

Non-Technical Summary

Kirklees Local Development Framework Draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD2): Affordable Housing Sustainability Appraisal Report April/May 2008

Introduction

This is the non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report for the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Affordable Housing. The SPD is being produced to provide additional guidance in relation to the 'saved' Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies H10, H11 and H12 relating to the provision of affordable housing. The full Sustainability Appraisal Report and the draft Supplementary Planning Document are available on the Council's website at www.kirklees.gov.uk/ldf.

What is a Sustainability Appraisal?

Sustainability Appraisal is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the process incorporates the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The role of sustainability appraisal is to assess how the key principles of sustainable development are being incorporated into the planning process. Broadly speaking these key principles can be broken down into three categories; Social, Environmental and Economic. Sustainable Development is about improving the quality of life for present and future generations whilst at the same time respecting the limits of the environment.

Appraisal of the draft Supplementary Planning Document

The draft SPD proposes a mechanism to secure affordable housing from new market housing development. The aim of the draft SPD is to increase the number of affordable homes secured in relation to market housing developments compared with levels achieved in recent years. The appraisal of the mechanism to secure affordable housing shows many positive effects, no negatives and some areas of uncertainty. The main positive effect is to allow all people to live in a decent home which meets their needs. Whilst the key uncertainty relates to the balance between securing increased levels of affordable housing whilst not making small scale housing developments unviable. The draft SPD sets a differential rate dependant upon site size to address this issue and by aiming to secure increased levels of affordable housing plays a more positive role in achieving sustainable development than the existing approach. The full Sustainability Appraisal Report sets out the performance of the draft SPD.

Monitoring

The SPD will be monitored to ensure that any adverse effects are identified and the appropriate remedial action undertaken.