

# **Shropshire Council**

## **Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan**

### **Proposed Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal**

**June 2015**

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Proposed Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal*

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

This Report sets out the results of the Sustainability Appraisal carried out on the Main Modifications proposed to the Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan following Examination. The proposed changes are known as the Main Modifications. They have come from the Examination into the SAMDev Plan which was held in November and December 2014. None of the Main Modifications have been subject to SA before now.

This SA Report should be read alongside the submitted version of the SAMDev Plan and the SA Report for this (July 2014) as well as the Schedule of Main Modifications.

Government guidance states that where Main Modifications have not already been subject to SA (as in this case) only those which are likely to have a significant effect should be appraised. Shropshire Council has assessed the effects of the only Main Modification which is considered significant and the resulting appraisal is included in Appendix A.

## **1. Introduction**

### **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (SAMDev) Main Modifications Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report has been produced following the close of the SAMDev hearing sessions. These took place in November and December 2014 and tested the soundness of the Plan.
- 1.2 Main Modifications to the SAMDev Plan have now been prepared. These are required to help ensure that the Plan is sound and legally compliant. This report sets out the SA of the Main Modifications as a supplement to previous SA reports on the SAMDev Plan, particularly the submission SA Report (see paragraph 1.5 below). It has been prepared in accordance with government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC. This Sustainability Report fulfils the all the legal requirements for the sustainability appraisal of development plan documents as described in Table 3 of the SAMDev Sustainability Appraisal Report: Submission (July 2014).

### **Sustainability Appraisal background**

- 1.3 Sustainability Appraisal was carried out for the SAMDev Plan at all stages in its preparation and the results were available for comment during every public consultation on the Plan. A report of the SA process for the whole Plan (the SAMDev Sustainability Appraisal Report: Submission) formed part of the submission documents in August 2014.
- 1.4 The Main Modifications are the proposed changes to the submitted Plan. As a modification may alter the economic, social or environmental effects of a policy, the previous SA may now not apply. However, only those policies affected by the Main Modifications need to be reviewed to see if they require a new SA. If no changes are proposed to a particular policy, then the submission SA will still be relevant.
- 1.5 This SA treats the Main Modifications as if they had been made and should be read in conjunction with:
  - the submitted Plan <https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/1057564/CD1-SAMDev-Pre-Submission-Draft-Plan.pdf>
  - and its SA <https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/1057567/CD2-Sustainability-Appraisal-Report-Submission.pdf>

### **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

- 1.6 A Habitats Regulations report on the effects of the SAMDev Plan was submitted alongside the Plan (SAMDev Habitats Regulations Assessment July 2014).
- 1.7 An assessment of the effects of the Main Modifications on internationally designated sites in Shropshire has been carried out separately and the results are presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for proposed Main

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Modifications, which is being published alongside this report and the Schedule of Main Modifications.

### **Consultation on this Report**

- 1.8 Representations may be made on the SA of the proposed Main Modifications as well as on the modifications themselves.
- 1.9 The consultation period lasts for 6 weeks, from 1 June until 5.00pm on 13 July 2015. Representations can be submitted at any point before the close.
- 1.10 Comments regarding sustainability appraisal must relate to the Main Modifications proposed and should be made as described on the SAMDev Examination webpages.
- 1.11 Please note that all representations submitted will be made public. This will include the publication of your name but not your address or contact details.

## **2. Appraisal methodology**

### **Deciding which Main Modifications require SA**

- 2.1 The National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup> states that *'if the local planning authority assesses that necessary changes (the Main Modifications) are **significant**, and **were not previously subject to sustainability appraisal**, then further sustainability appraisal may be required'*.
- 2.2 None of the Main Modifications to the SAMDev Plan have been subject to SA so they all meet the second criterion. However, not all of them are likely to be significant (the first criterion). For instance, some of the Main Modifications provide clarification, relate to the explanatory text or correct spelling mistakes. As these proposed changes do not significantly change the effects of the policies in the Plan, they do not require SA.
- 2.3 In order to determine which of the other Main Modifications are likely to have a significant effect, an assessment was carried out using the criteria (below) from Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:
  - (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
  - (b) the cumulative nature of the effects
  - (c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects
  - (d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)
  - (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)
  - (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— .
    - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage.
    - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
    - (iii) intensive land-use; and
  - (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

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- 2.4 The Schedule of Main Modifications includes the outcome of this assessment. It shows that only the proposed deletion of the Tyrley & Woodseaves Community Cluster (MM158) has the potential to generate a significant effect and thus this is the only Main Modification that requires a new SA.

**Carrying out the SA**

- 2.5 The Main Modification identified as having a significant effect was appraised using the Sustainability Objectives in Table 2 and the scoring matrix in Table 3 below:

*Table 2: Sustainability Objectives*

<b>SO1:</b> Promote safer communities;
<b>SO2:</b> Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society;
<b>SO3:</b> Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire;
<b>SO4:</b> Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify;
<b>SO5:</b> Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport;
<b>SO6:</b> Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel;
<b>SO7:</b> Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities;
<b>SO8:</b> Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services;
<b>SO9:</b> Reduce Shropshire’s contribution to climate change;
<b>SO10:</b> Adapt to the impacts of climate change;
<b>SO11:</b> Protect, enhance and manage Shropshire’s landscapes and townscapes;
<b>SO12:</b> Preserve and enhance features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance
<b>SO13:</b> Protect and enhance the range and populations of species, the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and Shropshire’s geological heritage;
<b>SO14:</b> Protect and enhance Shropshire’s water resources;
<b>SO15:</b> Improve local air quality
<b>SO16:</b> Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife;
<b>SO17:</b> Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention;
<b>SO18:</b> Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources

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*Table 3: Scoring indicators*

Significance of Effect		Description of effect
++	Major positive	Likely to benefit a large area of Shropshire or a large number of people and receptors. The effects are likely to be direct and permanent and the magnitude will be major
+	Minor Positive	The extent of predicted beneficial effects is likely to be limited to small areas within the county or small groups of people and receptors. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible. The magnitude of the predicted effects will be minor
0	Neutral	Neutral effects are predicted where the option being assessed is unlikely to alter the present or future baseline situation
-	Minor negative	Minor negative effects are likely to be limited to small areas within Shropshire, or limited to small groups and receptors. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible.
--	Major Negative	Likely to affect the whole or large areas of Shropshire. Also applies to effects on nationally and internationally important assets. The effects are likely to be direct, irreversible and permanent. The magnitude of the predicted effects will also be major
?	Unknown	This criterion is applied either where there is insufficient information to make a robust assessment or it is not clear whether the positive or negative effects will outweigh each other

**The results of the SA**

2.6 The scoring matrix for the appraisal of the only Main Modification considered to generate the potential for a significant effect is provided in Appendix A. From this it can be seen that, whilst removal of the community cluster of Tyrley, Woodseaves (Sutton Lane), Woodseaves (Sydnall Lane) from the Plan would result in the loss of up to 15 houses, this will not have a significant effect on the sustainability of the Plan.

**Considering alternative options**

2.7 The sustainability appraisal process requires a consideration of alternative options and an assessment of the sustainability implications of these.

2.8 The SAMDev preparation process involved a consideration of alternative options. The SA for these is described in paragraphs 1.7 to 1.9 of the SAMDev Plan Sustainability Report: Submission.

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- 2.9 The Main Modifications comprise alterations to the policies and explanatory text in the submitted SAMDev Plan and thus represent alternative options to the original Plan. This SA of the Modifications therefore fulfils the requirement to assess the sustainability implications of alternative options.

### **3. Mitigation measures and Monitoring**

- 3.1 The appraisal shows that there are no significant negative effects from the proposed Main Modifications. This means that no mitigation is required.
- 3.2 The appraisal shows that there are no additional significant effects and so the effects of the Plan will continue to be monitored as described in paragraph 1.23 of the SAMDev Plan Sustainability Report: Submission (July 2014).

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Only one Main Modification is considered to require appraisal and, whilst removal of the community cluster of Tyrley, Woodseaves (Sutton Lane), Woodseaves (Sydnall Lane) from the Plan would result in the loss of up to 15 houses, this is not considered to have a significant effect on the sustainability of the Plan.



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**Modification to remove S11.2(viii Tyrley, Woodseaves (Sutton Lane), Woodseaves (Sydnall Lane) Community Cluster from the Plan**

SO				Commentary
	S	M	L	
1	0	0	0	No significant impact
2	0	0	0	Whilst the removal of these settlements as a community cluster would result in a loss of up to 15 dwellings, this is not significant in the context of providing a sufficient quantity of good quality housing in Shropshire.
3	0	0	0	No significant impact
4	0	0	0	No significant impact
5	0	0	0	The loss of up to 15 houses does not have a significant effect on encouraging the shift towards more sustainable forms of transport
6	0	0	0	Removing this cluster from the plan may increase rather than decrease people's need to travel. However, this is likely to be a very small and localised effect and thus not significant.
7	0	0	0	No significant impact
8	0	0	0	No significant impact

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9	0	0	0	No significant impact
10	0	0	0	No significant impact
11	0	0	0	No significant impact
12	0	0	0	No significant impact
13	0	0	0	No significant impact
14	0	0	0	No significant impact
15	0	0	0	No significant impact
16	0	0	0	No significant impact
17	0	0	0	No significant impact
18	0	0	0	No significant impact

**Summary**

Whilst removal of the community cluster of Tyrley, Woodseaves (Sutton Lane), Woodseaves (Sydnall Lane) from the Plan would result in the loss of up to 15 houses, the sustainability appraisal shows that this is likely to have no significant effects.