

**Royal Borough of
Windsor and Maidenhead**

Maidenhead Waterways Framework

**Adoption Statement
(Incorporating SA Adoption Statement)**

June 2009

Planning and Development Unit
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Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
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1.0 Purpose of this Document

1.1 This adoption statement relates to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead publication Maidenhead Waterways Framework (June 2009) and associated Sustainability Appraisal.

1.2 The statement is split into two sections:

- A statement of adoption for the Maidenhead Waterways Framework.
- An adoption statement for the related Sustainability Appraisal.

1.3 For further information, please contact:

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2.0 Adoption Statement: Maidenhead Waterways Framework

- 2.1 The Maidenhead Waterways Framework was adopted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on 25th June 2009 as a non-statutory planning brief.
- 2.2 The planning brief is no a material consideration both in the preparation of future planning policy and in the assessment and determination of planning applications along the waterway corridor.
- 2.3 Accompanying the planning brief are a Consultation Report and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report. The Consultation Report summarises the main issues raised during the consultation processes and how these were addressed in the adopted planning brief. A list of consultees is also provided.
- 2.4 The adopted planning brief, this adoption statement, the Consultation Report and the Final Sustainability Appraisal Report can all be viewed on the council's website at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_maidenhead_waterways_framework.htm
- 2.5 The documents may also be viewed at the usual hours of opening at the following locations:
 - Town Hall, St Ives Road, Maidenhead.
 - York House, Sheet Street, Windsor.
 - At all borough libraries.
- 2.6 The documents can also be purchased from the council. Please contact the Planning and Development Unit for further information.

3.0 Adoption Statement Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹ requires local planning authorities to carry out formal SEA of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The SEA process ensures that opportunities for public involvement are provided and the significant environmental effects arising from policies, plans and programmes are predicted, evaluated, mitigated and monitored.
- 3.2 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive but broadens this to include both social and economic considerations². The purpose of SA is to systematically appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of the strategies and policies in a local development document from the outset of the preparation process. This will ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

How does this relate to the Maidenhead Waterways Framework?

- 3.3 The Maidenhead Waterways Framework is a planning brief which provides a framework for future planning decisions along the water corridor stretching from the Cliveden Reach of the River Thames near Cookham, through Maidenhead, to Bray Marina. Its purpose is to aid the restoration of the waterway, including the achievement of the emerging Maidenhead Waterway Project.
- 3.4 In order to ensure the robustness of the planning brief, thereby allowing decision makers to give it the fullest consideration, it has been prepared in a similar manner to a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). In 2008, the legal requirement³ to undertake a SA of all SPDs was removed. However, as this planning brief was prepared on the basis of higher tier plans which have not been subject to SA, the council has carried out a SA.
- 3.5 The Maidenhead Waterways Framework was prepared by the Principal Planning Officer in the council's Planning Policy Unit in consultation with officers throughout the council and with partner organisations such as those represented in the Partnership for the Rejuvenation of Maidenhead (PRoM). The SA was carried out by the Senior Projects Officer in the Planning Policy Unit. This meant that although both reports were produced simultaneously, the assessment maintained a degree of independence from the policy formation. This integrated process would also allow for the recommendations from the SA process to feed into and inform the Maidenhead Waterways Framework from the initial to final stages of its production.

¹ European Directive EC/2001/42. Transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment Regulations for Plans and Programmes (July 2004).

² Central government guidance (ODPM, 2005) has merged these processes to allow for a single joint appraisal (Sustainability Appraisal or SA) to be carried out.

³ Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2008)

Purpose of this SA Adoption Statement

- 3.6 This SA Adoption Statement is required to show:
- How sustainability issues have been integrated into the Maidenhead Waterways Framework;
 - How the SA and consultation has been taken into account; and
 - The reasons for choosing the document as adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives.

The SA Process

- 3.7 Full details of the SA process are set out in the SA Report⁴ and are summarised here. The SA was a two-stage process:

a) Scoping Report: Maidenhead Town Centre (July 2007)

- 3.8 Prior to the production of the Maidenhead Waterways Framework: Consultation Draft Document, a scoping stage was necessary to propose and agree the appraisal methodology and collate the information needed to carry this out. The appraisal needed to be set within the context of existing plans and policies and an understanding of the current baseline situation was essential to predict effects and identify key sustainability issues and problems. Sustainability is a complex issue, so all twenty three RBWM SA objectives were used to consider relevant local issues. These objectives cover a range of social, environmental and economic impacts, for example: improving the health and well-being of the population, conserving and enhancing biodiversity and sustaining economic growth. Following consultation a Revised Scoping Report⁵ was published.

b) Draft Sustainability Appraisal: Maidenhead Waterways Framework (April 2009)

- 3.9 The SA Report records the work undertaken throughout the whole SA process right up to the final stages of development of the Maidenhead Waterways Framework. It also puts forward mitigation measures and suggested proposals for monitoring. Following consultation, the *Sustainability Appraisal: Maidenhead Waterways Framework (June 2009)* was published.

Public involvement

- 3.10 A key component of the SA process is consultation with stakeholders⁶. In total there have been two stages of consultation, although comments and input have been accepted throughout the appraisal due to the iterative nature of the process. The Regulations⁷ require the responsible authority to give the consultees five weeks to respond from the date the appraisal is received. Three key bodies are required to be consulted – the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England. Other

⁴ Sustainability Appraisal: Maidenhead Waterways Framework (June 2009).

⁵ Revised Scoping Report: Maidenhead Town Centre (June 2008).

⁶ In accordance with Article 6 of the EU Directive 2001/42/, regulations set out in the Environmental Assessments of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and the RBWM Statement of Community Involvement (June 2006).

⁷ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2008.

appropriate social and economic consultees were also contacted.⁸ The following provides a summary of the consultation process at each stage of the SA process:

a) Scoping Report Consultation

- 3.11 This first stage of consultation was carried out between 25th July – 29th August 2007. The consultation sought to:
- Ensure the SA methodology is comprehensive and robust enough to support the Waterways Framework during the later stages of public consultation.
 - Advise on the comprehensiveness of the baseline data.
 - Advise on the appropriateness of the key sustainability issues.
 - Advise on the appropriateness of the sustainability objectives.

- 3.12 Five responses were received in response to the Scoping Report. In the light of these responses the Scoping Report was revised and published in June 2008.⁹

b) The SA Report

- 3.13 The Draft SA Report was produced in April 2009. This is a key output in the appraisal process as it presents information and changes made during the whole of the appraisal. The SA Report was published for consultation in support of the public consultation on the Maidenhead Waterways Framework from 9th April – 7th May 2009.
- 3.14 There were seven responses to the consultation on the SA Report.¹⁰ Several changes were made to the SA Report in the light of these responses, in particular to the Significant Effects and Monitoring sections.

What difference has the process made?

- 3.15 The SA has provided a means of assessing the positive and negative effects of the Maidenhead Waterways Framework in the light of the key issues and problems for Maidenhead and against baseline data.
- 3.16 The SA explored two different options for supporting the achievement of the Maidenhead Waterway Project. These were:
- a) Business as Usual (reliance on current local planning policy to support the achievement of the Maidenhead Waterway Project); and
 - b) The development of a new Maidenhead Waterways Framework.
- 3.17 It was clear from this process that the development of a new Maidenhead Waterways Framework would bring the most benefits for Maidenhead.
- 3.18 The findings of the SA Report are:

⁸ In accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal Guidance (ODPM 2005) and as outlined in Planning Policy Statement 12.

⁹ Revised Scoping Report: Maidenhead Town Centre (June 2008).

¹⁰ Maidenhead Waterways Framework Consultation Report (June 2009).

- This Sustainability Appraisal has identified that the Maidenhead Waterways Framework has a mostly positive effect on the SA objectives. The only potential negative effects identified at this stage are on biodiversity and river channel ecology. This is however uncertain due to the lack of baseline data available along the whole channel. Collection of more data and further monitoring has been included in the monitoring framework. No changes have been made to the Maidenhead Waterways Framework as a result of the SA.

Future Stages and Monitoring

- 3.19 This Adoption Statement reflects the adoption of the Maidenhead Waterways Framework. However, the SA process is iterative, meaning that its success and effectiveness will be monitored by the continued collection of baseline data according to the identified indicators. The SA report sets out relevant indicators to monitor the significant effects of the plan and identifies any remedial action required if the trends or targets detailed in the SA Framework table are not met. The indicators are:
- Ecological value.
 - The number of properties at risk of flooding.

Further information

- 3.20 The Final Sustainability Appraisal Report can all be viewed on the council's website at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/pp_maidenhead_waterways_framework.htm
- 3.21 The document may also be viewed at the usual hours of opening at the following locations:
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