

3.1 Sustainability Appraisal

1. The Council has employed consultants, Enfusion, to provide expert input in producing an Addendum report to the Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Enfusion had been previously employed in carrying out sustainability appraisals at earlier stages of the plan making process in Medway.
2. The consultants have taken account of the new information regarding nightingales at Lodge Hill, in assessing the sustainability of this proposed development location, and have reviewed alternative development options.
3. Workshops to inform this work were held in December 2012, involving officers from a number of services at Medway Council, and the Highways Agency and Natural England. Environment Agency and English Heritage officers were also invited, but indicated that they would engage more fully at the formal consultation stage. However they provided some comments to inform the review work.

Consultation

4. The Council intends to consult on the draft Addendum report to the SA/SEA for a five week period. This will run from 21 January to 25 February 2013. All statutory consultees and stakeholders on the Council's planning policy database will be informed of the consultation and invited to make comments.
5. The consultation will be arranged in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement to ensure a robust and inclusive process. Notices of the consultation will be placed in local media and details uploaded on the Council's website. Copies of the draft addendum report will be available at the Council offices and at libraries throughout Medway.
6. Following the end of the consultation period, the Council will consider the representations made and take these into account in producing a final version of the Addendum report.