

How have Sustainability Appraisal RAG ratings informed site selection process?

The process of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) over the course of the Plan preparation has informed and guided plan making – evidenced by the strategic and non-strategic documents (SD/18 and SD/19). The RAG rating from the SA has been included on these two documents for each site. However, when assessing the sites, the Council relied on the individual RAG ratings for each of the SA assessment criteria to inform the assessment of each site as well as its mitigations and the overall RAG rating was not the determinative factor that decided whether a site was allocated. Having reviewed each instance where there has been an inconsistency in the overall RAG rating the Council is satisfied that in each instance the outcome would have been the same.

The Council will produce a tracked changes copy of the 2022 Sustainability Appraisal with the inconsistencies etc addressed for clarity, along with an amended EXAM 20 (LCC Note on Sustainability Appraisal Updates), to address the points raised during Matter 1.

How mitigations identified in appendix E have been incorporated into the Plan

Appendix E (EXAM 21G) of the SA outlines the proposed mitigations to all policies including the strategic site policies. The Council have made reference to the mitigations in the strategic sites document SD/18 'Strategic Sites Proposed for Allocation in the Draft Leicester Local Plan (2023)' which is part of the evidence base for the submission version of the plan, which helps to inform the reader how the strategic sites have been assessed, including mitigation. It is also a document that will inform decision making after adoption of the Plan. It is noted that some of the described mitigation in the SA is not repeated in the submission draft of the plan and accordingly, the Council considers that it is appropriate to propose main modifications to the policies and/or supporting text to address this matter. The Council would welcome further discussion on these modifications during the forthcoming hearing sessions for the respective sites.

The Council's position on options for Sustainability Appraisal consultation

The Council are happy to be guided by the Inspectors on further consultation of the Sustainability Appraisal. However, our preference would be to address any further consultation on the SA at the same time as the Main Modification consultation.