

Public Examination of the Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan

London Borough of Lewisham response on the Inspector's Question 4: Audit trail for the consideration of 'reasonable alternatives'

(Note the full text of the Inspector's questions are on the Examination website and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/my services/planning/policy/Documents/SA%20Inspector%27s%20questions.pdf>)

Planning Policy – 16th November 2012

Council Response

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper responds to the Inspector's initial question number 4 relating to demonstrating an audit trail for the consideration of 'reasonable alternatives' and the reasons for selecting the submitted plan. The Lewisham Town Centre Local Plan (LTCLP) preparation stages are as below.

- Issues and Options (2005)
- Preferred Options (2007)
- Further Options (2010)
- Publication (proposed submission version (March 2012) and
- Submission (September, 2012).

2. Demonstrating an audit trail

2.1 Section 2.3 of the LTCLP Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) (LTCLP1.2) outlines the methodology for conducting the SA/SEA (pages 18 to 25).

2.2 Section 5 (pages 50 to 80) of the same SA/SEA provides a discussion of the submitted plan's options and alternatives at each stage of plan preparation.

2.3 Section 5.1 (page 50) refers to the appraisal of alternatives at the issues and options stage.

2.4 Section 5.2 (page 67) refers to the appraisal of alternatives at the preferred options stage.

2.5 Sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6 (page 73) refers to the appraisal of alternatives at the further options stage. The detailed assessment of further options is provided in a separate document - the SA/SEA of the Lewisham Town Centre Further Options (LTCLP2.6, Appendix 1). At this stage of plan preparation, the number of policies proposed to be included in the LTCLP was reduced. The review followed the publication of a revised Planning Policy Statement 12 and the submission and subsequent adoption of the Core Strategy. As a result, the Lewisham plan did not need to repeat policies included in the Core Strategy. Appendix A in the SA/SEA of the Proposed Submission Version (LTCLP2.8,

page 1-73 – following page 122 [page numbers are not sequential]) provides an audit trail of issues, options, preferred options and policies.

- 2.6 Section 5.7 (LTCLP1.2) (page 78) refers to the appraisal of the proposed submission plan which formed the basis for the submitted plan. New policies introduced at this stage were appraised separately (pages 81 to 85). Appendix A in the SA/SEA of the Proposed Submission Version (LTCLP2.8, page 1-73 – following page 122 [page numbers are not sequential]) also provides an audit trail of issues, options, preferred options and policies.