

Chester City Council Local Development Framework

Sustainability Appraisal

Kelsall Village Landscape and Design Statement Supplementary Planning Document (SPD):

Non-Technical Summary July 2007

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that the planning policies and proposals developed by Chester City Council contribute towards achieving sustainable development. This involves an assessment of the environmental, social, economic and natural resources effects of all the Council's planning policies. Chester City Council are in the process of undertaking a Screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment of all the Council's Local Development Documents in accordance with the European Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 The task of preparing the *Kelsall Parish Landscape & Design Statement* was delegated by the Parish Council to a working group consisting of local residents, facilitated by Cheshire Landscape Trust with support and assistance from Planning Officers from Chester City Council. Two community consultation events were held during the period to seek the views of residents and other interested parties. The Kelsall Parish Landscape and Design Statement will be adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Supplementary Planning Documents will form part of the Council's Local Development Framework for the District.
- 1.3 Following recent changes to the planning system, all Supplementary Planning Documents that the Council adopt are required to undergo a Sustainability Appraisal. This report sets out the non technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal that has been undertaken by the Council on the draft *Kelsall Parish Landscape & Design Statement*, in line with current government guidance and in partnership with Kelsall Parish Council.
- 1.3 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Kelsall Parish Landscape and Design Statement has informed the preparation of the SPD through an assessment of the following options;
- § **Option 1:** No change – rely on existing national, regional, sub-regional and local planning policies to guide development proposals in Kelsall Parish.
 - § **Option 2:** Provide additional guidance on Kelsall Parish Landscape and Design to supplement adopted Chester District Local Plan

2. Key findings

- 2.1 The Sustainability Appraisal has found that option 2 is the most sustainable option. The preparation of the SPD will have a significant beneficial impact in contributing towards the following sustainability objectives within Kelsall:
- § To protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and local environmental quality
 - § To protect and maintain the quality of inland water resources
 - § To reduce the risk of flooding and the threat to people and property

- § To protect and enhance historic, cultural and archaeological value
- § To promote high quality building design
- § To protect and enhance the quality of landscape and townscape
- § To ensure access to goods, services and amenities
- § To deliver rural / urban renaissance
- § To safeguard and improve the viability and vitality of the village
- § To provide opportunities for growth and competitiveness in the rural area
- § To protect and improve land quality

2.2 The uncertain effects identified are in relation to the air quality objectives. Whilst the Kelsall Parish Landscape and Design Statement promotes alternative modes of travel (i.e. pedestrian routes and cycling facilities), uncertain effects on air quality are identified as a result of traffic and transport emissions from car travel.

2.3 Further justification / explanation for the assessment is contained in the Matrix in Appendix B to the full Sustainability Appraisal Report.

3. Contacts

3.1 Copies of the Sustainability Appraisal report of the Kelsall Parish Landscape and Design Statement can be obtained from the Council's Offices at:

Chester City Council
 Forward Planning
 The Forum
 Chester
 CH1 2HS

Telephone: 01244 402286 / 402287 / 402479
 Email: forwardplanning@chester.gov.uk

3.2 Alternatively, the document will be available to view at libraries in the District or on the Council's website at www.chester.gov.uk