



## Sustainability Statement

### **BIODIVERSITY AND WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to respond to the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister document Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (November 2005).
- 1.2 This report summarises how the Biodiversity and Waterfront Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has changed during the sustainability appraisal process, the reasons for choosing the adopted SPD and the measures decided regarding monitoring.

## **2 INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 A sustainability appraisal of the draft SPD was carried out in November 2005 and the results are presented in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The SPD was found to have no significant adverse impacts and no changes were made to the SPD as a result of the sustainability appraisal process.

## **3 CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 Consultation has been carried out during preparation of the SPD and sustainability appraisal as follows:
  - Consultation on the SA scoping report in June 2005 with the Countryside Agency, English Nature, Environment Agency and English Heritage.
  - Consultation on the draft SPD and SA report in February and March 2006 with the above consultees and local councillors, parish councils, neighbouring local authorities, Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, CABE, Friends of the Earth, Leeds Property Forum, Yorkshire Water, the Home Builders Federation, the Leeds Initiative and local planning consultants. The draft SPD and SA report were also published on the Leeds City Council website.
- 3.2 The comments received are reported in the representations statement along with the Leeds City Council response and proposed amendments to the SPD. The SPD has been amended in accordance with the representations statement.

## **4 REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE ADOPTED SPD**

- 4.1 The sustainability appraisal considered two options:
  - Publish a SPD to provide specific, detailed guidance on biodiversity and waterfront development;
  - Rely on existing Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policies to protect and enhance biodiversity through waterfront developments.

- 4.2 The SPD option was chosen because it was assessed as having a greater positive impact on a number of sustainability objectives than the no SPD option.

## **5 MONITORING**

- 5.1 The purpose of monitoring is to assess the actual effects of the SPD compared with those predicted in the sustainability appraisal and to identify any unforeseen effects. The SA report sets out how the effects of the SPD will be monitored.
- 5.2 A comment was made as part of the consultation suggesting that the monitoring section of the SA report should be strengthened with particular reference to the potential conflict identified in section 6.2 of the SA report.
- 5.3 The City Council has accepted this suggestion and has amended to SA report accordingly. Monitoring will now include the assessment of planning applications for waterfront sites against the guidelines in the SPD and the SA objectives.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The sustainability appraisal of the Biodiversity and Waterfront Development SPD indicates that the SPD will generally have neutral or positive impacts on sustainability. A potential negative impact relating to maintaining biodiversity on brownfield sites has been identified and this will be monitored as part of implementation of the SPD.