



**Draft Supplementary
Planning Document**
Contributions to
Lifelong Learning from
Development – Library Services
Sustainability
Appraisal Report

MARCH 2007

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The purpose of this document is to assess the social, economic and environmental effects of the council's Draft SPD on *Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services*.

The draft *Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services* SPD sets out a clear and consistent framework for seeking contributions to pre-schooling and education in Barnet from development. The SPD will supplement:

- Policy CS2 – Educational Needs Generated by New Housing Development
- Policy L5 – Arts, Culture and Entertainment Facilities – Planning Obligations
- Policy IMP1 – Priorities for Planning Contributions

of Barnet's adopted *Unitary Development Plan* (May 2006).

This document sets out the methodology and outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal of this SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal reflects best practice advice contained in *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents – Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities* (2005).

Overall, the Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD on *Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services* provides a positive picture of its social, economic and environmental effects. In terms of the social effects, the SPD will encourage the provision of user friendly, well-equipped, inclusive library services. Furthermore, maximising the delivery of library services would also maximise the positive effect arising from the appraisal of wider social and economic sustainability objectives including increased accessibility to services with associated benefits for social equity, improved social cohesion and reducing the need to travel.

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SPD

This draft *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services* SPD is placed on public consultation for six weeks from Monday 12 March 2007 until 5.00pm on Monday 23 April 2007. Comments can be made online (<http://www.barnet.gov.uk/index/council-democracy/consultations.htm>) or by using accompanying form, and should be sent to:

Planning Policy Team
Planning and Environmental Protection Service
Ground Floor
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London
N11 1NP

Or email forward.planning@barnet.gov.uk.

In order for the council to respond speedily, the electronic submission of comments is strongly encouraged.

Further copies of the *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services* SPD and Sustainability Appraisal are available from the council's website and at all local libraries in the borough.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The council will produce a report summarising the main issues raised following the six weeks of public consultation. The report will set out the council's response to each representation and will be submitted for approval by the Cabinet before adoption. The council will inform persons who have made representations of its proposed response prior to the Cabinet meeting.

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1 Introduction

Background

1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new system of plan making in England. The key outcome of the government's changes is the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a portfolio of planning documents, prepared by the council, which collectively will deliver the planning strategy for Barnet. The documents which will comprise Barnet's LDF are:

- The *Statement of Community Involvement*
- The *Annual Monitoring Report*

Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which will include the following:

- Core Strategy
- Site Development Policies
- Area Action Plans
- Proposals Map
- Joint Waste Development Plan Document.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) covering:

- *Planning Obligations*
- *Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Training and Employment Initiatives*
- *Affordable Housing*
- *Contributions to Culture, Recreation and Open Spaces from Development*
- *Contributions to Transport and Infrastructure from Development*
- *Contributions to Health Facilities from Development*
- *Sustainable Design and Construction*
- *Economic Prosperity.*

1.2 Further information on the LDF can be obtained in the Barnet *Local Development Scheme* (LDS) at <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/index/council-democracy/unitary-authorities/statutory-development-plans-udp/local-development-framework.htm>. The Barnet LDS (2007) is a work programme for preparing the LDF and has been adopted by the council.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is an integral part of producing planning documents under the new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Local authorities must undertake sustainability appraisals for each of their Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents as part of a fully integrated process. The purpose of the sustainability appraisal process is to promote sustainable

development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of planning documents. This involves considering the long-term social, environmental, economic and resource impacts of development. The SA should:

- Take a long-term view of how the area covered by the SPDs is expected to develop, taking account of social, environmental and economic effects of the proposed plan.
- Provide a mechanism for ensuring that sustainability objectives are translated into sustainable planning policies.
- Reflect global, national and local concerns.
- Provide an audit trail of how the SPDs have been revised to take account of the findings of the SA.
- Form an integral part of all stages of plan preparation, in accordance with the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC.¹

Sustainability Appraisal of the Revised Deposit Draft UDP

1.4 In March 2001 the council published a Sustainability Appraisal of the Revised Deposit Draft UDP. The production of this document was guided by the following DoE/DETR publications:

- *Environmental Appraisal of Development Plans – A Good Practice Guide* (1992)
- *Policy Appraisal and the Environment* (1998)
- *Planning for Sustainable Development – Towards Better Practice* (1998), although this guidance has now been superseded.

1.5 Although the guidance underpinning the sustainability appraisal of the Revised Deposit Draft UDP has now been superseded its outcomes should not be ignored. The UDP sustainability appraisal concluded that:

- No policies in Barnet's UDP were directly incompatible.
- UDP policies can be expected to promote sustainability in the borough. No overall negative impacts have been identified.
- Some policies could have an effect on certain sustainability criteria.
- Policy CS2, Policy L5 and Policy IMP1 on priorities for planning contributions have significant positive environmental, social and economic impacts.

Purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal

1.6 The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life for

¹ ODPM, *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks*, Consultation Paper (2004)

future generations. It is about considering the long-term social, economic and environmental issues and impacts in an integrated and balanced way.

- 1.7 The purpose of the sustainability appraisal process is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainable considerations into the preparation and adoption of planning documents. As planning contributions can lead to significant social, economic and environmental benefits, the council considers it appropriate to carry out a sustainability appraisal.
- 1.8 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that comprise a Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 1.9 The purpose of this report is to assess the social, economic and environmental effects that may arise from the council's Draft Supplementary Planning Document on *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services*.

2 Key Requirements for SPD Sustainability Appraisal

National Guidance

- 2.1 According to the ODPM (now replaced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)), the sustainability appraisal should not be done in any more detail, or using more resources than is useful for its purpose and the it should focus on the significant sustainability effects of the Supplementary Planning Document.
- 2.2 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are recommended to:
- ...prepare a scoping report, setting out the information collected at Stage A of the SA process. One scoping report can be prepared for several LDDs, provided that it gives sufficient information at the level of detail required for each of the SPDs concerned. This can be achieved by preparing the scoping report in two parts: a general section which sets out the elements common to all of the SPDs, and a second part reporting on each SPD individually (e.g. the objectives of the individual SPD, sustainability issues and problems specific to it, and any broad options to be considered) or making clear where no specific details on a SPD need to be added.
- 2.3 The scoping report issued by Barnet Council in September 2005 was based on the following documents produced by Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM):
- *Consultation Paper on Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks* (Sept 2004).
 - *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks - Interim Advice Note on Frequently Asked Questions* (April 2005).
- 2.4 Guidance has subsequently been updated and the sustainability appraisal framework on the SPD on *Planning Contributions from Development* has been done with regard to ODPM guidance published in November 2005.
- 2.5 The scoping report set out general elements which are common to the scope and level of material of all the planning contributions SPDs.

Table 2.1: Elements Common to All Planning Contributions SPDs

Element	Description
A1	Identify other relevant plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that will affect or influence the SPDs
A2	Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information
A3	Identify key sustainability issues for the Sustainability Appraisal to address
A4	Develop the sustainability appraisal framework, consisting of the sustainability appraisal objectives, targets and indicators
A5	Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal with the relevant statutory bodies, key stakeholders and the public

- 2.6 In order to comply with ODPM guidance, the council consulted the following statutory agencies on the scoping report for the sustainability appraisal of the suite of planning contributions to SPDs:²
- The Countryside Agency
 - English Nature
 - Environment Agency
 - English Heritage.
- 2.7 Consultation on the Scoping Report helps to create a SA that is comprehensive and robust enough to support the SPD. Responses were received from the Environment Agency and English Heritage and these have been incorporated (where appropriate) into the Sustainability Appraisal.

Role of Stakeholders

- 2.8 Issuing the SA Scoping Report alongside the SPD provides objective information for consultees, so that their responses can be made in full awareness of the predicted sustainability impacts of different 'options'. It also shows what information is being fed into the decision making process and how this was arrived at.
- 2.9 The SA Report accompanied the draft SPD on *Contribution to Lifelong Learning – Library Services* and was subject to public scrutiny and comment (Stage D). The report was published for consultation for a period of six weeks to ensure that stakeholders with sustainability responsibilities could respond with feedback and comments.
- 2.10 The *Contribution to Lifelong Learning – Library Services* Supplementary Planning Document will be adopted within the Local Development Framework. Although it does not form part of the development plan it will be an additional consideration to be taken into account when the council considers planning applications. Following the SPD's adoption, this SA will form an important monitoring tool (Stage E).

² Since publication of the Scoping Report, the Countryside Agency and English Nature have merged to form Natural England.

3 Incorporating the Sustainability Appraisal Within the Supplementary Planning Document Process

- 3.1 The government’s approach has been to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into the wider sustainability appraisal process as a statutory requirement. It published guidance on the preparation of SAs for LDFs entitled *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*, which advocated satisfying the requirements of both the Act and the European Directive through effective cross-referencing within the reports which are produced. (This guidance will be referred to as the “SA guidance” within this appraisal.) The SA guidance superseded *The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities* (October 2003).
- 3.2 The relevant requirements of the SA guidance have been followed by the council in the undertaking of the sustainability appraisal and the preparation of this document. The SA guidance advocates a five-stage approach, divided into three SPD stages (shown below in Table 3.1). The scoping report forms Stage A (the pre-production stage). The sustainability appraisal has now reached the production stage, i.e. stages B, C and D.

Table 3.1: The Sustainability Appraisal Process

SPD Stage	SA Stages and Tasks
Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence Gathering	<p>Stage A – Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainable development objectives • A2: Collecting baseline information • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • A4: Developing the SA framework • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
SPD Stage 2: Production – Prepare Draft SPD	<p>Stage B – Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework • B2: Developing the SPD options • B3: Predicting the effects of the draft SPD • B4: Evaluating the effects the draft SPD • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD
	<p>Stage C – Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Preparing SA Report
	<p>Stage D – Consulting on the Draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public participation on the SA Report and the draft SPD • D2: Assessing significant changes

SPD Stage 3: Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3: Making decisions and providing information
	<p>Stage E – Monitoring the effects of implementing the SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring • E2: Responding to adverse effects

Objectives of the draft *Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services SPD*

3.3 Underpinning the Council’s strategic emerging vision, the SPD incorporates the following key themes which are essential to library service provision in Barnet:

- **Carefully planned**, welcoming, user friendly places that encourage intellectual discovery and investigation, and offer a range of services using innovative delivery mechanisms such as 24-hour online access.
- **Inclusive**, reflecting the socio-demographic profile of catchment areas, which continue to serve traditional users while attracting new customers, and particularly give greater emphasis to children’s services.
- **Highly accessible** in terms of location, of high quality and sustainable design, so that they encourage civic pride – such as in town or city centre buildings – but are linked to wider areas so that they play a full role in the regeneration process.
- **Well-equipped**, with sufficient space to house extensive archives, reference collections, local history materials and a wide range of books and audio-visual resources while also providing spaces for community meetings, exhibitions, events and functions, coffee bars or ‘home-from-home’ reading rooms and the siting of large-scale information and communications technology (ICT) equipment.
- **Multi-functional** in their ethos, able to join together with partners such as health authorities, social services, children’s services, schools, arts and museum facilities and religious organisations.

4 Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 4.1 The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It is central to the SA process. The framework consists of sustainability objectives which, where practicable, may be expressed in the form of targets, the achievement of which is measurable using indicators. Objectives and indicators can be revised as baseline information is collected and sustainability issues and problems are identified, and can be used in monitoring the implementation of the SPD.
- 4.2 Sustainability objectives are distinct from the objectives of the SPD, though they may in some cases overlap with them. They provide a way of checking whether the SPD objectives are the best possible ones for sustainability, and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, environment and economic effects of a SPD can be tested. The sustainability objectives against which this report has been assessed are outlined as follows.

Table 4.1: Sustainability Appraisal Framework for *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services*

No.	Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Main Criteria
Social		
1	To improve the health of Barnet's population	Will it improve access to primary healthcare facilities? Will it encourage healthy lifestyles and provide opportunities for sport and recreation?
2	To improve the education and skills of Barnet's population	Will it improve access to educational facilities? Will it improve access to cultural facilities?
3	To provide Barnet's population with the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home	Will it increase access to good quality and affordable housing? Will it reduce homelessness?
4	To encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	Will it foster a sense of pride in neighbourhoods?
5	To offer the opportunity of rewarding and satisfying employment	Will it enhance local employment prospects? Will it promote skills training?
6	To improve the quality of life where people live	Will it increase residents' satisfaction with their neighbourhoods as places to live?
7	To improve accessibility to community infrastructure and services	Will it improve social cohesion? Will it reduce dissatisfaction with local services?
Environmental		
8	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes of transport other

		than the car? Will it improve road safety?
9	To reduce the risk of flooding for people and property	Will it avoid flooding as a consequence of development?
10	To maintain and enhance the quality of green spaces	Will it ensure easy accessibility to green spaces? Will it improve physical activity and wellbeing?
Economic		
11	To encourage sustained economic growth	Will it reduce unemployment? Will it improve the range of employment opportunities?
12	To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	Will it contribute to prosperity? Will it increase opportunities for business?

Task B1 – Testing the Draft SPD Objectives Against the SA Framework

4.3 The objectives of the SPD set out what it is aiming to achieve in spatial planning terms and set the context for development of options for the SPD. It is important for the objectives of the SPD to be in accordance with sustainability principles. The objectives should be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. This will help in refining the SPD objectives as well as in identifying options. The SPD objectives also need to be consistent with each other, and the SA objectives will be one way of checking for this. Where there is conflict between objectives, the LPA will need to reach a decision on priorities. The effects of SPD objectives against sustainability objectives are recorded as being:

- (+) compatible/complementary
- (-) incompatible/potential conflict
- (0) having no effect
- (?) uncertain effect

Table 4.2: Testing Sustainability Objectives Against Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services

Sustainability Objectives		Contributions to Lifelong Learning from Development – Library Services Objectives				
		Carefully planned, welcoming user friendly places for discovery, investigating and learning	Inclusive	Highly accessible location, high quality and sustainable design	Well-equipped	Multi-functional ethos
Social						
1.	To improve the health of Barnet's population	+	+	+	+	+
2.	To improve the education and skills of Barnet's population	+	+	+	+	+
3.	To provide Barnet's population with the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home	+	+	+	+	+
4.	To encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	+	+	+	+	+
5.	To offer the opportunity of rewarding and satisfying employment	+	+	+	+	+
6.	To improve the quality of life where people live	+	+	+	+	+
7.	To improve accessibility to community infrastructure and services	+	+	+	+	+
Environmental						
8.	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	+	+
9.	To reduce the risk of flooding for people and property	?	?	+	?	?
10.	To maintain and enhance the quality of green spaces	+	+	?	?	?
Economic						
11.	To encourage sustained economic growth	+	+	+	+	+
12.	To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	?	?	?	?	?

Table 4.3: Commentary on the Matrix to Show the Impact of the SPD on Sustainability Objectives

	Objective	Impact of SPD on Meeting the Sustainable Objective
Social	1 – To improve the health of Barnet’s population	Libraries offer the opportunity for workshops and activity days for all age groups which promote healthy living. Libraries also offer information on public health and welfare services as well as medical reference books.
Social	2 – To improve the education and skills of Barnet’s population	Provision of library services will allow access to essential information services and facilities which offer opportunities to learn, share and acquire new skills and knowledge. Libraries provide internet access and access to daily newspapers. A mobile library service would reach residents who would have otherwise not gone out of their way to access the service.
Social	3 – To provide Barnet’s population with the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home	Local newspapers, public notice boards and internet access allow residents to access information regarding property lettings and sales and help residents find a decent, good quality affordable home.
Social	4 – To encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	Libraries provide community meeting facilities as well as providing the opportunity to get involved in the local community. Libraries provide access to public information about community activity. Improving the provision of library services would help create a sense of neighbourhood pride.
Social	5 – The offer the opportunity of rewarding and satisfying employment	Libraries can offer opportunities of employment within the Library Service as well as offer the opportunity to search current vacancies using the internet. Libraries offer a wealth of information on careers which has the ability to inspire residents and help guide the residents towards a suitable career path.
Social	6 – To improve the quality of life where people live	Improved library provision will increase residents’ satisfaction with their neighbourhood as a place to live. Introducing a mobile library service will help counter social exclusion and improve the attraction of these areas.
Social	7 – To improve accessibility to community infrastructure and services	Improved library services will improve the accessibility to community infrastructure and services. Buildings should provide full disabled access. A mobile library service will improve accessibility in areas not currently serviced by a library. Information on additional community infrastructure and services is available from libraries.

	Objective	Impact of SPD on Meeting the Sustainable Objective
Environmental	8 – To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	The appropriate siting of libraries in accessible locations and the opportunity to provide mobile library services will ease the effect of traffic on the environment. Close proximity to public transport will ease congestion and its impact on the environment.
Environmental	9 – To reduce the risk of flooding for people and property	The appropriate siting and sustainable design of libraries will have an impact on flooding, however this reduction remains uncertain. The SPD provides the opportunity to raise the awareness of flood mitigation and prevention.
Environmental	10 – To maintain and enhance the quality of green spaces	Libraries provide information to help promote Barnet’s green spaces as places to visit and play in. Usage of popular green spaces helps to promote their maintenance and enhancement.
Economic	11 – To encourage sustained economic growth	Library provision will promote skills training, improve educational prospects and enhance local employment opportunities, which in turn will improve the employment capacity of local residents and help improve and sustain local economic growth.
Economic	12 – To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment	Contributions to library services will promote skill training and enhance local employment prospects. Access to local information may encourage entrepreneurship and provide a basis for indigenous investment. However this cannot guarantee that inward business investment will be more attracted to the borough as a result.

Task B2 – Developing the SPD Options

- 4.4 The government recommends to LPAs that they should develop options, working with the community and relevant stakeholders, to achieve the objectives of the SPD. Given the duty under the Act on those preparing a SPD to contribute to sustainable development, it is essential for it to set out to improve on the situation which would exist if there were no SPD. It should also aim to improve on the effects of implementing the UDP policy or ‘saved plan policy’. To test this, options considered often include scenarios such as ‘producing an SPD’ or making a decision not to issue an SPD i.e. ‘business as usual’. It is important to be aware that baselines will change over time under ‘business as usual’ options, as well as under new SPDs.
- 4.5 The options identified in this SA Report are sufficiently distinct to highlight the different sustainability implications of each, so that meaningful comparisons can be

made. The options have been compared with each other and with the current social, environmental and economic characteristics of the area which is subject to the SPD and the likely future situation without a SPD.

- 4.6 The development and appraisal of options (see Tasks B3 and B4) will be revised to take account of the appraisal findings and consultation responses. This will inform the selection of options and their development in detail for inclusion in the Draft SPD to be published for consultation. As each option is refined, a commentary on the key sustainability issues and problems arising has been prepared.

Table 4.4: Matrix Showing the Impact of Using the *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services SPD* Compared with the Scenario of Not Using an SPD

	Theme	Do Nothing Scenario	Outcome of Having SPD
1	Excellent, welcoming and inclusive education facilities	–	+
2	Outward looking education facilities	–	+
3	Well equipped education facilities	–	+
4	Well designed and environmentally sustainable educational facilities	–	+

- 4.7 The matrix above displays the two options that have been tested. In terms of meeting sustainability objectives, the matrix in Table 4.4 clearly demonstrates the positive effects of undertaking a SPD to enable the affordable housing process to run smoothly, particularly when compared against the do nothing i.e. ‘business as usual’ scenario:

- **Carefully planned and welcoming** – The SPD seeks contributions towards library services in order to create user friendly places for discovery and investigation. The SPD highlights the important service libraries provide in offering the community the opportunity to learn new skills and upgrade existing skills.
- **Inclusive** – Libraries are at the heart of the community in Barnet. This SPD seeks contributions towards inclusive library services. This provision will offer better facilities for children and young people, and facilities to support wider community learning as well as including full disabled access (buildings proposed for public use should be designed in accordance with an agreed Access Strategy (Policy GBEnv5 – Accessible Environment)).
- **Highly accessible location, high quality and sustainable design** – The SPD sets out the importance of providing a library service which reaches the whole community including those who are unable to travel from home unaided. The SPD provides a clear message that where the council considers the best means

of delivering service to new development is a mobile library, contributions will be sought.

- **Well-equipped** – The SPD seeks contributions towards well-equipped libraries which will give children an excellent start in education, enable young people to equip themselves with life and work skills and encourage adults to achieve their full potential through continued learning.
- **Multi-functional ethos** – The SPD will seek contributions to provide library facilities with other community resources such as educational facilities, health services and recreational facilities. This is very favourable and the borough will benefit from economies of scale and achieve greater social integration.

4.8 If the council opt to follow the ‘business as usual’ route and decide not to produce a SPD on *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services*, the possibility of gaining improved library services will be much lower. The proposed SPD makes an overall positive contribution to library services. The ‘business as usual’ approach would also be more time consuming and cumbersome. The council’s message on library service delivery might appear confused in the absence of a draft SPD. In the absence of a clear, robust and consistent message amplifying UDP policy, it is likely that negotiations on residential schemes over the contributions to library services will be more drawn out.

Task B3 – Predicting the Effects of the *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Pre-Schooling and Education SPD Including Options*

4.9 The purpose of Table 4.3 is to predict the social, environmental and economic effects of the options being considered in the SPD process. A judgement has been made on the potential effects, with reference to the baseline situation. Prediction of effects has involved identifying the changes to the sustainability baseline which are predicted to arise from the SPD, including options. The predicted effects of options can be compared both with each other, with ‘creating an SPD’ and ‘business as usual’ scenarios, against the SA objectives.

Task B4 – Assessment of Effects of the *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services SPD*

4.10 The likely effects of the SPD have been identified in Task B3. In order to comply with government guidance an evaluation of their significance is to be made (if relevant). The evaluation of the likely effects of the SPD has determined that predicted outcomes will be positive. Table 4.2 clearly demonstrates that no negative significant effects would arise from the *Contributions to Lifelong Learning – Library Services SPD*.

Task B5 – Mitigating Adverse Effects and Maximising Beneficial Effects

4.11 The government advises that the SA Report must include measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the SPD revision. These measures are referred to in this guidance as ‘mitigation measures’, but they include proactive avoidance of adverse effects as well as actions taken after effects are noticed. Mitigation measures may also include recommendations for improving beneficial effects. Tasks B3 and B4 demonstrate that the *Contributions to Lifelong*

Learning – Library Services SPD is likely to largely generate beneficial effects. No adverse effects have been identified in the SA. The SPD will be revised following the adoption of Barnet's Core Strategy (programmed for 2008/09). The opportunity for refining policies in order to improve the likelihood of beneficial effects will be provided in the development of the *Core Strategy* Development Plan Document.

Task B6 – Developing Proposals for Monitoring

4.12 According to the government, monitoring allows the actual significant effects of implementation of the SPD to be tested against those predicted in the SA. It thus helps to ensure that problems which arise during implementation can be identified and future predictions made more accurately. Table 4.2 sets out the indicators the council will use to monitor the effects of implementing this SPD. This monitoring will enable the council to evaluate:

- Were the SA predictions of sustainability effects accurate i.e. have they been largely positive and beneficial?
- Is the SPD contributing to the achievement of the desired SA objectives and targets?
- Are there any unforeseen adverse effects identified?
- Have they been caused by a change in circumstances?
- Do they require remedial action such as a change to policy which the SPD supplements?

Task C1 – Preparing the SA Report

4.13 The SA framework of the Draft SPD is a key output of the appraisal process, presenting information on the effects of the plan on which formal public consultation is carried out. It is likely to be of interest to a wide variety of readers including decision makers, statutory consultees, other authorities, nongovernmental organisations, and members of the public. In deciding the length and level of detail in this SA, the council has borne in mind its purpose as a public consultation document. A non-technical summary is provided at the start of this SA.

4.14 The SA Report has clearly followed ODPM guidance and set out the process task by task in order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.

5 Next Steps

Task D1 – Public Participation on the Draft SPD and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 5.1 During the public participation stage the SA report must be consulted upon at the same time as the Draft SPD. When involving the public on the SPD and its SA Report, LPAs need to make clear that any responses should focus on the effects of the SPD.

Task D2 – Appraising of Significant Changes

- 5.2 If significant changes to the Draft SPD are raised during consultations that have not already been subject to SA, it will be necessary for the LPA to ensure that the significant social, environmental and economic effects of these changes are appraised.

Task D3 – Making Decisions and Providing Information

- 5.3 Following the adoption of the SPD, a consultation statement must be prepared to show the ways in which responses to consultation have been taken into account. The SA Report will have already documented proposed monitoring measures, and they can now be confirmed or modified in the light of consultation responses. The SPD consultation statement and the SA Report, including any revisions, should be made available to the public and the statutory bodies in accordance with the Local Development Regulations.