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.
Publication Date February 2005 www.communities.gov.uk			
PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas.	To raise the quality of life and environment in rural areas; promote more sustainable patterns of development; promote sustainable diverse and adaptable agricultural sectors; promote development of regions by improving economic performance.		The creation of open space can contribute to raising the quality of life and environment. Open space also contributes to sustainable development by providing leisure and social opportunities.
Publication Date August 2004 www.communities.gov.uk			

<p>PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation</p> <p>Publication Date August 2005 www.communities.gov.uk</p>	<p>Planning decisions should take account of biodiversity and geological conservation interests, and where possible build them into design. Harm to such interests should only be allowed where there are no less harmful alternatives</p>	<p>Seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.</p>	<p>Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity, where possible and appropriate.</p>
<p>PPS12: Local Development Frameworks</p> <p>Publication Date September 2004 www.communities.gov.uk</p>	<p>To ensure effective public participation, to have a robust evidence base for all planning documents and to undertake sustainability appraisal for all documents to ensure the best option is that taken.</p>		<p>Community involvement and consultation will be an integral part of preparing the SPD.</p>
<p>PPG13: Transport</p> <p>Publication Date March 2001 www.communities.gov.uk</p>	<p>To promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; to promote accessibility to jobs, shopping, leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling and to reduce the need to travel, especially by car.</p>		<p>Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by bike or foot where they are close to residential developments.</p>
<p>PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation (and companion guide: Assessing Needs and Opportunities)</p> <p>Publication Date Revised version July 2002 www.communities.gov.uk</p>	<p>To develop well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation in order to meet the wider objectives of urban renaissance, social inclusion and community cohesion, health and well-being and sustainable development.</p>		<p>Obligations can be used as a means to remedy deficiencies in the quantity and quality of open space. PPG17 guide is the key to setting local standards.</p>

<p>PPG 25: Development and Flood Risk Publication Date: 2001 www.communities.gov.uk</p>	<p>To ensure that where possible development is provided in low risk areas, and to provide guidance on developing in areas of higher risk where no lower risk land is available.</p>		<p>The provision of areas of open space can have positive benefits for drainage, and can be located so as to minimise the risk to people and property from flooding</p>
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Regional Policy and Strategy			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands Author: EMRA Publication Date: March 2005 www.emra.gov.uk	Translates national objectives to the regional level.		SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District
Sustainable Communities in the East Midlands Author: ODPM Publication Date: 2003	To improve the sustainability of the East Midlands through a series of government funded developments.		Open space is an important element of sustainable communities as it contributes to the creation of a green environment.
Cleaner, Greener, Safer Communities Author: ODPM Publication Date: www.cleanersaferegreener.gov.uk	To create attractive welcoming open spaces whilst engaging local communities and catering for children and young people.		Parks and green spaces are essential in building sustainable communities and contributing to cleaner, safer, greener communities.
East Midlands Biodiversity Strategy 'Putting Wildlife back on the Map' Author: EMRA Publication Date: 2006	To create and maintain a region where wild spaces and habitats are part of a healthy functioning ecosystem.		Areas of open space can improve the biodiversity of an area. In addition to recreational areas of open space, there is scope through the SPD for natural areas to be provided.

Change 4 Sport Author: Publication Date:	The regional plan for sport, this document seeks to encourage greater participation levels in sports and physical activity.		Open space provision resulting from new residential developments may on some sites be of sufficient size to include some form of sports provision
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County Policy and Strategy			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
<p>Lincolnshire Structure Plan Deposit Draft (Incorporating Proposed Changes)</p> <p>Author: Lincolnshire County Council Publication Date: February 2005 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Translates national and regional objectives to the County level</p>		<p>SPD will seek to maintain and improve the quality and amount of open space within the District</p>
<p>Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan</p> <p>Author: Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Publication Date: 2000 www.lincsbap.org</p>	<p>To maintain or enhance the biodiversity of Lincolnshire through a series of action plans targeted at specific elements of the County's natural environment.</p>		<p>Open space contributions will seek to maintain, enhance or add to biodiversity where appropriate.</p>
<p>Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy</p> <p>Author: Lincolnshire County Council Publication Date: 2005 www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Sets out the aspirations of Lincolnshire County Council with regards to walking and cycling over a 5 year period.</p>		<p>Any new open space provisions should be made accessible by sustainable transport methods, particularly by foot and by bicycle where they are close to housing developments.</p>

<p>Play Policy</p> <p>Author: SHDC Publication Date: June 2005</p>	<p>Outlines what constitutes play and considers the current issues. Raises awareness of play issues and seeks to ensure they are given appropriate level of priority.</p>		<p>An understanding of play issues can contribute to ensuring that open spaces are appropriate.</p>
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South Holland Planning Policy and Strategy			
Title of plan, programme or document	Aims and Objectives	Target (if applicable)	Relevance to Open Space SPD
<p>South Holland Local Plan Author: SHDC Publication Date: Adopted October 1998 www.sholland.gov.uk</p>	<p>Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.</p>		<p>Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.</p>
<p>South Holland Local Plan Re-Deposit Author: SHDC Publication Date: April 2005 www.sholland.gov.uk</p>	<p>Translates national, regional and county guidance and objectives into local planning policy.</p>		<p>Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.</p>
<p>Pre-Inquiry Changes and Inquiry Changes Author: SHDC Publication Date: October 2005 – March 2006 www.sholland.gov.uk</p>	<p>Updates the Local Plan re-deposit in response to changes in higher level guidance on objections received/ inquiry hearing sessions</p>		<p>Contains specific policies in relation to open space. SPD will provide additional guidance on such policies.</p>

Appendix B – Sustainability Framework

	SH Sustainability Objective	Sub-Issue	SEA Issue	Baseline/trend	Target	Assessment Criteria "What impact does the policy have on...?"	Possible Sustainability Indicators
1	To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	Ensure that the needs of the district's residents are catered for	Population Material Assets	17.9% of Districts residents are under 16. 25.2% of the Districts residents are over retirement age. 2.78% of the Districts residents are of an ethnic minority. (2001 Census)	N/A	Regeneration in areas of greatest need and reduce deprivation? Provision to serve the needs of residents?	ONS population estimates/SHDC population estimates.
2	Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	To ensure that the District's children have access to high quality play areas and natural environment	Population Human Health	62% satisfied with quality of the natural environment. (SHDC).	Maintain and where possible improve residents satisfaction with the natural environment.	Increasing improved levels of health? Increasing provision of public local space?	Quality of Life/Viewpoint surveys. Leisure and Tourism Survey.
		To ensure that there is an adequate supply of high quality sports pitches to cater for the District's needs	Population Human Health	There are 46 pitches identified in SH for the sports of Football, Cricket, Rugby and Hockey. (SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment)	Maintain and where possible improve the quality of these facilities		Future SHDC Playing Pitch Assessment
		To improve peoples perception of their own health	Human Health Population	90.7% of residents described their health as 'Good' or 'Fairly Good'. (2001 Census)	Increase the number of people who describe their health in a positive manner.		ONS statistics. Next Census.
3	To improve the accessibility to open spaces for all sectors of the community	To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space	Population	71% of residents find it 'easy' or 'very easy' to get to their local park or garden. (Quality of life survey/2005)	Improve ease of access to facilities.	Improving access to local services across the Plan area?	Quality of Life Survey/Citizens Viewpoint Survey. Open Space Background Paper.

4	To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	To ensure that everyone has access to multifunctional open spaces (NEAP)	Population Human Health Landscape	% of residents within 1KM of a NEAP type open space. (Source)	Collect baseline information and Maintain the percentage of residents within 1KM of this type of facility.	The quality and quantity of green spaces in the District? The accessibility of residents to green spaces?	There is at present no process in place to collect this information. The review of the Open Space Background Paper can incorporate this.
5	To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	To improve people's perception of crime	Population	83% of the District residents feel safe. (SHDC)	Collect Baseline information	The potential for crime and violence?	Quality of life survey
		To improve people's perception of anti-social behaviour	Population	69.9% of residents think that teenagers hanging around on streets is a big problem. (SHDC General Survey, 2004)	Improve the perception of teenagers.		Future SHDC surveys.
6	To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	To protect and enhance the District's valuable green spaces	Landscape	14.122Ha in Crowland. 9.46Ha in Holbeach. 12.527Ha in Long Sutton. 32.112Ha in Spalding. 4.991Ha in Sutton Bridge.	Improve the amount and quality of open space in each of the Districts settlements.	Maintaining and improving the quality and distribution of urban and rural open space with an amenity value?	Future Open Space Background Papers. Monitoring of new developments.
		To ensure the highest quality of design in the built environment	Landscape Cultural Heritage	There is no quantitative method to assess the quality of the built environment. South Holland does have 1 registered park and garden at Ayscoughfee Hall.	Maintain and improve the overall quality of the built environment.	Enhancing the attractiveness and local distinctiveness of both urban and rural areas?	Include question in either General survey or Quality of Life/Viewpoint survey.
		To contribute towards a 'greener' District by protecting trees	Landscape	338 TPO's within District. (SHDC)	Protect TPO trees, or where not possible ensure replacement with mature specimen of equivalent value	Maintaining the number of trees and their settings?	SH Annual Monitoring report.

7	To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment		Biodiversity Flora & Fauna	2 Local Nature Reserves 3 SSSI's and 8 SLNCI's within the District. Creation of new habitats. (SHDC)	Maintain , and where possible improve the number and quality of nature conservation sites.	Conserving and enhancing existing rural and urban habitats and providing new habitats appropriate to the area?	SH Annual Monitoring Report
8	To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	To improve the water quality of the Districts waterways	Water Population	1 monitoring station compliant, 1 station marginal and 2 significant failure. (Environment Agency)	Maintain and where possible improve the quality of waterways	Improving and maintaining ground surface waters(including reducing the risk of water pollution during flooding)?	Environment Agency monitoring
9	To avoid irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	To ensure that developments are making best use of land	Material Assets	Average density of residential developments is 26.8 dwellings per Ha. (SHDC)	To continue building new developments at appropriate densities.	Safeguarding high quality land from development? Protecting other greenfield land from development?	SH Annual Monitoring Report.
		to make best use of previously developed land	Material Assets	32.6% of new homes built on PDL in 2004/05. (BV106)	To continue to meet Best Value targets relating to development on PDL.		SHDC Best Value monitoring for BVPP.
10	To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	To facilitate a reduction in run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping in new developments	Water Climatic Factors Material Assets	No Baseline data for the District.	Establish indicator and collect baseline information	Maintaining the integrity of existing floodplains and flood defences?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.
		Increase the number of developments that utilise SUDS which can be incorporated in landscaping/open space	Water	No Baseline Data for District.	To collect baseline data as part of monitoring, and increase number of developments using SUDS	Promoting the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and re-use of rainwater and grey water in new developments?	Can be collected through Local Plan monitoring exercises.

Appendix C – Extract from Sustainability Appraisal of Adopted Local Plan

Policy HS11 – Open Space in New Residential Developments		
South Holland Sustainability Objectives	Overall Net Impact	Commentary
Social Progress which recognises the Needs of Everyone		
1. To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	✓ ✓	Open space is an essential component for the quality of residential environment.
2. To ensure that as many people as possible can make realistic transport choices and improve access to a sufficient and reliable public transport system	/	No significant effect.
3. To reduce the out-migration of the young working population	✓	The policy could have a positive effect in this respect.
4. To improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community services and facilities	✓ ✓	Open spaces are a valuable community amenity feature.
Effective Protection of the Environment		
5. To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the area's landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	✓ ✓	The policy is particularly concerned with the aesthetics of the District.
6. To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the natural environment	✓ ✓	Increase in open space in urban areas could benefit wildlife and provide new habitats.

7. To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	✓	Provision of open space could lead to an improvement in environmental quality.
8. To reduce the length and number of motorised journeys and to encourage alternative means of transport which have less environmental impact	/	No significant effect.
Prudent Use of Natural Resources		
9. To avoid the irreversible loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	/	No significant effect.
10. To accommodate the climate change process and minimise the risk of flooding to people and property	/	No significant effect.
11. To minimise the overall production of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy	/	No significant effect.
12. To minimise the overall energy consumption, and encourage the use of renewable sources of energy	/	No significant effect.
Maintenance of High and Stable Levels of Economic Growth and Employment		
13. To maintain and improve retail and other economic services in both market towns and villages	/	No significant effect.

14. To encourage and accommodate economic growth (including indigenous and inward investment)	/	No significant effect.
15. To encourage economic diversification and provide for a growth in employment so that everyone can share greater job opportunities	/	No significant effect.
16. To protect and enhance the agricultural based economy	/	No significant effect.

Appendix D – Summary of Sustainability Appraisal

		Assessment of Effects								
	Sustainability objective	Short Term	Medium term	Long Term	Likelihood	Scale	Permanence	Effects	Monitoring	Comments
1	To achieve greater social inclusion and a sense of community	-	✓	✓	medium to high	local	permenant	a reduction in social exclusion can have positive impacts for health of residents, and increase community interaction	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures - AMR and Quality of Life	The policy will help to create a sense of community and reduce social exclusion by providing communal facilities close to where people live. New open space will be required to be of a size and design to serve the needs of the residents of the development
2	Improve access to high quality health, education, recreation and community facilities	-	✓	✓	medium to high	Local (District wide)	permanent	an increase in quality open space will increase the opportunity for residents to take part in informal recreation	through existing monitoring practices such as the AMR and Quality of Life survey and the undertaking of a PPG17 compliant audit that can be updated	The SPD requires that open space to be provided must meet the set standards if it is to be adopted. An increase in open space will improve opportunities for informal recreation, and activity among children
3	To ensure that all the Districts residents have access to appropriate areas of open space	-	✓✓	✓✓	high	local	permenant	provision will increase accessibility for all	effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the AMR	by requiring open space provision a greater number of areas will have improved access. The SPD requires that open space should take account of needs of future residents. Financial contributions will improve access to better quality facilities by helping provide increased levels of equipment and maintenance.

4	To ensure that there are opportunities for everyone to participate in fulfilling, healthy and rewarding leisure and recreational activities	-	✓	✓	medium	local	permenant	access to multi functional play areas will be improved	This is not currently monitored, but data can be collected and monitored through open space audits	on larger sites open space provision will increase opportunities for residents to access multi-functional open spaces. Financial contributions will be used to improve existing areas, and therefore improve access to quality open space
5	To make South Holland a place where people want to live, work and visit	-	✓	✓	medium to high	local	permenant	to help facilitate and improve perception of crime and anti-social behaviour	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures - AMR and Quality of Life	well designed open space can reduce a poor perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. Well designed open space should be overlooked to reduce the possibility for crime and anti-social behaviour, while still providing somewhere for youths to go
6	To maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the areas landscapes, townscapes, built environment and settlement settings	✓	✓✓	✓✓	high	local	permenant	to increase green space and to improve the quality of the built environment	The effects of the SPD can be monitored through existing monitoring procedures such as the AMR	Wherever possible existing features shoul dbe retained, and open space should be inkeeping with the wider landscape. Open space will also serve to enhance the level of green space, contributing to the quality of the built environment.
7	To protect and enhance wildlife, habitats and the environment	✓	✓	✓	medium	Local (District wide)	permenant	the SPD will help to prevent the loss of habitats and wildlife, and in some cases will also create new sites	the effects can be monitored through existing monitoring processes. There is scope to widen such processes to capture more detailed information. This can be done through the AMR	the retention of existing on site features will have a positive impact on the protection of wildlife and habitats, as will the encouragement of natural green areas; however the overall effect is likely to be a small positive, as there will also be some losses that result form development.
8	To reduce pollution levels and to ensure that environmental quality continues to improve	-	✓	✓	medium to low	Local (District wide)	permenant	possibility that the SPD will contribute to improving the water quality in the District by reducing run off	water quality can be monitored using the Environment Agency website	The provision of green spaces in developments can help reduce run off by reducing the amount of hard landscaping on a development will reduce the liklihood of pollutants making their way into watercourses

9	to avoid irreversibe loss of agricultural land and to make the best use of existing and previously developed land	-	-	-	medium to high	local	permenant	new residential development will contribute to loss of agricultural land; however the provision of open spaces will not increase such losses	through existing monitoring processes such as Best Value Indicator 106 and the AMR	it is essential that well designed open spaces are provided in order to enhance the quality of life on new residential developments
10	To accommodate the climate change process	-	✓	✓	meduim to low	Local (District wide)	permenant	the SPD may have some effect on the increased use of SUDs and the reduction in run off rates	the use of SUDs in new developments can be monitored as a new indicator in existing monitoring processes such as the AMR	The provision of open spaces in ew residential areas will help tofacilitate a reduction in run off, and also a reduction in flood risk from heavy rainfall. While supportive of the use of SUDs, the SPD is unlikley to impact upon their use, the local Plan does contain a specific policy.