

# ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL

Appraising the Plan

21



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- 4.01 Local planning authorities are encouraged to undertake an Environmental Appraisal of the policies contained in their local plans by Planning Policy Guidance Note 12 (PPG12). The form and content of an appraisal is not prescribed and it is therefore a matter for the Borough Council to determine in the light of the particular circumstances. Advice is offered by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in the 'Good Practice Guide' published in 1993.
- 4.02 The environmental appraisal of the Hastings Local Plan was been undertaken through various stages in consultation with representatives of Hastings Local Agenda 21. The detailed results of the appraisal are published in a separate document, and show how each policy has been considered against its impact on a number of different environmental indicators; it also records a summary stating where changes to policies have been recommended as a result of the appraisal process. The Local Plan Inspector concluded that the Appraisal for the most part accords with the advice in PPG12 and the integrity of the Plan is not undermined in so far as sustainability is concerned.
- 4.03 The appraisal exercise has been valuable in preparing the Plan because it:-
- (i) Helps to highlight the impact of policies on the environment;
  - (ii) Enables the implications of different, wide ranging and potentially conflicting aspects of the environment to be taken into account;

- (iii) Allows environmental matters to be considered along with economic and social factors, and so to assist in making a choice between alternative policies in a way which will secure the best outcome overall;
- (iv) Demonstrates to users of the Plan how the policies have regard to environmental matters.

