

Sustainability Appraisal



Text size

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What is the Sustainability Appraisal?

For the Council, sustainability is about ensuring that the actions and decisions we take today guarantee a better quality of life for everyone in West Sussex, now and for generations to come. It is based on the understanding that the quality of our lives, and the state of our communities, are affected by a combination of social, economic and environmental factors. The Sustainability Appraisal has been designed to help develop proposals which address these factors and deliver sustainable solutions.

By asking a series of questions, the appraisal prompts you to think about what you are delivering and how. Thinking about the delivery from new angles will help you identify opportunities to:

- Save money
- Gain efficiencies
- Enhance the reputation and trust in the Council
- Align your project with corporate policies
- Connect with the needs of customers
- Reduce future risks

[Find out more about sustainability on the How We Work SharePoint Site](#)

Where does it come from?

The Sustainability Appraisal is based on **The West Sussex Plan 2017-2022** and reflects the key issues and priorities identified by this Strategy.

When should I use the Sustainability Appraisal?

A Sustainability Appraisal is required for all Transformation projects and procurements.

The Sustainability Appraisal must be completed and submitted at Key Decision Points 0, 1 and 2.

The application of the Sustainability Appraisal can also be extended for use on the development of new strategies, policies and business plans, and can be used voluntarily on smaller projects.

The Sustainability Appraisal can also be used to explore added value to any other proposals such as specifications, committee reports and business plans.

In performing these assessments at the inception of a project, the likely outcomes will be more robust and sustainable. It is recommended that the Appraisal is used at subsequent phases of proposal development to ensure maximum benefit; the process will be much quicker when reapplying to the same proposal.

How do I use the Sustainability Appraisal?

Stage 1 - The Sustainability Appraisal should be completed by the Project Manager with in-depth knowledge of the proposal. For maximum benefit this should be done at the earliest stage when scoping the proposal.

First, complete the **Proposal** page to give details of the objectives of the project. Tabs 1 to 4 contain the objectives against which to assess the proposal, arranged around the four themes of the Sustainable Communities Strategy. Work through tabs 1 to 4 and for each objective make an assessment of the impact of the proposal using the scale provided. Include comments in the accompanying box to provide an explanation of how your proposal will contribute to each of these objectives (see Figure 1). Select 'Not Applicable' only where the objective is considered not to be relevant to the proposal.

For further information and reference each objective is hyperlinked to relevant County Council policies in the **Appendix**.

Stage 2 - Once completed, review the Appraisal's **Summary** page to see the results of the assessment (see Figure 2). Use this summary to identify areas where the proposal has not addressed key themes and objectives and to inform the development and amendments to your proposal.

Consider forming a multidisciplinary team to provide expert insight into how the proposal can be improved to better address these objectives and maximise the contribution of your proposal to achieving corporate priorities and sustainable solutions.

Stage 3 – Where areas for improvement have been identified and incorporated into the proposal, amend the Appraisal accordingly. The Sustainability Appraisal should be used as a working document to improve the integration of sustainability objectives as a proposal is developed.

Stage 4 - The **Monitoring** sheet will automatically identify the key impacts of the proposal (see Figure 3). Use the tables provided to identify suitable metrics and targets which are relevant to the objectives and activities of your proposal (N.B. use Alt+Return to include multiple metrics for an objective). These should feed logically into the monitoring of the project and demonstrate progress of the project as a whole.

Stage 5 - For Transformation Board projects, submit the completed Appraisal at Checkpoint 0 to the Programme Management Office and Sustainability Team. The appraisal must be resubmitted to the Sustainability Team at Checkpoint 1 and 2.

To request assistance or feedback on a completed Appraisal please contact the

[Sustainability Team](#)

Sustainability Appraisal



Proposal name: Eastern Gateway , Crawley

Lead officer: Marie Ovenden

Date: 03-12-18

Version: 1

Objectives (Please copy across the objectives of your project from the project brief):

West Sussex County Council (WSSC) has identified that the county requires significant investment in new infrastructure to help stimulate economic growth, with Crawley identified as a key growth location. The Eastern Gateway scheme represents a significant investment for Crawley Town Centre and is designed to improve the quality of public space, pedestrian connectivity and reduce the effect of large roads “partitioning” the town into separate areas.

The work will soften the urban landscape by reducing the dominance of vehicle movements in the Town Centre, creating a pleasant environment, which will complement key development opportunities at the Town Hall, County Buildings, Telford Place and Crawley College.

How will your proposal impact on the following objectives?

Very positive	Slightly positive	Neutral	Slightly negative	Very negative	Not applicable
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1 All children and young people are ready for school and work

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

In addition give particular consideration to 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS).

2 Families and children have a healthy family, home and work life

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm works include the provision of improved cycle and pedestrian facilities, which will provide opportunities for residents and visitors to use more active forms of travel to access the Town Centre and other community facilities and amenities.

3 Children and young people feel safe and secure

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The scheme includes the following improvements which will provide improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity within the Town Centre:

- Decluttering of the highway to enhance the visual appearance of the town centre
- Soft urban landscaping providing a sense of place
- Cycling facilities (cycle lanes and toucan crossings)
- Public realm quality materials to enhance the Town Centre
- Limited raised carriageway and change in surface treatment to improve pedestrian connectivity
- New pedestrian crossing facilities to provide inclusive crossing opportunities
- New signalised junction layouts to improve the junction efficiency and allow better management of traffic

The public realm improvements should make children and young people feel safer and more secure as a result.

4 Access to education that meets the needs of our community

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The improvements provided along College Road will provide a benefit to Crawley College by improving pedestrian crossing facilities. The new crossings will help reduce the severance effects of College Road and facilitate safer access to and from the Town Centre. In addition to the crossings on College Road the scheme will also be providing new cycle facilities, which will improve access to and from the college for cyclists in Crawley.

WSSC term consultants are also committed to providing social value, beyond the contract engagement. The WSP Strategy Social Value Strategy includes the following actions which are applicable to the Eastern Gateway scheme:

- SV1+SV2 Visit a minimum of 15 schools and colleges within West Sussex to offer careers advice per year
- Provide training / mentoring for our staff and WSSC staff on a range of technical and management/administrative areas which could also include supporting recognised qualifications. This will include lunch & learns on a quarterly basis
- Identify employment and training opportunities for older people within West Sussex Undertake STEM activities as appropriate

A safe place

8 Minimising the risk to people and property from extreme weather events, including consideration of our changing climate



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The landscape areas along College Road will incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems, which contribute to mitigating against future extreme weather events.

9 Reducing the number of road traffic accidents and improving road safety



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements will provide narrower traffic lanes and better segregation of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Additional pedestrian crossings and cycle facilities will provide safer opportunities to cross The Boulevard and College Road.

10 Reducing actual levels of crime and rates of reoffending, and / or reducing fear of crime and improving the perception of community safety?



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements are designed to attract more visitors, encourage more cycling and pedestrian activity in the Town Centre. Additional footfall on The Boulevard and College Road should improve the perception of community safety as the more active environment should provide increased levels of natural surveillance.

Sustainable Environment

11 Reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other green house gases



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements include provision for improved pedestrian and cycle facilities. Use of these forms of transport compared to motorised vehicles will help reduce carbon dioxide and other green house gas emissions in the town centre.

12 Reducing use of natural resources



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

Where possible the construction of the scheme has sought to reduce the volume of imported materials for the carriageway formation. For example, the table, a feature that raises the surface level of the road, is constructed in such a way that only sections at the beginning of the carriageway are raised and then graduate down to existing carriageway levels. This construction technique reduces the amount of fill required to form the table feature.

13 Reducing waste and increasing waste recovery and recycling.



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

Recycling of kerbs etc ??

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A Place of Culture, Heritage and Beauty

14 Enhance West Sussex in regard to culture, heritage and beauty.



Click in the box below, and explain your response:

While landscape treatment emphasised the uniqueness of each zone, consistency will be maintained through material selection, incorporating design queues from the recently completed Queens Square project. The design language of geometry, paving colours and planting species are influenced by the context and adjacent developments to ensure aesthetic consistency. For example, the shape of shrub/groundcover beds are informed by the raised seated planters in the nearby Queen's Square, which are fluid and animated in shape.

The surface treatments aim to highlight areas of importance, such as entrances to the Memorial Gardens. The Memorial Gardens is the central public open space in the centre of Crawley. The landscape treatment for the Eastern Gateway Scheme considers the gardens' historical and amenity significance particularly at the interface of the two.

The Boulevard already has many semi-mature and mature trees from a wide variety of species. To strengthen the existing character, the proposed new trees are species which are already present along The Boulevard and will grow to occupy the large space available

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How will your proposal impact on the following objectives?

Very positive	Slightly positive	Neutral	Slightly negative	Very negative	Not applicable
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A place where businesses thrive

15 Creating well-paid and long-term employment opportunities for local people

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

A The project aims to create a high-quality public realm that is well integrated into the surrounding street context, to establish a 'Sense of Place'. Improving the attractiveness of the street environment can lead to increased footfall within the area, which can attract new retail outlets. This can potentially lead to more opportunities for employment within the Town Centre.
The Eastern Gateway scheme will see 200 jobs created/protected and have a multiplier effect on surrounding retail areas.
The eastern gateway scheme is also a key project in the Crawley growth programme Town centre regeneration and will contribute to:-
1,550 New homes and 18,000sqm of commercial floor-space in the Town Centre generating at least 2,,100 new jobs
A new/refurbished train station.

16 Promoting growth in new business, key sectors and industries

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

WSCC term consultants (WSP) are also committed to providing social value, beyond the contract engagement. The WSP Strategy Social Value Strategy includes the following actions which are applicable to the Eastern Gateway scheme:
SV4 - Review suppliers list on a quarterly basis to ensure local businesses are used as appropriate.

Partners in the growth programme are working closely with Crawley college and the Eastern Gateway scheme will improve connectivity to the site. The college are reviewing their curriculum and working with WSCC and CBC to create an offer that will support growth in Crawley,

The Crawley growth programme will also see investment in business space and the Eastern gateway scheme will compliment these proposals.

17 Promoting the use of local resources, goods and products

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm works include the provision of improved cycle and pedestrian facilities, which will provide opportunities for local residents and visitors to use more active forms of travel to access the Town Centre and other community facilities and amenities.
The Eastern gateway scheme will improve connectivity to Crawley library, which is a valuable community resource and hub and promotes local activities and provides resources.

Infrastructure that supports a successful economy

18 Creating or enhancing a skilled workforce for West Sussex

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

Consider in particular improving learning, qualifications and skills of young people / adults / hard to reach groups

19 Increasing apprentices in West Sussex

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

20 Increasing opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to gain paid employment

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

HINT: The County Council is committed to being a fair and equitable employer. One way we can achieve this is by providing employment opportunities for disabled people, both employed by both the County Council and by the services we contract with. Particularly when procuring, consider testing providers on:

- * how they will employ disabled people;
- * examples of the reasonable adjustments made;
- * proposals to increase number of disabled employees;
- * are they registered as a 'Disability confident committed employer';
- * are they offering Supported Internships and Apprenticeships Schemes

The social value act enables us to request and demonstrate the added value that we are gaining through the contract. (work is underway to define the savings made in County Council service delivery costs when a person with learning disabilities is in employment - you will be able to use these figures to support your business case).

A great place to live, visit and work

21 Reducing poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements are designed to increase the attractiveness of the Town Centre for residents and visitors. The vision is for a Town centre neighbourhood and the eastern gateway key features to support this are:-

Improved pedestrian and cycling facilities (cycle lanes and toucan crossings) ,

New traffic light junction layouts, incorporating the latest standards and control equipment, to improve the junction efficiency and allow better management of traffic.

Improved public realm, by using higher quality materials and increasing areas of soft landscaping and decluttering of street environment.

Limited raised carriageway, and change in surface treatment, to communicate a sense of place to drivers, encourage lower speeds and reduce the severance effect of the highway on the pedestrian routes into the Town Centre

22 Encouraging a diverse range of visitors and enhance the visitor experience

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements are designed to increase the attractiveness of the Town Centre for residents and visitors. Additional footfall associated with the improvement works can potentially lead to attraction of new retail/employment opportunities, which in turn would increase the diversity of visitors to Crawley Town Centre.

The eastern gateway will ease the current severance between the heart of the Town centre (queens square) and the outlying developments (Town Hall, Library and County buildings) making the Town more accessible and easier to navigate for visitors.

How will your proposal impact on the following objectives?

Very positive	Slightly positive	Neutral	Slightly negative	Very negative	Not applicable
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23 Providing opportunities for older people have opportunities to thrive

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm improvements are designed to accommodate those with reduced mobility, with dropped kerbs and increased number of road crossing opportunities. The scheme should therefore provide greater opportunity for older people to engage with the activities and facilities within the Town Centre.

24 Encouraging/facilitating participation in voluntary and community sector activities

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

25 Reflecting the needs, expectations and wants of people as they age over the next 20 years

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The public realm project includes improvements to cycle and pedestrian facilities within the Town Centre. These features should encourage adoption of more sustainable forms of transport for accessing the Town Centre.

26 Encouraging older people to remain active within the community or in employment

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

HINT: Opportunities to encourage and promote good social relations within communities should be maximised in service design and promotional activities. Older peoples' contributions should be celebrated. Consider how your project can incorporate these ideas.

How will your proposal impact on the following objectives?

Very positive	Slightly positive	Neutral	Slightly negative	Very negative	Not applicable
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27 Demonstrated that you have sought, and addressed the needs of your customers

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The WSCC Project Team has engaged with CBC, working groups and key development stakeholders representing Crawley Town Centre interests and the schemes neighbouring developments.

28 Helped people to participate within their community and build their sense of pride and

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The improvement of the public realm should encourage a greater sense of pride for the Town Centre.

29 Utilised our assets for community action

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

30 Enabled our customers to access information about the council

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

31 Sought the views of partners and explored options to add value by delivering with others to meet shared objectives

Click in the box below, and explain your response:

The project team has engaged with CBC and adjacent site development teams to coordinate the delivery of a comprehensive package of urban realm improvements to meet WSCC project objectives and those of the stakeholders within the Town Centre.

Summary

[Click here to return to the guidance.](#)

Lead officer:

Date:

Proposal name:

Theme/subsection	Result	Applicable Questions
Best Start in Life	 Slightly positive	100%
Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place	 Slightly positive	100%
A Healthy Place	 Very positive	100%
A Safe Place	 Very positive	100%
A Sustainable Environment	 Slightly positive	100%
A Place of Culture, Heritage and Beauty	 Very positive	100%
A Prosperous Place	 Very positive	100%
A Place where businesses thrive	 Very positive	100%
Infrastructure that supports a successful economy	 Neutral	100%
A great place to live, work and visit	 Very positive	100%
Independence for Later Life	 Slightly positive	100%
A Council that works for the community	 Slightly positive	100%

Appraisal criteria

	50% or above positive impact
	0 - 49% positive impact
	Neutral impact
	Negative impact

Impact monitoring

Text size

Positive impacts

This assessment has identified that your proposal will have a significant positive impact on the following objectives. These need to be integrated into the project and translated into outcomes. Please indicate how your project will deliver these sustainability objectives by identifying appropriate metrics and targets to monitor and evaluate them.

Primary mitigation measures	Metric	Target	Timescale
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Negative impacts

This assessment has identified that your project will have a significant negative impact on the following objectives. Ideally these will be addressed by seeking alternatives to enhance sustainability performance in these areas. Where mitigation measures are required please outline these below and identify appropriate metrics and targets to monitor and evaluate their success.