

Brief Overview of the Scoping Report Consultation and its Purpose:

What is the Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report?

LDPs should help deliver sustainable development. This means that LDPs should help ensure that development meets the needs of today's communities and helps provide for a high quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

To ensure that this is the case, it is a legal requirement that the sustainability of the LDP is tested as the plan is written. This process is referred to as the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. When LDP drafts are published for consultation, a Sustainability Report must also be published alongside. Very broadly, a Sustainability Report will set out:

- How sustainable the LDP is;
- What alternative options/objectives/proposals have been considered when putting together the LDP;
- Any changes that have been made to previous drafts of LDP objectives/options/proposals in order to make them more sustainable.

The Sustainability Report basically sets out the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment of the LDP.

However, before any assessment can take place, the LPA has to set out how it intends to go about measuring sustainability. This is what is set out in the Scoping Report. This Scoping Report sets out benchmarks, referred to as Sustainability Objectives, which provide something to aim for. For example, to improve the current condition of the County's housing stock. It is against these Sustainability Objectives that the LDP will be tested.