

Summary of responses to Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report – February 2006.

Respondee	Nature of Response	Comments summary	SCDC response
Environment Agency	-	Further and continuous scoping of more recently published relevant plans and strategies should be undertaken.	The scoping of relevant plans and strategies will continually be updated on a regular basis.
		It might seem useful to include the relationship of Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) with the Sustainability Appraisal process.	The Council has commissioned an SFRA and the results will inform the decision making process, particularly with site allocations.
		Suggests addition of new indicator relating to the quality of landscapes.	Currently this proves difficult as there are no results from the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment. However, the potential for this will be investigated.
		When considering the appraisal of sites, consideration needs to be given towards the cumulative environmental effects of increasing building density in existing built up areas.	The existing Sustainability Appraisal (SA) framework will investigate the cumulative impacts of plans and policies. A similar investigation will be necessary for site specific assessments.
		When assessing SA objectives against the Local Development Framework (LDF) objectives, it will be necessary to record explanatory text to decisions in order to ensure transparency.	Noted. This will be pursued under the next stage of the SA process (Stage B).

Respondee	Nature of Response	Comments summary	SCDC response
English Heritage	-	Suggests the addition of two further indicators based around preserving areas of historical or archaeological importance.	Noted. Indicators added.
English Nature	-	Suggests minor changes to sub-objectives of SA Objective 16.	Noted. Changes made.
		Suggests and change of wording to indicator regarding sub-objective 16(ii).	Noted. Changes made.
The Countryside Agency	-	Further and continuous scoping of more recently published relevant plans and strategies should be undertaken.	The scoping of relevant plans and strategies will continually be updated on a regular basis.
		Urges the completion of more data regarding Greenspace and Openspace as soon as possible.	Work is continuing to secure this data.
		Perhaps SA Objective 18 should be supplemented by an additional sub-indicator which measures the quality of designated landscapes.	The Council will investigate the potential for this through dialogue with relevant partners. In meantime however, the forthcoming landscape character assessments should provide some input into this.
		There should be an indicator linked to the landscape character and change in the wider countryside.	This is already covered under SA Objective 18.
		Para 2.24 needs to draw attention to the potential issues of the present lack of landscape quality assessment and greenspace data.	Noted. These issues will be highlighted for further attention.