

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE PEAK DISTRICT CORE STRATEGY REFINED OPTIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. This report sets out the sustainability assessment of the refined options for the Peak District Core Strategy Development Plan Document. This assessment forms part of the ongoing Sustainability Appraisal process that is being undertaken by Land Use Consultants on behalf of Peak District National Park Authority.
2. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a statutory requirement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The purpose of sustainability appraisal is to promote sustainable development by integrating sustainability considerations in to the preparation and adoption of policies, plans and programmes, by appraising their social, environmental and economic effects.
3. This assessment should be read in conjunction with the Peak District National Park Authority's Core Strategy Refined Options document.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF REFINED OPTIONS

4. A Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was produced in July 2008 and underwent a 5 week consultation (available from PDNPA). This report set out background information on the sustainability issues facing the Peak District and the methodology for carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal. It also developed the criteria (in the form of SA Objectives) for assessing the Core Strategy which is laid out below. The options for the Core Strategy have all undergone a number of assessments using these criteria through their development and the tables on the following pages present the SA assessment of the refined options.

SA Objective
1. To protect, maintain and enhance the landscape and townscape of the National Park
2. To protect, enhance and improve biodiversity, flora and fauna and geological interests
3. To preserve, protect and enhance the National Park's historic and cultural environment
4. To protect and improve air, water and soil quality and minimise noise and light pollution
5. To minimise the consumption of natural resources
6. To develop a managed response of climate change
7. To achieve and promote sustainable land use and built development
8. Increase understanding of the special qualities of the Park by target groups, young people (14-20 years); people from disadvantaged areas, with disabilities and from ethnic minority backgrounds
9. To promote access for all
10. Promote good governance
11. To help meet local need for housing
12. Encourage better access to a range of local centres, services and amenities
13. Promote a healthy Park wide economy
14. To reduce road traffic (especially private cars and freight), traffic congestion and improve safety, health and air quality by reducing the need to travel, especially by car