Sustainability Appraisal: Proposed Submission
Local Plan Strategy

Lichfield
district council
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1 Non Technical Summary

1.1 The sustainability appraisal process looks at all plans and programmes, which relate to the use of land and development, to find how these will affect Lichfield District and how they can help us to make development in Lichfield compatible with the aims of sustainable development.

1.2 Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of this generation without harming the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and the sustainability appraisal also tries to incorporate the effects of social issues as well as environmental and economic issues.

1.3 How it does this is to use all the information gathered from all the plans and policies and make a list of things that Lichfield District needs to consider and wants to change, these are called the Sustainability Framework Objectives. How it is done is written down in a Scoping Report June 2007.

1.4 Then, when policies and proposals are published they are checked against the list of Sustainability Framework Objectives to highlight the main impacts that would result if the proposals went ahead. This can be used to improve the policies and proposals to help reduce their impacts.

1.5 In total Lichfield District Council have published 5 previous documents in the preparation of the 'Local Plan:Strategy'; an 'Issues' document, an 'Issues and Options' document, 'Preferred Options', 'Policy Directions' and 'Shaping our District'. The policy directions and spatial options contained within these have been assessed using the Sustainability Framework Objectives at each stage of the process. The Sustainability Appraisal also has to consider a do nothing option and found this would result in development which would not help address Lichfield District's existing problems. In addition alternative strategies put forward via representations to 'Shaping our District' have also been appraised alongside the 'Local Plan: Strategy'.

1.6 With regard to Sustainability Appraisals of the documents published, the District Council has also produced an 'Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal', and addendum and a 'Shaping our District SA'. This report should be read in conjunction with these other documents to give the full SA for the plan process.

Statement on the difference the process has made

1.7 The Sustainability Appraisal process has identified relevant sustainability objectives for the District and provided an independent assessment throughout the preparation of the 'Local Plan: Strategy'. It has identified data gaps early in the process and the need for further evidence to inform the assessment of directions of growth and spatial strategies arising from these prior to the identification of a preferred option.

How to comment on the report

1.8 This report can be viewed alongside the proposed submission Local Plan: Strategy consultation document. This document, alongside the Local Plan: Strategy are available for comment for a period of 6 weeks between 30th July 2012 and 10th September 2012.

Comments can be made on either document via our website www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/localplan, by email, or in writing. A standard representation form is available that relates to issues of soundness and legal compliance. Documents are available to view during this period in all our deposit locations or via the website. Documents in different format are available on request from 01543 308192. Please contact a member of the Development Plans Team if you require any assistance in terms of the process or in making representation.
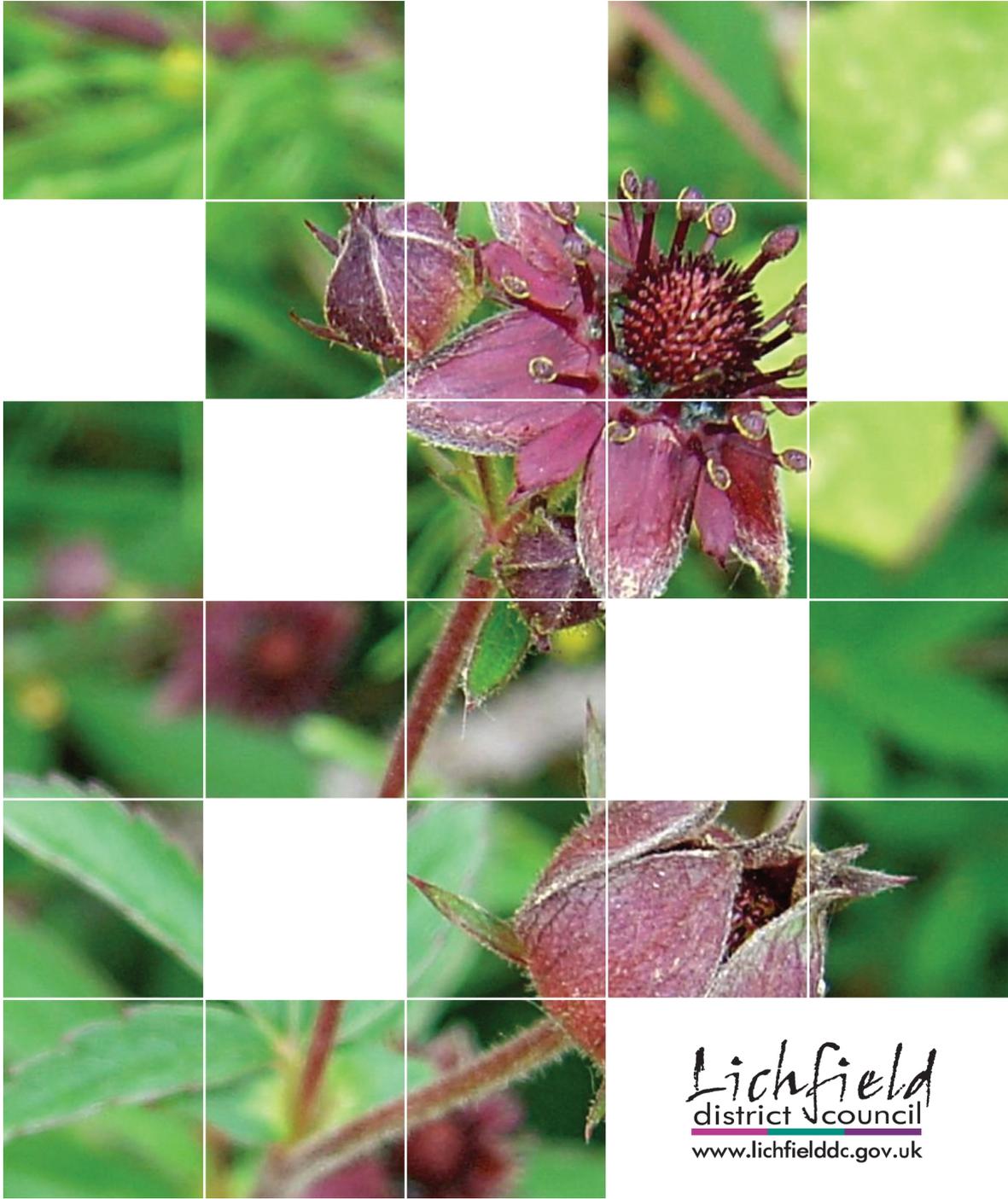
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2 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

2.1   The undertaking of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) are mandatory when seeking to prepare and adopt a Development Plan. The requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment is from European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

2.2   The SA process incorporates the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC or 'SEA Directive'. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).

2.3   Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the requirements of the SA. Previously further guidance was contained within 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents'. However, this guidance has been replaced by the Communities and Local Government Plan Making Manual section on sustainability appraisal. Recommendations on good practice are also contained within the CLG report 'Towards a more efficient and effective use of Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal', March 2010.

2.4   The objective of Strategic Environmental Assessment is 'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans….with a view to promoting sustainable development'.

2.5   The purpose of SA is to fully appraise the environmental, social and economic effects of a plan and its policies from the outset, throughout the process of the preparation and adoption of the plan in order to support and promote sustainable development objectives. The SA is integral to the plan making process and should perform a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the plan. It should be transparent and open to public participation through consultation on its various stages. The SA should inform the decision making process to facilitate the evaluation of alternatives and should also help demonstrate that the plan is the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives.

2.6   The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The NPPF identifies that these three dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform an economic, social and environmental role and similarly the SA includes the assessment of the social and economic impacts of plans, as well as the environmental impacts.

2.7   Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 'Securing the Future' set out five 'guiding principles' of sustainable development: living within the planet's environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

2 Introduction

2.8 As the SA process incorporates the requirements of the EU SEA Directive, it is still considered that when preparing the SA the requirements of SA and the SEA Directive can be combined into one document. Thus for the Lichfield District Local Plan these processes have been combined within this document and will be referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout the remainder of this document.

3 Aims and Structure

3.1 This report documents how the 'Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy' (formerly known as the Core Strategy) has been appraised and informed by the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The aim of the report is to assess the sustainability of the 'Local Plan: Strategy', identify any significant effects arising from its implementation and set a framework for monitoring.

3.2 For the purposes of clarity it should be noted that the 'Local Plan: Strategy' is sometimes also referred to as the 'Core Strategy'. When the latter is referred to it is specifically because that was the name of the document at that particular time in the process. It has only recently been renamed as the 'Local Plan: Strategy' in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which came into force in March 2012.

3.3 The structure of the report follows that identified in the Scoping Report for the SA (of the Core Strategy) published in September 2007 Section 5 'Preparing the Sustainability Report', and the SA report will accompany the consultation on the Proposed Submission 'Local Plan: Strategy'. This is in compliance with Stage D as identified in the scoping report (page 37), 'Consulting on the Draft Plan & Final SA and Sustainability Appraisal'.

3.4 This report details the methodology used and approach taken by this authority to Sustainability Appraisal throughout the preparation of the 'Local Plan:Strategy'. It details how the sustainability framework objectives were derived and how the sustainability process has integrated with the 'Local Plan: Strategy' and influenced its preparation. Consultation undertaken on the SA process and the considerations and response of the Lichfield Sustainability Working Group (LSWG) to this has been included. A table is also included which sets out details of how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met and where these have been addressed in the SA Report (Section 7, Table 7.1).

3.5 This report details the characteristics of the District, how it links to other plans and programmes and the key issues likely to effect the district during the plan period and beyond. It establishes a baseline of statistics which correspond to these findings and which have enabled a framework to be established against which the effects of the plan can be assessed. The sustainability framework is included within the document together with the appraisal methodology (scoring schedule).

3.6 The main body of the report appraises the spatial strategy and the policies (as contained within the 'Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy') and compares them to those included within the last public consultation version, 'Core Strategy: Shaping our District' (November 2010). The section identifies where mitigation is possible, identifies the uncertainties and risks, short, medium and, long term impacts and any cumulative and synergistic impacts.

3.7 The report also includes consideration of implementing and monitoring the sustainability effects of the 'Local Plan: Strategy' as set out in Stage E of the Scoping Report. This section also includes recommendations for a process for dealing with adverse or unexpected effects.

3.8 Since the publication of the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA) further options for the spatial strategy have been appraised. Some of these have been put forward by others as alternatives to the District Council's preferred spatial strategy at various

3 Aims and Structure

stages, as well as an appraisal of directions of growth around key rural settlements. Alternative options are considered in Section 14, and the SA of the villages in set out in Section 20 Rural. The spatial options matrix can be found at Appendix A.

3.9   In addition as a result of the 'Policy Directions' and 'Shaping our District' consultations, revised policies were drafted and subsequently appraised, and the results of this have been used to inform the policies of the proposed submission 'Local Plan: Strategy'. The matrix of scores form the appraisals of the policies have been included in Appendix B to complete the audit trail of the preparation of the 'Local Plan: Strategy' and enable the Inspector to identify the range of policy options considered throughout the process.

4 Background to Lichfield District Local Plan

4.1   The 'Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy' provides policies and establishes a long term strategy to manage development and undertake its responsibilities to promote sustainable development through tackling environmental, economic and social issues. It includes a vision and strategic priorities to achieve the vision, a spatial development strategy, core policies and development management policies and sets out how this will be implemented and monitored. The SA has been an iterative part of the preparation of the Plan since the Scoping Report of 2007.

4.2   The District Council has completed various stages in the preparation of this 'Local Plan: Strategy':

- Issues (August 2007)
- Issues & Options (December 2007)
- Preferred Options (December 2008)
- Policy Directions (April 2009)
- Shaping our District (November 2010).

4.3   Thus the Spatial Strategy has been developing since December 2007, when an 'Issues and Options' Core Strategy (CS) document was published for consultation. This identified 11 issues facing the District, along with 15 strategic objectives to address these issues. The SA process compared these issues with the Sustainability Framework Objectives, and also with the 15 strategic objectives of the CS. The Issues and Options Core Strategy (CS) document also identified a number of key topic areas as an initial stage of policy development and asked a series of questions on each. The key topic areas were: climate change; services and facilities; sustainable transport; housing; employment; built & historic environment; recreation, leisure, culture & tourism; and natural environment. The SA considered how these issues related to the sustainability objectives and identified where further evidence was required.

4.4   The 'Issues and Options' document incorporated four options for directing growth within the District. Due to the eco-town submission at Curborough a further option was also considered together with a do nothing option. The four options were as follows:

- **Option 1:** Town focused development (50% Lichfield, 20% Burntwood, 20% Tamworth, 10% Rugeley)

- **Option 2:** Town & key rural village focused development (40% Lichfield, 20% Burntwood, 40% between other sustainable settlements - Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Little Aston, Shenstone & Whittington)

- **Option 3:** Dispersed development (30% Lichfield, 15% Burntwood, 55% Rural Areas)

- **Option 4:** New Settlement Development (60% new settlement, 20% Lichfield, 10% Burntwood, 10% Rural Areas).

4.5   In addition two possible versions of a "do nothing" option were tested by the LSWG at this stage of the development of the spatial strategy: a 'do minimum' option, with little or no net new development (only replacement dwellings & conversions allowed) and a 'no change' option, where existing densities and greenfield allocations would be maintained and windfall development allowed - resulting in a modest increase in housing stock.

4.6   The full findings of the SA of the Issues & Options Core Strategy document can be found within the [Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA)](#). In brief the Option 3: Dispersed development was found to be the least sustainable option. This would result in the largest increase in car usage, provide the least opportunities for walking and cycling, and may also result in very few local amenities or service being delivered within communities, due to only small amounts of development being allocated to any one place.

4.7   Option 2: was found to be slightly more sustainable, but still scoring negative overall, was the option of town & key rural village focused development, where public transport is at a similar level of provision to areas on the edge of major settlements, and negative impacts were determined on the historic environment due to the greater number of village Conservation Areas that would be affected.

4.8   Option 4: the new settlement option scored better than options 2 & 3, as this option was found to have the greatest potential for the least impact upon the historic core of Lichfield City, although this would be dependent upon the exact location. Economies of scale for a new village meant that this option also scored well in relation to the potential for utilising renewable energy and for affordable housing provision, but very negatively for impacts upon wildlife and connectivity between habitats.

4.9   The SA demonstrated that Option 1, focusing more development within Lichfield City, scored better in sustainability terms than other options (especially when the direction of growth in South Lichfield is factored in) due to the good access to services and facilities within and around the city. The only potential negative impacts identified were in relation to biodiversity, as an increase in the number of people to Lichfield City may affect the SSSIs and also growth at Burntwood may impact negatively on Gentleshaw Common.

4.10   The results of this stage of the SA process identified a number of areas where the LSWG felt they were unable to answer questions satisfactorily due to lack of information. Further work was then undertaken for the evidence base which included: historic environment character analysis (HECA), affordable housing viability study, rural housing needs study, demographic information, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, updated employment profile, new information on crime, health and community participation, sport and recreation and improvements to public access to information & services.

4.11   In developing the spatial strategy transport evidence was commissioned in 2008, which included a Phase 1 Transport Appraisal, undertaken by Atkins on behalf of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to determine the most sustainable locations for strategic development in transport terms for Lichfield District. This work assisted in identifying the Preferred Option for the Core Strategy (as published in 'Preferred Options' December 2008). Accession analysis undertaken by SCC was analysed by Atkins to help identify the most sustainable locations across the District, and rank settlements within the district in terms of their relative sustainability.

4.12   The analysis of the various accessibility calculations built up a robust picture of those areas within the District that were more sustainable, in terms of access to key services using existing transport infrastructure. Ward level composite scores highlighted Lichfield City as most consistently having high accessibility scores, with the Fazeley Ward receiving a score that is within the second quartile. The majority of Burntwood had a third quartile level of accessibility with the exception of Chase Terrace which had greater access to essential services and facilities. Armitage with Handsacre Ward also fell within the third quartile. Journey time contour maps demonstrated that these areas experienced relatively short journey times to services. In addition these locations commonly had a number of the key services in their locality enabling residents to easily access these services through walking or using public transport. The analysis also highlighted that the rural areas of Lichfield District consistently received accessibility scores that fell within the bottom quartile.

4.13   Of the four options for directing growth incorporated within 'Issues and Options' document, the findings of this accessibility analysis supported Spatial Options 1: Town focused development and Option 2: Town and key rural village focused development. Thus sustainable development, in terms of access to services and facilities, would be challenging to deliver in the rural parts of the District as existing levels of public transport services are limited and few facilities are located there.

4.14   The study found it difficult to assess the potential sustainability of a new settlement using information for existing services and facilities, but noted that the scale of development for a new settlement would be sufficient to provide transport infrastructure and local facilities for the new residents.

4.15   In addition during 2007/2008 Lichfield District Council undertook a 'Sustainability of Rural Settlements Assessment'. The purpose of this study was to assess the sustainability of rural settlements within the District primarily using:

- data available on key facilities and services present within settlements - Post Offices, GP Surgery, Pharmacy, Dentist, Primary School, Community Hall and Pub;
- accessibility to other key services and facilities by means of public transport; and
- accessibility to employment, leisure, retail locations and hospitals by public transport.

4.16   The analysis suggested that there were a group of larger villages within the District with characteristics in terms of accessibility and facilities that suggested a degree of local sustainability in the context of rural living. The scoring suggests that these villages were Shenstone, Armitage with Handsacre, Alrewas, Fazeley, Whittington and Little Aston. However, even within these more 'sustainable settlements' there were other factors which contributed to the presence of and higher number of services and facilities - this can be seen in relation to Fazeley and Little Aston where there is a clear relationship with adjoining urban areas. The other more sustainable settlements arising out of this Study were typically the largest rural settlements in the District: Armitage, Alrewas, Whittington and Shenstone and as such these were considered able to support a certain number of services.

4.17   The study also highlighted five other settlements where the factors resulted in a positive scoring within the system used: Hopwas, Fradley, Kings Bromley, Streethay and Stonnall (in descending order of sustainability based on scoring). With the exception of

4 Background to Lichfield District Local Plan

Stonnall, the analysis of the matrix tables shows that all of these settlements scored poorly in relation to provision of services within the settlements themselves but scored highly in relation to accessibility to other key services and facilities as well as other urban destinations.

4.18   This study in addition to providing evidence which assisted in developing a hierarchy of settlements to inform a spatial strategy for the District, also assisted in the development of spatial strategies to improve the overall quality of life for the communities that live within them: now incorporated into the 'Local Plan: Strategy' place policies for the rural areas.

4.19   In December 2008 the District Council published and consulted upon its 'Preferred Options' for a spatial strategy, which was accompanied by the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA). The ICSSA appraised the options considered as part of the spatial strategy, and considered directions of growth around the main settlements, including options for cross-boundary housing delivery, as well as re-appraising the new settlement proposal at Curborough. Appendix i of the ICSSA sets out the scoring and orders the directions of growth/options from least to most impact, with the results as follows:

- South Lichfield, West Tamworth
- North Lichfield
- East Rugeley, East Lichfield (Streethay), Fradley
- Curborough New Settlement
- West Lichfield, South Burntwood (adjoining Burntwood)
- North Burntwood
- North Tamworth
- South Burntwood (including Hammerwich), Key Rural Settlements
- Dispersed Rural Settlements

4.20   The SA identified that there was still elements of evidence and information missing, these related to the design of the buildings, water efficiency, use of primary resources, employment (as this was a housing exercise), cumulative impacts of development on transport infrastructure, local retail needs, crime, and community involvement, due to this largely due to it being an assessment of locations which did not incorporate the details of design. An appraisal of the vision and strategic objectives was also completed. The detailed response is published in the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA). The LSWG found that spatially there was no one spatial option which would address all the sustainability framework objectives for the District and there was an over riding need for certain locally spatially significant issues to be addressed within the Core Strategy.

4.21   A 'Policy Directions' consultation was undertaken in April 2009, which included an amended preferred spatial strategy. The findings of the SA of the Policy Directions were considered alongside the SA of the draft policies set out in the 'Shaping our District' document and are summarised also within the Policies section of this document.

4.22   The 'Shaping our District' consultation document (November 2010) incorporated a revised preferred spatial strategy with Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) and a Broad Development Location (BDL) at Fradley for the delivery of key housing sites, together with a broad range of emerging policies. The settlement hierarchy and spatial distribution of housing growth was proposed as follows:

4.23   8,000 dwellings between 2006 & 2026 with approx. 41% of housing growth to Lichfield City, which included the development of two Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) to the South of Lichfield and to the East of Lichfield, at Streethay, in addition to the redevelopment or infilling of sites within the urban area.

4.24   Approximately 13% of the District's housing was apportioned to Burntwood, including a SDL to the East of Burntwood bypass.

4.25   To assist in meeting the housing needs of neighbouring towns approximately 14% of the District's housing was to be focused to the East of Rugeley, including a SDL on brownfield land at Rugeley Power Station. No housing growth was identified specifically to meet Tamworth Borough's needs.

4.26   Within the key rural settlements approximately 12% of housing growth was directed towards Fradley area, which included an SDL focused on the former Fradley airfield and a BDL and around a further 15% to be allocated between the remaining key rural settlements of Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Little Aston, Shenstone and Whittington.

4.27   The other rural areas were proposed to take 5% of housing growth in the District; either within village boundaries, through conversions or to meet identified local needs.

4.28   The findings of this stage of the SA are set out in 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' which found that overall the strategy proposed in 'Shaping our District' would have a generally positive impact upon the sustainability issues which had been identified in the Scoping Report.

4.29   Through feedback from the consultation exercise undertaken on the 'Shaping our District' document, findings of the SA process and further work with partners, stakeholders and communities the 'Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy' now includes a further revised spatial strategy with Strategic Development Allocations (SDAs, formerly SDLs) and a Broad Development Location (BDL) for land to the North of Tamworth. The document also includes revised policy wording and some new policies in the light of the NPPF and further work undertaken with rural communities.

4.30   The Local Plan comprises a Strategy and a Land Allocations document, with a number of supporting documents, which include:

Table 4.1 Local Plan & Supporting Documents

Local Development Documents	
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Local Plan Process
Statement of Community Involvement	
Local Plan:Strategy	Local Plan Policy
Local Plan:Land Allocations	
Neighbourhood Plans	
Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)	Interpretation and Guidance

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Local Development Documents	
Parish and Other Community Led Plans	
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Monitoring and Delivery
Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)	

4.31   The Lichfield District Local Plan will provide a framework for managing development, addressing key planning issues and guiding investment across the District to manage change to meet the needs of the current and future generations.
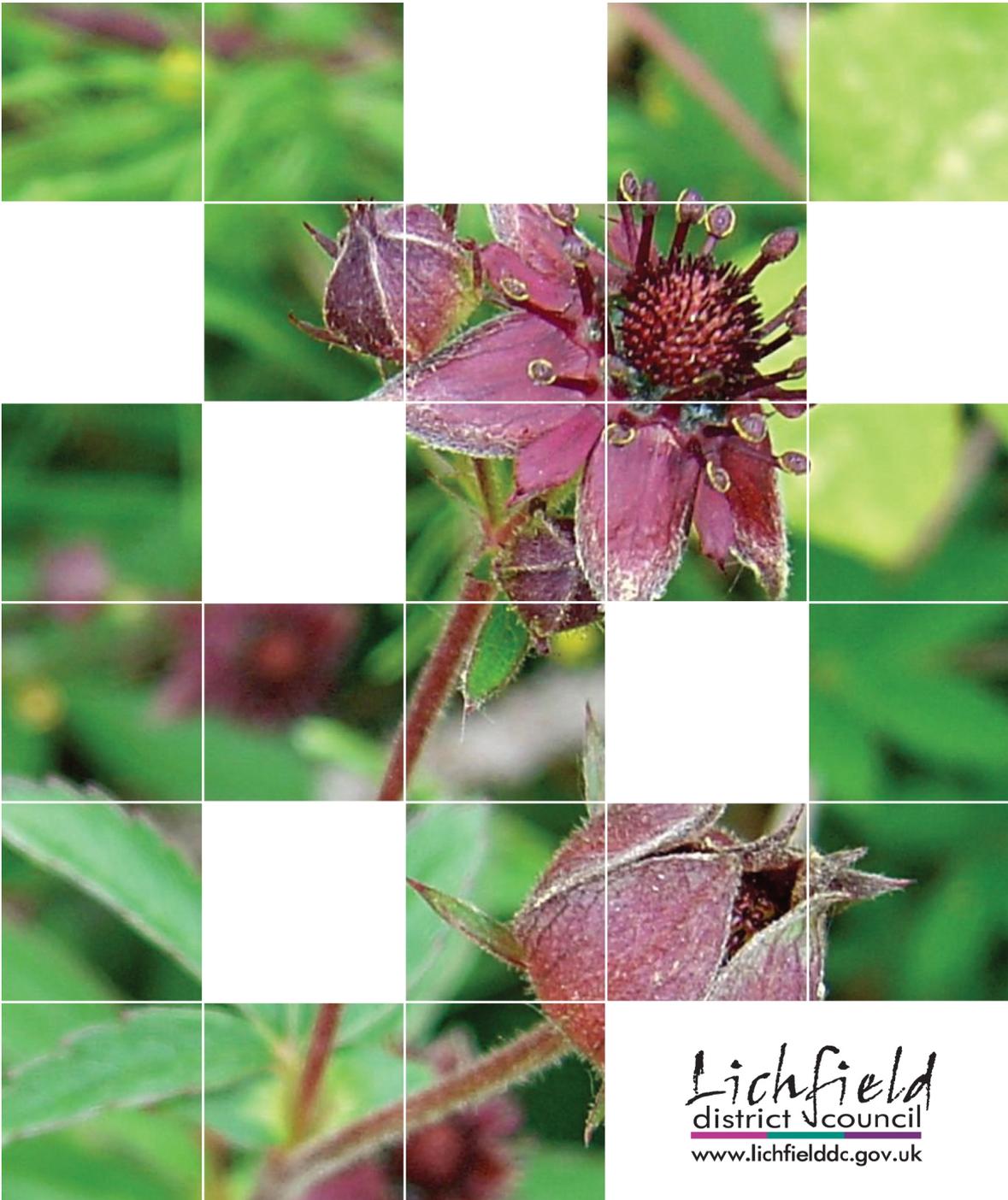
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5 Purpose and Approach to Sustainability Appraisal

5.1   The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability issues into the preparation and adoption of plans, and includes not just environmental considerations but social and economic impacts of plans. The process identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the plan's policies and proposals. It also appraises the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives of sustainable development and if mitigation is required.

5.2   To facilitate the Sustainability Appraisal the approach taken was to establish a multi-disciplinary working group, involving officers of Lichfield District Council and representatives from Staffordshire County Council, Environment Agency, Housing Association, and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. The Lichfield Sustainability Working Group (LSWG) was established in 2007 following a workshop which identified the issues which should be considered in the Scoping Report and thus determined the range of knowledge required to undertake the SA. The function of the group is to give wider consideration to sustainability issues in the District and to assist in the preparation of the Scoping Report and subsequent appraisal and re-appraisal of the development plan for Lichfield District.

5.3   During the preparation of the 'Local Plan: Strategy' membership of the group has changed and at times specific expertise has been invited to the meetings on matters such as economic development, sport, urban design and cross-boundary issues. Initially the approach taken was for members to appraise the proposals individually and then discuss the findings as a group. Following the publication of the 'Policy Directions' and the reappraisal of the spatial strategy the group has chosen to assess the proposals as a group due to the range of expertise and local knowledge needed to fully appraise the proposals now they are more complete. Not all members of the group are required to attend each meeting, and it is determined by the group if a judgement is made or deferred, in part, until specific members are available. During the process the group were not always able to attract the involvement of representatives from the health sector, sport and leisure. This has been addressed in part by the provision of further research in sport and leisure and more recently regular expertise has been added with regard to health, climate change, the voluntary sector and biodiversity.

5.4   It is considered that the working group approach has been beneficial, enabling flexibility and involvement of the relevant bodies throughout the entire preparation of the Local Plan. The group has been able to consider matters not only from the evidence gathered, but also has been able to draw upon local knowledge where matters of opinion and expert judgement have been required, which have then been discussed in the group situation with others whose knowledge and expertise is wider than that of the District.

Benefits and Limitations

5.5   The SA/SEA has provided an opportunity for early analysis and identification of data gaps in the evidence base. The early results changed as more information and detail became available through the process. However, it should be noted that the SA process only appraises the options proposed, and recommends those which are most sustainable; ultimately it is not the final arbiter of the chosen spatial strategy.

5.6   Due to the need for a simple scoring system it cannot differentiate easily between similar options and it also does not grade the sustainability framework objectives, or identify those which have greater importance locally.

5.7   The SA does not include considerations which are political or relate to the ambition of the District as a whole, but can be used to identify where these are in conflict with sustainability objectives and thus require those involved in the decision making process to justify their decisions. Some ambitions will require behavioural change and cultural change of the resident population and others outside the District. For example where these relate to a modal shift from the private car to using more sustainable means of transport this will require influences beyond just those of the Local Plan and may be difficult to achieve in a District where the numbers of elderly persons will steadily increase over the plan period. Such issues have often lead the SA group to be unable to determine effects.

5.8   Initially some data did not exist, which again meant that effects were impossible to determine in the early stages of the SA process. As the evidence base for the Local Plan has evolved further baseline data has been added, assisting the SA process, and this will enable more efficient monitoring. However it is recognised that some baseline data is out of date: notably the National Census Information is only published every 10 years, and thus the Local Plan relies on the 2001 Census data, with updated population projections where available. Information from the 2011 Census will be used to update the Local Plan, baseline data and monitoring framework when it becomes available.

5 Purpose and Approach to Sustainability Appraisal

6 Consultation

6.1   As part of the SEA Directive there is a statutory duty to consult the appropriate SEA consultation bodies, as designated by each of the EU member states. For England these are English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England. The District Council's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) requires that where possible relevant stakeholders and the local community are given an opportunity to assist in the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal.

6.2   The District Council began the SA process by preparing a Scoping Report in February 2007. A large multi-disciplinary meeting was held to identify the issues which affect Lichfield District and the identification of plans, policies and programmes which would influence the District in the the next 20 years and beyond. The first Scoping Report was published for consultation in June 2007 which helped inform an 'Issues' Document for the Core Strategy which was consulted upon in August 2007. Consultation on the Scoping Report was undertaken with neighbouring authorities, key stakeholders, those listed on the Consultee Database and statutory consultation bodies. The Scoping Report was made available to the public for comment via the District Council's web based consultation centre which sends out email alerts to all those registered as wishing to be advised of the publication of Local Plan documents, and at the time seven comments were received. Details of responses to the various stages of the SA process are included at Appendix C.

6.3   The results of the consultation, the addition of more information and subsequent changes which had been made to the Scoping Report were published in September 2007, made available via the District Council's website. The revised report was sent to the 3 statutory consultees for consideration and no comments were received. All the revisions made and results of consultation are documented in the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA) which was published for consultation in November 2008.

6.4   In December 2007 the District Council published its 'Issues and Options' document for consultation and the LSWG appraised this document. Feedback from the LSWG, which is detailed in the ICSSA, found that generally the Core Strategy was not in conflict with the Sustainability Framework Objectives (the objectives identified in the Scoping Report as of significance to Lichfield District). The LSWG appraised 5 potential options for growth of the District including a do nothing option, and commented on the 'Key Topic Options' and how these related to the Sustainability Framework Objectives; identifying a number of areas where further evidence was required and subesqunetly commissioned as a result.

6.5   In December 2008 the District Council published and consulted upon its 'Preferred Options' for a spatial strategy, which was accompanied by the ICSSA and meant all the statutory consultations bodies, all those on the consultee database, neighbouring authorities, and the public were notified and the document was at all of the deposit locations and was available for comment via the District Council's interactive website. The period of consultation was November 2008 to January 2009. Ten comments on the ICSSA were received and the results of the consultation were considered by the LSWG in April 2009. No changes to the ICSSA were considered necessary in response to the comments received, which are again set out at Appendix C.

6.6 In April 2009 the 'Policy Directions' document was published and although this document focused on policy options it did incorporate a revised spatial strategy. The findings of the LSWG on the Policy Directions document were reported directly to the Development Plan Team to assist in the redrafting of policies, and the outcomes of this are summarised in the Policies section of this report.

6.7 In November 2010 the 'Shaping our District' document was published accompanied by the 'Sustainability Appraisal :Shaping our District', which included the results of the SA of the 'Policy Directions'. Both documents were the subject of consultation and representations were made via the District Council's consultation centre. Four responses to this stage of the SA are also attached at Appendix C.

6.8 Further work by the LSWG has been undertaken to compare the spatial strategy and policies contained within the 'Local Plan: Strategy', and to determine the environmental, economic and social effects of the Proposed Submission document, as required by Part D of the SEA Directive.

6.9 The following diagram shows the timeline of the Local Plan and its relationship with the Sustainability Appraisal.

Picture 6.1 Local Plan Process
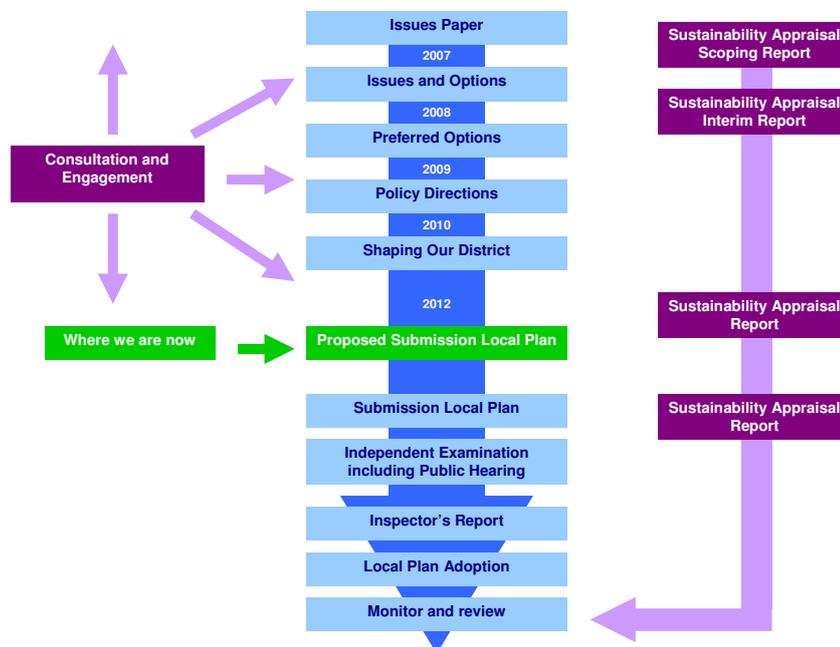
7 Compliance with SEA Directive

7.1   The SA Guidance published by the Government sets out the Requirements of the SEA Directive. To ensure all elements of the SEA Directive have been met the following table contains reference to where these have been addressed in this SA Report, Scoping Report, the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal or the Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District.

Table 7.1 Requirements of the SA Directive

| Requirements of the SEA Directive	Where covered in SA
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 4 and 8
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution there of without the implementation of the plan or Programme.	Section 9 and the ICSSA 5.39
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Section 9
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including in particular, those relating to areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC ("Wild Birds' Directive") and 92/43/EEC ("Habitats' Directive").	Section 9
e) the environmental protection objectives established at the International, Community or Member State level which are relevant to the plan or programmes and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Section 8, 10 & 21
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and interrelationship between the above factors.	Section 12, 13 and 15-20
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment when implementing the plan or programme.[i]	Section 15-20
h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know –how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Section 4 and 14
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10	Section 21
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Section 1

i   These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects
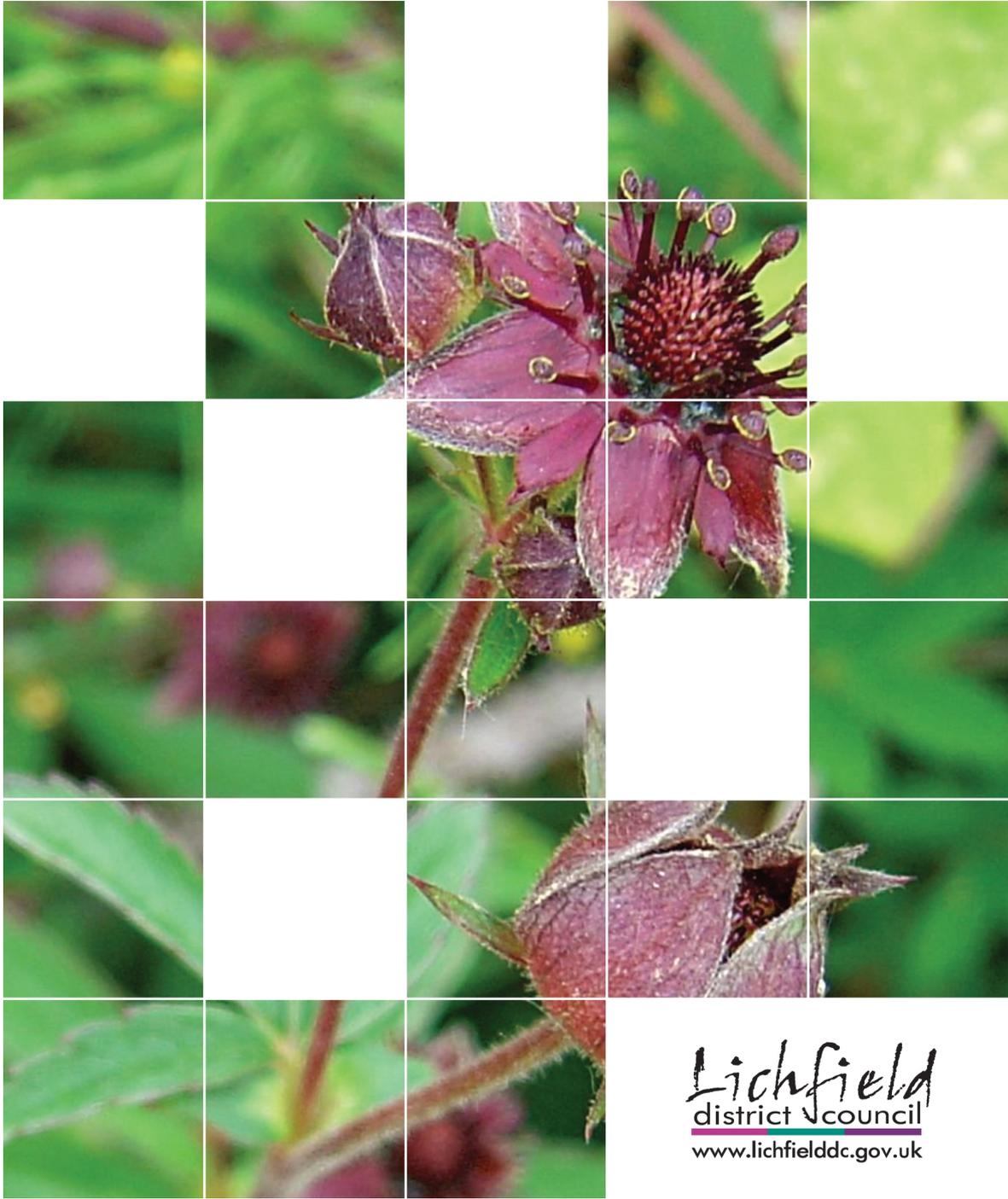
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district council
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8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.1 As part of the evidence gathering stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process a review of relevant plans, programmes and policies at international, national, regional and local level was undertaken. The review helped inform the SA process by identifying issues of relevance to the District and producing a set of sustainability objectives against which the Local Plan could be appraised and monitored. The list of documents reviewed and the analysis of the implications for the Local Plan is contained within the Scoping Report September 2007 Tables 3.1-3.4 and Appendix 1 and is available to view via the District Council's website.

8.2 Since the Scoping Report was produced, a number of additional plans, programmes and policy objectives have shaped the development of the 'Local Plan: Strategy'. Some of these have also been covered in the Scoping Report but are covered in some depth here due to their particular influence and to provide context. It should be noted that some of these are now defunct such as Planning Policy Guidance and Planning Policy Statements,and have been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

National influences: General

8.3 In addition to the overarching international and national context contained within the Scoping Report the key change has been the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and the subsequent implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework.

8.4 **The Localism Act 2011:** The Localism Bill gained Royal Assent on 15th November 2011. The Localism Act is intended to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. A radical reform of the planning system provides for the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies and returning decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils.

8.5 Key provisions of the Localism Act which have particular relevance to the Local Plan are:

- The abolition of Regional Strategies (although this has not yet happened in relation to the West Midlands Spatial Strategy);
- Duty to Co-operate: this requires local authorities and other public bodies to work together on planning issues;
- Neighbourhood Planning: which allows communities to prepare their own plans which - if found sound, and supported by a majority referendum vote - would become part of the statutory Local Plan;
- Community Right to Build: which allows communities to bring forward development proposals in line with minimum criteria;
- Reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (this has been consulted on although the outcomes of this are awaited: a 'meaningful proportion' of CIL will go directly to those communities / Parishes where development is taking place);
- Reforming the way Local Plans are made.

8.6 **National Planning Policy Framework:** The new National Planning Policy Framework, which came into force in March 2012 is designed to stimulate development whilst keeping vital environmental protections. It focuses upon a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and is intended to streamline and simplify the planning system. Where existing Local Plans are out of date (such as the 1998 Lichfield District Local Plan), policies which were 'saved' in 2007 will only carry weight in decision making where they are in line with the NPPF.

8.7 In terms of the presumption in favour of sustainable development the NPPF defines three key strands. These are (as set out in paragraph 7 of the NPPF):

- **An economic role**: contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;
- **A social role**: supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being;
- **An environmental role**: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.

8.8 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations came into force on 6th April 2012. These regulations set out the procedures which need to be followed in preparing a Local Plan (the regulations now refer to Local Plans rather than Local Development Frameworks).

8.9 In terms of developing a sound Local Plan, the NPPF (para. 48) states that to be sound a Local Plan must be:

- Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is practical to do so consistently with the presumption in favour of sustainable development;
- Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
- Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- Consistent with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the polices in the Framework.

Environment

Key national and international environmental influences

8.10 **Climate Change Act 2008:** Introduced a statutory target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels, with an interim target of 34% by 2020.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.11   EU Directive 2009/28/EC: Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources - the UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

8.12   The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009: Replaces the requirement for a Regional Spatial Strategy and Regional Economic Strategy with a Regional Strategy (RS) from April 2010. Climate change was identified as one of the main priorities for Regional Strategies. Following the outcome of a recent High Court decision Regional Spatial Strategies remain part of the development plan, but it is still the intention of the Government to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs) through the Decentralisation and Localism Bill.

8.13   The Energy Act 2008: Introduced powers for Feed-In Tariff (FiT) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHT) aimed at driving an increase in renewable energy capacity. These are operational from April 2010 and April 2011 respectively.

8.14   The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1982 (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004: The Act gives statutory protection to wild birds, their nests and eggs, certain wild plants, and animals including for example bats, great crested newts and some species of butterfly. The legislation also sets out the law for wildlife management, the introduction of native species and managing designated sites.

8.15   EU Water Framework Directive: The Water Framework Directive, which came into force in 2000, established an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.

8.16   The Directive sets objectives to protect particular uses of the water environment from the effects of pollution and to protect the water environment itself from especially dangerous chemical substances. The new objectives are broader ecological objectives, designed to protect and, where necessary, restore the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems themselves, and thereby safeguard the sustainable use of water resources. One of the requirements is that all watercourses should be of 'good' status, and in order to do this, whole catchments are to be considered. The Directive therefore introduces a river basin management planning system which will be the key mechanism for ensuring the integrated management of: groundwater; rivers; canals; lakes; reservoirs; estuaries and other brackish waters; coastal waters; and the water needs of terrestrial ecosystems that depend on groundwater, such as wetlands.

8.17   The planning system is seen to provide the decision-making framework when setting environmental objectives, providing new opportunities for anyone to become actively involved in shaping the management of river basin districts and their neighbouring river catchments. Lichfield District affects the large river basin of the Humber, and more directly the larger river catchments of the Tame and Trent.

8.18   EU Habitats Directive: The EU Habitats Directive is the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive takes into account endangered species and habitats on a European scale, and therefore not all of the species are relevant to the habitats and conditions expected to be found in the UK. Animals covered by European legislation include species of bat, newt, frog, butterfly and otter. Plants covered by European legislation include orchid, fern and marshwort. The Habitats Directive also designates areas as Special Areas

of Conservation (SAC), due to the presence of protected species. Lichfield District has one Special Area of Conservation, the River Mease, and two more nearby at Cannock Chase and Cannock Extension Canal. The EU Habitats Directive also requires a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken in relation to proposed development.

8.19   The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010: Species afforded protection by the Habitats Directive are also listed in 'The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (UK).' The Regulations state the legislative provision for the management of protected sites and species, as well as enforcement powers.

National Policy: environmental

8.20   The National Planning Policy Framework (2012): This makes the following provisions in relation to the environment (of relevance to the District) of which the 'resumption in favour of sustainable development' is the overarching theme:

- Importance is attached to Green Belts and 'once established Green Belt Boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, through the preparation or review of the Local Plan';
- Local authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change including energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources and factors such as flood risk, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape;
- Plans should contribute to, and enhance the natural and local environment by:

    - Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interest and soils;
    - Recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
    - Minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible including establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resistant to current and future pressures;
    - Preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability;
    - Remediating and mitigation despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land where appropriate.

- Paragraph 119 of the NPPF states that the presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development requires appropriate assessment under the Birds or Habitats Directives is being considered , planned or determined.
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, taking into account:

    - the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
    - the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;

8 Links to other plans and programmes

- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

- Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals.

8.21 Given that the NPPF has only recently played a role in shaping the development of the Local Plan: Strategy, the role of the (now defunct) PPG's and PPS's must also be acknowledged. These are summarised as follows.

8.22 Planning Policy Statement 1 (Sustainable Development): Of specific relevance here were the principles of protection and enhancement of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources. The supplement to PPS 1, 'Planning and Climate Change' was published in 2007 and sets out the Government's strategy for delivering sustainable development in the context of climate change. The priorities for this strategy were reducing emissions, delivering low carbon infrastructure, conserving and enhancing biodiversity, whilst at the same time supporting the needs of businesses and communities.

8.23 Draft Planning Policy Statement (Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate): This draft PPS was out for consultation between March 2010 and 1st June 2010. It pulled together the supplement to PPS1 'Planning and Climate Change' and PPS 22 'Renewable Energy', with the proposal that it will form a consolidated supplement to PPS 1 'Sustainable Development.' The reason for the publication was due to the significant progress in legislation and policy with regard to climate change, including the Climate Change Act 2008 and the EU Directive 2009/28/EC.The draft PPS contained strengthened guidance and gave strong support for low carbon planning, including decentralised energy (i.e. district heating schemes), renewable energy schemes and infrastructure for electric and plug-in hybrid cars.

8.24 In terms of Local Development Frameworks (as they were then known), the draft PPS stated that Local Planning Authorities should set out how new developments should be planned to avoid significant vulnerability to impacts arising from changes in the climate, and that, where appropriate, suitable adaptation measures be employed to provide sufficient resilience. It stated that Local Planning Authorities should also plan green infrastructure in order to support local biodiversity, healthy living environments, urban cooling, local flood risk management and local access to shaded outdoor space. Green infrastructure was expected to play a large role in future development to ensure the positive results as described above.

8.25 Draft Planning Policy Statement (Planning for a Natural & Healthy Environment): The draft PPS 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment' ran for consultation between March 2010 and 1st June 2010. It considered the policy framework for the natural environment, green infrastructure, open space, sport, recreation and play, which wass inextricably linked to the natural resources of Lichfield District.

8.26 The draft PPS stated that the quality of the built environment could have significant impacts on a wide range of social issues including crime, health, education, inclusion, community cohesion and wellbeing. It could also, in part, help to address many health challenges such as obesity, by promoting walking, cycling and jogging. The draft PPS

proposed specific national policy for green infrastructure for the first time, highlighting the many benefits it can offer. The importance of green infrastructure is stressed for flood water storage, sustainable drainage, urban cooling and local access to shaded outdoor space. Other benefits included the provision of habitats, green corridors for species movement and migration which could also include the response to climate change. Trees were described as having an important role in delivering the aforementioned benefits, as well as a more social role in creating attractive sustainable communities. Open space was described as having similar social benefits by providing an opportunity for social interaction in a green and healthy environment.

8.27   The local planning policy approach should be to create, protect and manage networks of green infrastructure, as well as provide high quality, multi-functional open space, sport and recreation facilities. The draft PPS clearly stated that Local Planning Authorities should plan to locate sports and recreation facilities in, or on the edge of, towns to attract a significant number of participants. This policy guidance would have then impacted on the natural resources within the District, ensuring that there is a greater use of green infrastructure and amenity green space improving the scope for urban cooling, species migration and habitat creation.

8.28   **Planning Policy Statement 9 (Biodiversity & Geological Conservation):** PPS 9 set out the overarching national policy for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity with specific focus on the restoration and enhancement of natural assets. There was a focus on the need for a clear understanding of the local distinctiveness and character of an area in order to make area specific judgements on proposals for the future.

8.29   The natural environment benefits from a range of legislative protection on a European, national and local level. It was seen to be important that appropriate consideration was given to the hierarchy of these designations, without being to the detriment of non-designated sites or species.

8.30   PPS 9 also payed specific attention to ancient woodland, veteran trees, biodiversity corridors and habitat protection, all of which must be considered early in the development plan making process. Guidance stressed the importance of managing all landscapes positively, with a need to develop resilient landscapes with strengthened ecological networks and linkages.

8.31   **Planning Policy Statement 7 (Sustainable Development in Rural Areas):** PPS 7 dealt with a range of issues including the rural economy and tourism, but had specific relevance in relation to agriculture as a natural resource. One of the priorities stated in the PPS was to promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where farming achieved high environmental standards, minimised the impact on natural resources, and managed valued landscapes and biodiversity. Traditional land based activities should be supported through policy, and farmers should be supported to become more environmentally friendly.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.32   PPS 7 gave weight to the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside, and specifically Areas of Natural Beauty (applies to a portion of the Cannock Chase AONB within Lichfield District). Also in accordance with statutory designations, specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value should be conserved.

8.33   The PPS acknowledged the importance of locally valued landscapes, and gave the provision for local policy documents to make 'Local Landscape Designations' using tools such as Landscape Character Assessments. 'Local Landscape Designations' were seen as useful in enabling suitable protection without compromising acceptable sustainable development and economic activity.

8.34   Agricultural land classifications should also be considered to ensure that higher levels of protection were afforded to higher quality land. Preference should be given therefore to development of land of poorer quality first, i.e. Grade 3b agricultural land or lower.

8.35   **Planning Policy Statement 23 (Planning and Pollution Control):** this covered risks to health from pollution and contaminated land relating to development, and the methods for dealing with this through the development management process.

8.36   **Planning Policy Statement 25 (Planning and Flood risk):** Health, safety and wellbeing issues arise from flooding or the risk of flooding.

Other Bodies/ Policies / Plans and Strategies: environmental

8.37   The work and objectives of other relevant bodies and policies have been taken into consideration in the formulation of the Local Plan: Strategy, and where appropriate, consultation and partnership working has occurred.

- The 'Housing Growth and Green Infrastructure Strategy' (June 2009) was produced by Natural England to assist in design and site selection. It is split into three main priorities, stating that;

  - the most environmentally sustainable locations should be found for new housing development;
  - assessments of environmental capacity should be central to decisions on future development and;
  - the environmental quality of all new housing development should be substantially improved by the use of green infrastructure for example.

  The principles, as set out in this strategy, need to be reflected in the formulation of local policies, ensuring proper regard to environmental issues. Natural England have been involved in the formulation of Lichfield District's LDF, advising on the spatial strategy as well as policy wording.

- The Environment Agency has begun work on River Catchment Management Plans for both the River Tame and River Trent which run through Lichfield District. The aims of the River Catchment Management Plans fit in to the wider aims of the larger River Basin Management Plans which have a multi purpose objective of both improving water quality

in order to meet the targets of the EU Water Framework Directive, as well as improving the management of water ensuring greater resilience to drought and floods. The aims of these management plans must therefore be supported in local policy.

- The Forestry Commission works towards the Delivery Plan 2008-2012 for England's Trees, Woods and Forests, following on from the publication of the Government's Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests in 2007. The five aims are as follows:

  - to provide a sustainable resource of trees;
  - to ensure that all trees are resilient to the impacts of climate change and contribute to biodiversity and natural resources adjusting to a changing climate;
  - to protect the cultural and amenity value of trees and woodlands as well as the resources of water, air, biodiversity and landscape as a whole;
  - to increase the contribution that trees and woodlands make to England's quality of life;
  - to promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products, and improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses.

  Local policy must support these aims. The benefits of trees and woodlands are recognised within the District as positively contributing to human quality of life and amenity value, as well as to natural processes resulting in improved biodiversity, air quality, and water management.

8.38   UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP): The UK Biodiversity Partnership runs the UKBAP which describes the biological resources of the UK and provides detailed plans for conservation of these resources, at national and devolved levels. Local Biodiversity Action Plans have been established throughout the country and the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan is relevant to Lichfield District (also referred to in the Local Policy Development chapter).

8.39   Biodiversity Planning Toolkit: A pilot version of an interactive landscape mapping toolkit was launched in August 2010 which aims to provide clear information of relevant designations and the species which may be present. The toolkit is also intended to provide users with easy access to all of the information that provides the statutory and policy framework for the conservation of biodiversity and geodiversity in the United Kingdom. The toolkit may become an important tool during the plan period (2008 - 2028), helping to ensure applicants are aware of any potential biodiversity and geodiversity issues at the early stages of the development process.

8.40   The Low Carbon Transition Plan: Published in July 2009, sets out a national strategy for climate change and energy and the Renewable Energy Strategy, also published in July 2009 sets out how the UK will reduce emissions and meet targets on renewables. It also announced the establishment of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED).

8.41   The Household Energy Management Strategy: Published in March 2010 places greater emphasis on planning to facilitate district heating schemes and other community-scale energy schemes.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.42   Zero Carbon Homes: Meeting the zero carbon standard will involve a combination of energy efficiency measures, use of decentralised energy and a range of "allowable solutions".

8.43   Climate Change Projections: Updated in 2009 by the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP - UKCP09) sets out three global emission scenarios based on high, medium and low forecasts for a range of climate and weather related impacts, such as temperature, rainfall, flooding and other extreme weather events.

Regional influences: environmental

8.44   Whilst the Localism Act 2011 makes provision for the abolition of Regional Spatial strategies (RSS), these were a key influence through much of the preparation of the Local Plan: strategy or Core strategy as it was then known). It is therefore important that these influences are acknowledged.

8.45   Adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (Jan 2008): The adopted Regional Spatial Strategy acknowledged that it had a responsibility to help achieve national targets for the reduction of greenhouse gases. A number of mechanisms for responding to climate change were included, all of which are also relevant locally. These were: promoting a more sustainable pattern of development which reduces the need to travel and encouraging the use of more sustainable forms of transport (Policies T1 & T2); encouraging the use of sustainable drainage systems (Policy QE9); increasing tree cover (Policy QE8); promoting the use of renewable materials (Policies M3 & WD1); supporting new industries and technologies that address climate change, and encouraging renewable energy and energy conservation (Policies EN1 & EN2).

8.46   The proposed policy on energy generation (EN1), included within the RSS, sought to encourage proposals for the use of renewable energy resources through development plans, subject to an assessment of their impact against listed criteria, which included impact on the landscape, visual amenity and areas of ecological or historic importance and the impact on surrounding residents and other occupiers, amongst many others. The RSS recognised that the location of renewable energy facilities is a cross-boundary issue and advocated a strategic approach to identifying unacceptable and preferred areas for particular sources of energy.

8.47   RSS Policy EN2: Energy Conservation recommended that development plans should minimise energy demands from development, and encourage sustainable construction techniques and energy efficiency of design. This advice has now been embodied within nationally prescribed sustainable buildings standards; namely the Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) and BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) and further guidance on local requirements for sustainable buildings is also contained within PPS1 Supplement.

8.48   RSS Phase Two Preferred Options & Panel Report: The RSS for the West Midlands, Phase Two Revision Draft Preferred Option was published in December 2007, and highlighted the importance of climate change for the Region by including "new" policies on this issue at

the beginning of the document. Four new cross-cutting "Sustainable Region" policies were therefore proposed relating to climate change, sustainable communities, sustainable construction and improving air quality for sensitive ecosystems.

8.49   The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Report of the Panel into the Examination in Public (EiP) (September 2009) included changes to the four 'Sustainable Region' policies to reflect the then latest national policy guidance on climate change and other aspects of sustainable development. The aim was to provide an updated, over-arching policy framework for the RSS policies, many of which were not proposed for revision in Phase Two, but were due to be dealt with under the Phase Three revision.

8.50   Policy SR1: Climate Change focused on guidance relating to mitigation and adaptation through developing renewable energy supplies, reducing the need to travel, reducing the amount of biodegradable waste going to landfill and enhancing, linking and extending habitats. The policy also required all new development, and retro-fitting of existing development to minimise resource demand. Other requirements included climate-proofing developments, avoiding development in flood zones and using sustainable drainage techniques. The policy also advocated facilitating low-carbon transport methods and effective waste management, protecting, conserving, managing and enhancing natural, built and historic assets in both urban and rural areas; and enhancing, linking and extending natural habitats as part of green infrastructure provision, as well as advising that sustainability targets should be included in Local Development Documents to cover all aspects mentioned above.

8.51   RSS Policy SR2: Creating and Maintaining Sustainable Communities set out requirements to ensure that local authorities adopt a holistic approach to spatial planning. These included providing for a variety of housing needs; new employment generating activities to create wealth within the community and creating attractive, well-designed, adaptable, safe and secure developments.   The policy also focused on sustainability principles for regeneration; providing necessary services and social infrastructure and a comprehensive green infrastructure network; facilitating and supporting public transport infrastructure and low-carbon forms of transport, as well as the environmental infrastructure needed to support new development, such as a larger scale renewable and decentralised energy generation, including combined heat and power, and community heating systems, sewerage infrastructure, sewage treatment works, sustainable drainage systems, water treatment, reuse and recycling of waste, resource recovery facilities and soft and hard infrastructure needed for flood risk management.

8.52   Policy SR3: Sustainable Design & Construction was aimed at ensuring that all new buildings are designed and constructed to the highest possible environmental standards, working towards the achievement of carbon neutral developments. One mechanism recommended was to ensure that Design and Access Statements included a sustainability statement that has regard to the contents of the West Midlands Sustainability Checklist. The policy also advocated using the CABE Building for Life requirements, and suggested that Local Planning Authorities, in preparing their DPDs, should consider whether there is local justification for acceleration of progress towards securing zero-carbon development at an earlier date than required under national policy, to include an assessment of the viability of development. This guidance was either already incorporated within the (then) PPS1 Supplement, or proposed to be included within the draft 'Planning for a Low Carbon Economy in a Changing Climate' referred to previously.

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8.53   The environmental standards referred to in Policy SR3 also included considerations of waste management, promoting the use of local and sustainable sources of materials, and the preparation of Site Waste Management Plans, to ensure that at least 25% of the total minerals used derives from recycled and reused content. In addition the policy required Local Authorities to ensure that provision is included for waste management and recycling, including adequate space provision within buildings for appropriate storage or sorting of materials for recycling.

8.54   Policy SR3 also sought to ensure that all development adopted a sustainable approach to water resources, water quality, drainage and surface water management, in accordance with other policies of the RSS - Policy QE9 and QE10, which are briefly examined under consideration of the RSS Phase Three Revision. Development of local policy on issues relating to water within the District have been heavily influenced by recent local evidence in the form of a Water Cycle Study and Surface Water Management Plan.

8.55   The RSS also included a policy within the 'Sustainable Region' section designed to safeguard the integrity of European Sites (Policy SR4), ensuring compliance with the Habitats Directive. The policy gave guidance in relation to air and water quality issues and also water supply issues identified by the Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs).

8.56   Policy UR1: 'Implementing Urban Renaissance - the MUAs.' This policy focused on the Major Urban Areas, the RSS stated that the principle of sustainable regeneration should be applied to any redevelopment of urban areas. The principles included the theme of rejuvenating urban centres to act as a focus for regeneration, whilst also conserving the historic environment, undertaking environmental improvements (including greening programmes), and raising the quality of urban design, architecture, public art and spaces.

8.57   Policy UR3: 'Enhancing the role of City, Town and District Centres.' This policy expanded upon the themes as set out in Policy UR1, also reiterating the need for local distinctiveness in accordance with the function of particular centres, whilst enhancing the existing character and identity of centres.

8.58   Policy CF5: 'The re-use of land and buildings for housing,' reiterates the importance of effectively utilising brownfield land, whilst Policy CF6: 'Making efficient use of land,' reiterated the importance of effectively utilising all land by maximising density. In terms of housing however, the requirement for a minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare was removed from 'Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing' by the Coalition Government in June 2010.

8.59   **RSS Phase Three Revision:** The Phase Three Revision to the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy, dealt with all matters relating to the quality of the environment and underwent an Options Consultation in 2009. Topics consulted upon included 'environment' with the intended purpose of updating and aligning the existing quality of the environment policies to ensure consistency with current national guidance. More specifically, the Phase Three Revision sought to replace Policy QE1 'Conserving and Enhancing the Environment', with a new policy entitled 'Integrated Approach to the Management of Environment Resources'; and to replace Policy QE3 'Creating a High Quality Built Environment for All' by policies SR2 and SR3 as detailed previously.

8.60 The Integrated Approach to the Management of Environmental Resources (Policy QE1): The RSS Phase Three recommended policy approach was for an overarching environmental policy which would articulate a vision for the environment for positive enhancement and environmental gain, and which would promote the contribution that the environment can make towards the creation of sustainable communities. Key integrating themes were recommended to ensure multi-functional benefits:

- ensure positive environmental enhancement and net environmental gain;
- promote the social and economic benefits of a high quality environment including image, health and well-being, and minimising environmental inequality;
- promote a landscape scale approach to environmental assets, utilising characterisation techniques and green infrastructure.

8.61 Policy QE2 'Restoring Degraded Areas and Managing & Creating High Quality New Environments': This policy was largely concerned with the enhancement of brownfield land for regeneration purposes, recognising the benefit of utilising the land for green infrastructure, flood risk management and biodiversity.

8.62 Policy QE4 'Greenery, Urban Greenspace & Public Spaces': There was a call for a greater emphasis on green infrastructure and the wider sustainability benefits that green infrastructure can deliver, especially in areas of deprivation.

8.63 Policy QE5 'Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment': The policy emphasised the historic environment as a finite and non-renewable resource. There was also a call to underline the importance of the undesignated historic environment as a resource and to therefore consider historic landscapes and townscapes as a whole. Here it was also recognised that the historic environment contributes to local distinctiveness, sense of place, tourism, leisure, educational and cultural activities, the economy and sustainability, and therefore it is also important to understand what local communities value in the historic environment and why. The management of change must therefore be implemented in a way that sustains heritage values and respects local character and distinctiveness.

8.64 Policy QE6 'The Conservation, Enhancement & Restoration of the Region's Landscape': This policy was intended to refer to the European Landscape Convention as a context for managing landscapes. A positive management of the landscape was seen as important making reference to geodiversity, townscapes and local distinctiveness. There are strong cross overs in terms of landscape between the built environment and natural resources, and therefore the policies must compliment each other to deliver a enhanced landscape. The policy also made reference to the importance of tranquility, by the management of noise and light pollution.

8.65 Policy QE7 'Protecting, Managing and Enhancing the Region's Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation Resources': This policy also stated the need to take a holistic view of the natural environment by considering landscape and building resilient natural systems that are well linked.

8.66 Policy QE8 'Forestry and Woodlands': This policy raised the importance of enhanced forestry management with an understanding of the different needs of forestry in rural and urban areas. Overarching priorities of woodland creation and the protection and enhancement

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of ancient woodland were reiterated. Additionally the issue of using wood fuel for renewable heat and energy was highlighted for consideration within the policy revision and the potential for this was considered within an assessment of biomass capacity within the Staffordshire Renewables Study.

8.67   Policy QE9 'The Water Environment': The policy revision suggested embedding the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans. In terms of flood prevention there was a call for better ground and surface water management through sustainable drainage techniques to help mitigate diffuse pollution, reduce flood risk and contribute to biodiversity and amenity. There was also a suggestion to require all Local Authorities to prepare Water Cycle Studies in partnership with the Environment Agency.

8.68   Protection of Agricultural Land: The WMRSS Phase Three Revision suggested a recommendation to include a specific policy on the protection of agricultural land. Agricultural land was recognised as a resource that is important for food generation, energy crops and biodiversity, as well as the wider sustainability benefits such as contribution to flood risk management.

8.69   Air Quality: Again a specific policy on air quality was recommended to be added to the RSS to include links to congestion reduction and public transport provision. Air Quality as a natural resource is largely affected by vehicle emissions and therefore the modal shift away from carbon intensive forms of travel will promote wider benefits of good air quality for human health.

8.70   Safeguarding Mineral Resources and Future Brick Clay Provision: The RSS Phase Three Revision had an objective of developing a policy for the safeguarding of brick clays, natural building and roofing stone, aggregates, minerals and minerals related infrastructure, in line with the national objective for mineral planning which is "to safeguard mineral resources as far as possible." Safeguarding is a process necessary to ensure that mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised by other development, leaving insufficient supplies for future generations. The RSS recognised that policies also need to take into account wider environmental policy issues, such as minimising carbon emissions and reducing the demand for transport. The Minerals Core Strategy is being prepared by Staffordshire County Council, and recommends designating local Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs).

8.71   **Interim Policy Statements & Policy Recommendations:** The RSS Phase Three Revision, RSS Phase Three Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations were published in March 2010. Although these Policy Statements do not now carry any weight, the background paper made the following recommendations based on evidence and consultation responses to the RSS Phase Three Consultation.

- Recognise the importance of brownfield land, especially in the role of green infrastructure;
- There should be a stronger emphasis on green infrastructure;
- Continue the use of Landscape Characterisation Assessments;
- Strengthen references to tranquillity, noise and light pollution;
- Promote the need to develop resilient landscapes, at the same time ensuring the adaptation to climate change;

- Ensure that benefits for biodiversity are captured from housing and other growth proposals;
- Opportunities mapping - collating information on existing and proposed habitat locations. This can also be extended to trees and woodland;
- Recognise the role trees and forestry play in embracing climate change adaptation and mitigation.

8.72 **West Midlands Sustainability Checklist:** Working on a similar principle to the National Building for Life Criteria, the Sustainability Checklist was a detailed assessment on sustainability undertaken at the design and application stage. There were 8 component categories with a series of questions in each. To distinguish, Building for Life focused on new housing schemes and developments whereas the Checklist took a fuller understanding of the locality and addressed the whole scheme design of any development and how it fits within the surrounding area. The Sustainability Checklist aimed to ensure positive outcomes for development ensuring that factors such as green infrastructure, biodiversity, trees, water management, and landscaping were taken in to account early in the development process.

8.73 **West Midlands Environmental Priorities Review (July 2010):** Undertaken by the West Midlands Leaders Board and Advantage West Midlands, the work was commissioned before the announcement that the RSS would be abolished through the emerging Localism agenda. The project steering group however felt that the study remained useful, in that there remained a need for a strategic approach to prioritising environmental issues in the Region. It was felt that the results of the study could be used in the future policy development. Those elements of relevance to natural resources are summarised below:

- Environmental assets and resources, both natural and cultural, are best managed according to their own spatial geography i.e. river catchments;
- Joint working between Local Authorities is essential for tackling many environmental issues e.g. feasibility of renewable energy infrastructure, provision of green infrastructure and planning of water quality and supply.

8.74 These recommendations were addressed through the joint studies undertaken by the Southern Staffordshire Authorities such as the water cycle Study for example and the involvement with plans and strategies that do not follow Local Authority boundaries such as River Basin Management Plans, the Central Rivers Initiative and the Biodiversity Enhancement Area.

8.75 There was also a recommendation to promote a landscape based approach to the restoration, conservation and enhancement of the region's current and future landscapes. It was suggested that this could be achieved using GIS tools such as 'Opportunities Mapping' and green infrastructure plans. This work would also help to achieve the aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity in the region.

Local environmental influences

8.76 **A Plan for Lichfield District 20212 - 2016:** has a number of environmental objectives under the strategic heading 'we'll shape place'. This includes:

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- Enhancing and protecting the District's built environment assets, its historic environment, open spaces and local distinctiveness;
- Ensuring a cleaner and greener environment;
- Providing sustainable transport choices;
- Reducing carbon emissions and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy.

8.77   The Lichfield District Strategic Partnership's Carbon Reduction Plan 2012 / 2013: This contains the following vision:

- To work towards a District which, whilst it is prosperous, also works to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and to reduce its carbon emissions.

8.78   It aims to achieve this vision by:

- Reducing CO2 emissions from buildings, vehicles, services and activities throughout the district, starting with our own.
- Ensure that all buildings and services are resilient to changing climate impacts over coming decades.
- Encouraging developers to design and build new developments to minimise carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels and take into account other aspects of changing climate such as extreme weather and flooding.
- Acting as a community lead to advise and support local residents, businesses and other partners in contributing to the above.

8.79   Sustainable Community Strategy (Staffordshire) (2006 - 2021): The Staffordshire Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) acts as the overarching strategy for the County. The Staffordshire Partnership's vision is 'to improve the quality of life for all our people,by increasing economic prosperity, improving local services, and developing partnership working.' The Partnership also states that sustainable development is at the heart of the Community Strategy with an aim to ensure Staffordshire continues to be renowned for its quality environment. The Strategy goes on to state that 'for this to be the case, we will need to work to minimise the threats to the natural environment, with a particular focus on climate change. By building on the work we have done in this area, we all, as individuals,organisations and as a County, will have the opportunity to be forerunners in the adaptation and mitigation of measures to tackle climate change, and in ensuring Staffordshire continues to be a place enjoyed by all who live, work and study in it.'

8.80   Lichfield District Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2006 - 2021: This was a key influence during much of the period during which the Local plan was formulated although it has now been superseded by the Plan for Lichfield District. The original SCS had the following vision 'to continuously improve the quality of life for people, both now and in future generations, who live in, work in, and visit Lichfield District.' Priorities of the SCS identified by surveys and community forums were:

- Tackling climate change;
- Protecting and promoting biodiversity and our built heritage;
- Promoting long-term environmental well-being;
- Raising environmental awareness in the community and championing sustainable development throughout the District.

8.81 Locally Important Designations & Schemes: There are a number of locally important designations and schemes which have had a key influence on shaping policy at the local level and these are detail in the following paragraphs.

8.82 Biodiversity Enhancement Area: The identification of the 'Cannock Chase to Sutton Park Biodiversity Enhancement Area' (BEA) was undertaken by Natural England, the Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB, primarily for the significant lowland heath landscape that has become fragmented over time. The aims of the BEA are to protect, enhance and restore the landscape including the management of designated sites and the creation of new sites.

8.83 This work has led to 'Opportunity Mapping', which uses GIS based programs as a tool to assess the fragmentation of the landscape. Lichfield District Council supports the general principle of 'Opportunity Mapping' to improve the understanding of ecosystems and identify opportunities for improvement.

8.84 Sites of Biological Importance: A Site of Biological Importance (SBI) is designated on a County level and is non-statutory. Staffordshire County Council is one of three County Councils in the UK who use SBIs as a means of a protecting sites through policy, in association with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Sites are selected using a number of attributes that include; habitat type, diversity and rarity of the species present, and site naturalness. SBIs are important as they are locally designated and have great meaning to the local landscape.

8.85 Forest of Mercia: The Forest of Mercia is a community project, and one of ten Community Forests across England. It lies between Penkridge and the west of Lichfield, and Walsall and Cannock Chase. The main aim of the Forest of Mercia is to provide improved access to natural environments for people living within the urban area, and as part of this, tree planting is a priority to increase woodland coverage and improve linkages between other natural areas of wetland, grassland and healthland. Trees are seen to improve the environmental quality of both urban and rural areas; provide key habitats for species; and help to mitigate against the effects of climate change. The community aspect of the Forest of Mercia ensures education facilities are available for local people and the Innovation Centre at Chasewater is a main focus for this.

8.86 Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP): The SBAP identifies priority habitats and species, sets targets for their conservation and outlines the mechanisms for achieving these targets. Local policy must support these targets not only to meet UK and European targets but in order to enhance biodiversity throughout Lichfield District.

8.87 The National Forest: The National Forest is a national project for woodland creation, tourism and economic revival of former mining communities, in the areas approximately between Burton upon Trent and Loughborough. A small section of The National Forest falls within the northern portion of Lichfield District, at the settlements of Alrewas, Edingale and Croxall. Notably, the National Memorial Arboretum, to the east of Alrewas, is part of The National Forest, and is also a national centre for remembrance and commemoration. The National Forest Company has published a Design Charter (July 2010), which pulls together examples of sustainable construction and design principles recommended for development within the Forest. The aims of The National Forest have been taken into consideration through

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the Local Plan: Strategy in order to ensure the continued success of this national scheme. The wider benefits of tree planting and sustainable design will also be recognised throughout all new developments in the District.

8.88   **Central Rivers Initiative:** The Central Rivers Initiative is a partnership scheme with a vision to protect and enhance the river corridor of the rivers Tame and Trent between the urban areas of Tamworth and Burton upon Trent. A large portion of land lying to the east of the District is included within the Central Rivers Initiative area, an area which is also used for mineral and gravel extraction due to the alluvial deposits. The Initiative aims to link up existing natural environments to create a distinctive landscape of high environmental value that benefits local residents and people visiting and working in the area and generate significant positive economic impact.

8.89   **Local Evidence Base:** The local evidence base has played a fundamental role in shaping the 'Local Plan: Strategy'. Key elements of this in relation to environmental influences are outlined in the following paragraphs.

8.90   **Ecological Assessment of Lichfield District (December 2007):** A desktop ecological study and phase 1 habitat survey was carried out by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of Lichfield District Council which examined potential development areas for known protected species records, habitats and geological features using data from Staffordshire Ecological Record.

8.91   Twelve survey areas (compartments) were identified in Lichfield, north of Tamworth, south-west of Tamworth, around Burntwood, land at Rugeley Power Station, Handsacre, Armitage, Whittington, west and south of Shenstone and two areas at Little Aston. Information was provided for each compartment setting out implications for protected sites, species, habitats and geology, with initial recommendations for mitigation and management. Recommendations were site specific, and include the retention of open water habitats and the introduction of green infrastructure to create links between habitats. The recommendations made in the study have been used to make informed decisions on strategic allocations.

8.92   **Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment (December 2007):** The 'Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment' seeks to identify what is critical to the character of the District, what important characteristics need protection from development and where there is a need for investment in the landscape and biodiversity. The landscape approach fits in well with the recommendations from both PPS 9 and PPS7.

8.93   Within Lichfield District four regional character areas can be found, which are Cannock Chase and Cankwood, Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands, Trent and Valley Washlands and the Mease Lowlands. These areas have each been broken down into smaller, relatively homogeneous areas called Landscape Character Types, which largely reflect their geology, topography and history of occupation and farming.

8.94   Both landscapes and biodiversity sites are subject to change, for example through development or through the way the countryside is managed within agriculture. Many landscapes could be considered to have been harmed through change and require restoration or regeneration. Areas having good quality landscape make them attractive as places to live and develop, but development itself could harm those attractive landscapes. A judgement

needs to be made on the balance between these two aspects. One element of this assessment therefore considered the potential for enhancing landscapes in association with strategic development locations. This evidence therefore is important in terms of site allocation, as well as at the design stage of development.

8.95 **Historic Environment Character Assessment (February 2009):** The Historic Environment Character Assessment (HECA) is a landscape based assessment based on the finding of the Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment undertaken by Staffordshire County Council. It also integrates the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) information with the site based data held by the Historic Environment Record (HERs). Whilst the project also has a great significance for built environment policies in terms of historic landscape conservation, an understanding of the landscape and how it has evolved over time is important in relation to the landscape as a natural resource.

8.96 The evolution of the landscape, and the remaining evidence that demonstrates how landscapes have developed, is recognised as a factor that should be taken account of in considering where new growth should take place. The general approach should be to divert growth away from areas where there is greatest survival of, or continuity in, historic landscapes.

8.97 **Greens & Open Spaces Strategy 2008:** Green and open space is the collective term used to describe all parks, public gardens,common land, village greens, playing fields, children's play areas, cemeteries, recreation grounds, farmland, woodlands, nature reserves, allotment gardens, rivers, canals, water bodies and other open space. The network of traffic free routes, the canals, cycle routes and rights of way are also part of the green and open space infrastructure. Lichfield District Council has undertaken this strategy to promote the use and improvement of green and open space throughout the District. This work involved public consultation and assessments of the quality and type of sites provided in Lichfield District. It sets out the vision for the greens and open spaces stating that 'Lichfield District's greens and open spaces belong to local people and are there for everyone to enjoy. They should be cherished, accessible, rich in wildlife, safe and clean, and managed for the future.' The Greens and Open Spaces Strategy also has links with the Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment which looks at play provision, amenity play space, green space and sport facilities.

8.98 **Open Space, Sport & Recreation Assessment (May 2009 and updated as the Open Space Assessment November 2011):** The Open Space Assessment provides a database of the different types of open space in the District. It provides (where possible) standards for open space provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility and identifies shortfalls and opportunities to increase, and link, provision including spaces which have multi-functional purposes.

8.99 **Canals & The Lichfield Canal Feasibility Study (July 2009):** The Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Limited aims 'to promote the restoration of the Lichfield Canal (and the Hatherton Canal) to reopen links between Staffordshire and the West Midlands, for the benefit of the environment, amenity and prosperity of the people of the region and to enhance the nation's inland waterway system.'

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8.100   The UK canal network runs through Lichfield District, with the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal (which becomes the Coventry Canal), and the Trent & Mersey Canal. These canals meet at Fradley Junction which is a small scale tourist attraction with a local nature reserve. The canal network is a valued resource that is seen to provide a habitat for biodiversity, and a green infrastructure corridor for species movement. In addition it has many human benefits in terms of recreation and leisure both on the towpath and navigating the water. The Canals and Rivers Trust (formerly British Waterways) take an active role in promoting the canal network as a resource, and the Local Plan: Strategy aims to protect and enhance the canal network to continue and improve its valuable use.

8.101   **Conservation Areas and the Conservation Area Appraisals:** Lichfield District has 21 Conservation Areas, one of which covers sections of the Trent and Mersey Canal, one covers the historic core of Lichfield City, and 19 further Conservation Areas within rural villages. Conservation Areas are designated because they are deemed to be areas of special architectural historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Also of significance is the high tree canopy cover and green landscaping in Conservation Areas, which enhance the setting of the built environment, and receive extra statutory protection.

8.102   As part of the ongoing management and enhancement of the Conservation Areas, the Conservation Team have undertaken work on individual Conservation Area Appraisals. The Appraisals describe the particular special and important features of the Conservation Area as well as provide an insight into the historic significance of the locality. This has been seen as an opportunity to engage with local residents and explore issues of value and local distinctiveness. The Appraisals also make strong reference to the importance of natural resources within the urban environment. Management Plans will accompany the Conservation Area Appraisals.

8.103   **Local List:** As well as those assets afforded statutory protection, such as listed buildings and conservation areas, criteria have been established for buildings that have local historic or architectural importance, and may therefore qualify for 'local listing'. These form an important component of local distinctiveness and are integral in creating a sense of place and are therefore encompassed within the policy on our built and historic environment. As part of this, the District Council's local list will be continually updated.

8.104   **Water Cycle Study (July 2010):** The Water Cycle Study has been jointly undertaken by the southern Staffordshire Local Authorities to assess the constraints and requirements that will arise from the scale of proposed growth on the water infrastructure of southern Staffordshire.

8.105   The study found that many of the watercourses are suffering from low water quality, which, under the Water Framework Directive must not deteriorate, and must aim to be of at least 'good' quality. For Lichfield District this includes, the Black Brook, Footherley Brook, River Tame, River Trent, Burntwood Brook, Ford Brook, Moreton Brook, River Blithe and the River Mease. All development must therefore be implemented in a manner that does not negatively impact the environment through excess abstraction or the release of pollutants. Policy wording has had to address this to ensure that there is improvement in the water quality of the District's watercourses and that future development does not cause deterioration.

8.106   The study concluded that there are sufficient water resources to meet predicted demands over the next 25 years but that this is only dependent upon the implementation of a number of mitigation measures which may place a time constraint upon the speed at which new development can be delivered. Regular contact with the water companies is recommended to ensure that growth targets can be factored in to their own strategies.

8.107   Whilst South Staffordshire Water is the water supplier for Lichfield District, Severn Trent Water Limited provide waste water and sewerage services. The study has identified that some Waste Water Treatment Works have been identified as having minimal hydraulic capacity including Alrewas, Bassets Pole, Edingale, Lichfield and Tamworth. However, the study states that this does not necessarily mean that development cannot take place, as under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991, sewerage undertakers have an obligation to provide additional treatment capacity as and when required.

8.108   In terms of water quality, within the District, the Ford Brook and the Burntwood Brook have been identified as currently having low water quality. The Black Brook, Footherley Brook, River Tame and River Trent have been identified as having poor ecological status, and the Burntwood Brook, Ford Brook, Moreton Brook, River Blithe and River Mease as having moderate ecological status. Development within the catchments of these watercourses may be impacted by limitations of abstraction and wastewater treatment therefore consultation is highly important between both South Staffordshire Water, Severn Trent Water Limited and the Environment Agency.

8.109   **Mease and Tame SAC:** Lichfield District Council has worked jointly with Tamworth District Council on Appropriate Assessment in relation to the Mease SAC (as per the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). The Appropriate Assessment highlights that there is a potential likely increase in pressure on the SAC as a result of population growth in the District. in addition and whilst this may not be significant, other developments could be proposed within the plan period which may need to mitigate for their impact, these impacts may arise within the development site, but may arise beyond. The Spatial Strategy has deliberately sought to minimise the amount of development affecting the SAC however, to assist developers in identifying suitable mitigation, work has been undertaken and this is incorporated within the **River Mease Water Quality Management Plan**. This will be updated and further schemes developed during the life of the Local Plan which will deliver an improvement to the condition of the SAC and can help identify mitigation for the effects of development. By implementation of the relevant management plans, their subsequent reviews and policies in the Local Plan, suitable mitigation measures will be in place to overcome possible adverse impacts affecting the integrity of the SAC arising from the spatial strategy.

8.110   **Surface Water Management Plan (July 2010):** The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) was devised in order to identify locations which may be at risk from surface water flooding. Those settlements identified as having a 'high risk' are Lichfield, Armitage, London and Upper Longdon, Burntwood, Elford, Little Aston, Mile Oak, Fazeley and Whittington. A large majority of the flood occurrences are identified as highways flooding. This may be a result of blocked highways drains, which falls under the responsibility of the highways authority, or the overflow of ordinary watercourses or drains within the town, which are the responsibility of the owner.

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8.111   Evidence relating to Cannock Chase AONB & SAC: Lichfield District Council has worked jointly with Staffordshire County Council, Cannock Chase District Council, South Staffordshire District Council,Stafford Borough Council,East Staffordshire District Council, Birmingham and the Black Country Authorities on an **Appropriate Assessment in relation to Cannock Chase SAC** (as per the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC). The Appropriate Assessment highlights the likely increase in such pressures as a result of population growth in the District (including potential increases in road traffic air pollution) and the need to provide additional recreation spaces alongside other mitigation measures e.g. contributions to positive habitat management. However, there are unlikely to be any significant impacts arising from increased water use and abstraction in the District. Through implementation of the **Cannock Chase Visitor Impact Management Strategy,** subsequent reviews and relevant policies in the relevant Local Plans, suitable mitigation measures will be introduced to overcome possible adverse impacts affecting the integrity of the SAC.

8.112   The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09): This provides climate information for the UK up to the end of this century. Projections of future changes to our climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models, showing three different scenarios representing high, medium, and low greenhouse gas scenarios. Projections for the Lichfield/Burntwoodindicated that by 2099 maximum daytime temperatures in Summer in the Lichfield area could rise by 5.8 degrees degrees centigrade if CO2 is still being emitted on a similar or higher level than today. Even if emissions are much lower than today, maximum Summer temperatures by 2099 will still be 3.5 degrees centigrade higher. However, it is likely that maximum temperatures could still be slightly higher in the centre of Lichfield or Burntwood, compared to the rural areas, due to the urban heat island effect.

8.113   Staffordshire County-Wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study: This has been conducted by Camco on behalf of the local authorities of Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Newcastle-under-Lyme, South Staffordshire, Stafford, Staffordshire Moorlands, Tamworth and Staffordshire County Council. The aim of the study is to inform the partner authorities about the technical potential, the viability and the deliverability of various renewable and low carbon options through the preparation of a local evidence base. This evidence base has been developed with the project steering group and has included analysis of low carbon generation resource potential, investigation of suitable carbon standards for new development and the provision of recommendations for planning policy and delivery of related non-planning policy measures.

8.114   Joint Waste Core Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent: With regard to waste, the Waste Planning Authority (WPA) is Staffordshire County Council, who are the authority responsible for planning for waste treatment and waste disposal facilities. However, Lichfield District Council is responsible for waste collection. National planning policy for sustainable waste management requires that the Core Strategy of a Waste Planning Authority should set out policies that ensure sufficient opportunities for the provision of waste management facilities in appropriate locations. A key vision of the Joint Waste Core Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent is to treat waste as a resource, including waste as a source of energy, and reduce the overall contribution of waste management to climate change by diverting waste from landfill through developing a network of new and enhanced sustainable waste management facilities, in or close to, the main urban areas.

8.115   Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment for Lichfield District Council: This is updated annually, in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. In relation to local air quality management an Air Quality Management Area Order No.1, 2008, came into force in 2008 for the A5 Muckley Corner traffic island, designated in breach of the Nitrogen Dioxide (annual mean) objective as specified in the Air Quality Regulations 2000.

8.116   The 'Landscape for Living' project: Undertaken by the West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership, it stressed the importance of a landscape based approach to the management of natural resources. The final policy wording of Our Natural Resources must take into account the landscape as a whole as also recommended within National Guidance. Local environmental groups have been formed within Lichfield District aiming to raise awareness of environmental issues and the importance of a low carbon economy. The support of the local community has been welcomed to help achieve the aims of the Local Plan: Strategy.

Economic

Key national and international economic influences (including transport)

**8.117   **Following the formation of the Coalition Government in 2010, the Department for Department for Business, Innovation and Skills was formed. In July 2010 a plan to foster growth was published in its paper, 'A Strategy for Sustainable Economic Growth'. This paper suggests that there needs to be a balance between making savings to public spending and promoting sustainable growth. The new plan sets out the three key ways that the department for Business, Innovation and Skills can contribute:

- Promoting business and innovation through entrepreneurship and individual engagement in the economy;
- Smarter public and private investment in the economy including creating a highly-skilled workforce and;
- Promoting free and open markets.

8.118   Local Growth White Paper (October 2010): This Paper set out the Governments approach to supporting economic growth in the regions. At the same time they also announced approval for an initial 24 Local Enterprise Partnership bid proposals (business and Local Authority partnerships for driving local economic growth). Key proposals in the White Paper :

- Shifting Power to Local Communities
- Increasing Confidence to Invest
- Focused investment - A Regional Growth Fund of £1.4 Billion over three years would be used to support economic growth in the regions

**8.119   **Following on from this was the formation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). These followed on from the Government announcement that that Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) would be replaced with a new business support structure: LEPs (Local Economic Partnerships) bring local councils and businesses closer together in order to boost enterprise and create jobs.

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8.120   The National Planning Policy Framework is pro - economic growth, and its 'presumption in favour of economic growth makes the following key provisions in relation to the economy:

- Building a strong competitive economy;
- Ensuring the vitality of town centres;
- Supporting a prosperous rural economy;
- Promoting sustainable transport;
- Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.

8.121   Given that the NPPF has only recently played a role in shaping the development of the Local Plan: Strategy, the role of the (now defunct) PPG's and PPS's must also be acknowledged. In terms of economic issues: PPS4 was the key document. This is summarised as follows.

8.122   **Planning Policy Statement 4 (PPS4):** Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth. PPS 4 replaced PPS 6 and extracts of other relevant Planning Policy Statements. Underpinning this guidance was the need to use evidence to prepare policy, which should include up to date assessments of the need for new retail floorspace, identify which centres should accommodate identified need and enable and promote choice for consumers with a range of shops including small shops and services. It also identified the importance of identifying, based on need, a range of sites where need could be accommodated. There was also a requirement to set out what uses were appropriate within town centres which now included cultural, leisure and entertainment uses.

8.123   PPS4 set out in detail that need is not only quantitative but qualitative. The availability of consumer choice was also important, as was raising the awareness of and impacts resulting from over-trading and limited choice.

8.124   PPS4 allowed local thresholds to be set for 'impact assessments' as well as promoting planning for consumer choice in terms of retail mix, smaller stores and outdoor markets.

8.125   There was a need to apply a 'Sequential Approach' in locating those uses defined as 'town centre uses,' this was in addition to justifying the appropriateness of the scale of proposals as well as a need to assess any impact that proposals may have.

8.126   Other key influences which were in force pre-Coalition policy were as follows:

8.127   **Jobs for the Future (September 2009):** This document outlined where new jobs could be created in the future in the UK. It set out how the labour market was set to change, potential job opportunities that could be generated and action to ensure that UK workforce was able to achieve these jobs through improvement to skills and educational training.

8.128   **Low Carbon Transition Plan:** The 'low carbon transition plan' (LCTP) set out how the government was to meet its binding carbon targets, 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels (an interim target set at 34% by 2020). The LCTP also set individual carbon targets for the major UK government departments, which were in turn expected to produce their own individual

plans. The LCTP set out how sectors including, power, homes, workplace, transport and farming can address working towards a lower carbon future. In terms of the workplace it aimed to:

- Cut emissions 13% on 2008 levels by 2020;
- Include high-carbon industries in the EU Emissions Trading System, to save around 500m tonnes of carbon dioxide a year across the EU by 2020;
- Create 1.2m jobs in the low-carbon industry, worth £3 trillion, by the middle of the next decade, by investing in research and development of new low-carbon technologies; and
- Invest approximately £120m in offshore wind, and an additional £60m in marine energy.

8.129 **UK Low Carbon Industrial Strategy Department of Energy & Climate Change:** This document sat alongside 'The Low Carbon Transition Plan' and aimed to move businesses and the economy towards a low carbon future with businesses working towards significantly reducing their carbon impact. Its objective was to ensure that businesses and workers were equipped to embrace potential economic opportunities and minimise the costs in doing so.

8.130 **The National Planning Policy Framework:** Sustainable transport is a key economic influence as well as impacting upon social and community issues. Current key influences upon sustainable transport at the national level are set out in the NPPF (section 4). This focuses upon the delivery of transport infrastructure, and the sustainable location of development which maximises the use of sustainable transport modes, minimises car usage, encourages the provision of electric charging points, and encourages and enables walking and cycling. It requires all developments which generate significant amounts of movement to produce a travel plan.

8.131 **High Speed Rail Link:** Phase 1 of a high speed rail link has been approved by Government (10th January 2012). This will cost £17bn and will link London with Birmingham, joining the West Coast Main Line in Lichfield District. Detailed planning work has now also begun on the route options from Birmingham to Manchester and Leeds, to allow for consultation on these routes at the same time. The first phase of the project is scheduled to begin in 2017.

8.132 Previous influences which have shaped the emerging 'Local Plan: Strategy' in relation to transport are as follows:

8.133 **Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future:** In July 2009 the former Government published 'Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future'which set out a national carbon reduction strategy for transport as a key component of 'The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan.' Under the 2008 Climate Change Act the former Government also set out five-yearly carbon budgets for the UK economy to 2022 with decarbonising transport identified as part of the solution, especially for road and rail transport. To this end three key themes were identified as: supporting a shift to new technologies and fuels, promoting lower carbon choices and using market mechanisms to encourage a shift to lower carbon transport.

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8.134   Previous to this the former Government outlined its transport objectives in 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System,' DfT 2008 (DaSTS). This was the agreed approach to identify transport needs from 2014 onwards, focused on delivering economic growth while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by making best use of the existing network, combined with a targeted programme of improvements.

8.135   **Circular 2/2007 'Planning and the Strategic Road Network':** also set out previous Government planning policy in relation to the strategic road network - emphasising the importance of partnership working to deliver sustainable transport solutions.

8.136   **PPS1 'Delivering Sustainable Development' (January 2005):** identified sustainable development as the core principle underpinning planning and identified key principles to be applied to ensure its delivery. These included the need to ensure that development plans pursue sustainable development in an integrated manner, promoting outcomes in which environmental, economic and social objectives are achieved together over time, particularly addressing accessibility for all members of the community to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure, community facilities, open space, sport and recreation.

8.137   **Planning Policy Guidance 13 'Transport' (March 2001):** The key objectives of this PPG were to integrate land use planning and transport, by promoting more sustainable transport choices, improved accessibility to jobs and facilities, and reducing the need to travel, especially by car. However PPG13 was revised (November 2010) to place greater emphasis on locally derived parking standards.

8.138   The objective of delivering a low carbon transport system was echoed in the draft **PPS 'Planning for a Low Carbon Future in a Changing Climate'** published in March 2010, requiring local planning authorities to support the take-up of electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Key regional economic influences (including transport)

8.139   As mentioned previously, whilst the Localism Act 2011 makes provision for the abolition of Regional Spatial strategies (RSS), these were a key influence through much of the preparation of the 'Local Plan: Strategy' or 'Core Strategy' as it was then known). It is therefore important that these influences are acknowledged.

8.140   **Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands (January 2008):** Employment: Under the heading 'Prosperity for all,' policies were aimed at contributing to and maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth, seen as the key element of the overall strategy for sustainable economic development. These policies were closely linked with, and supported the implementation of, the Regional Economic Strategy. It also recognised the importance of diversifying within the regional economy and the need to encourage growth through the promotion of high value-added businesses as well as attracting inward investment.

8.141   In line with the overall spatial strategy for the region it emphasised through Policy PA1 that economic growth should, wherever possible, be focused on the Major Urban Areas (MUAs). Outside the MUAs regional policy encouraged employment opportunities where they would assist in delivering renaissance within the MUAs and promote sustainable

communities and links between these areas. Another element was to encourage Local Authorities, in partnership with other organisations, to identify sites that were in need of improvement.

8.142   One of the main areas in achieving prosperity for all was to deliver an employment land portfolio for the supply and availability of land for development. In rural areas, particularly those not within reach of jobs in or close to urban areas, the economic development priorities were to broaden the economic base, reduce over-reliance on traditional employment and provide a wider range of local job opportunities.

8.143   In terms of Towns and City Centres: Policies PA11 to PA13 together looked at the main strategic issues affecting town and city centres and the location of development. The network of town and city centres in policy PA11 identified Lichfield City as a strategic centre. As one of 25 town and city centres, Lichfield was identified as a focus for major retail developments, as a location for uses which attract large numbers of people including major cultural, tourist, social and community assets as well as large scale leisure and office development. Other centres within the region such as Burntwood should limit development to meeting local needs.

8.144   Tourism: Policy PA10 set out how development plans should encourage both the improvement of existing provision as well as the creation of new facilities where appropriate, including the potential for further development of key regional tourism and cultural assets including Lichfield City, Drayton Manor Theme Park and the regional canal network.

8.145   **RSS Phase 3 Revision:** Relevant issues in relation to the economy was the work carried out regarding Tourism and the Visitor Economy and Rural Services.

8.146   In relation to Tourism and the Visitor Economy, it was recommended that an approach should be followed which promotes sustainable economic growth in these areas as well as providing a clear understanding of key assets (including small scale visitor attractions as well as major ones), the nature of tourism activities, and how tourism interacts with other key policy areas. Key objectives identified included improving wealth and income generation, promoting rural/urban renaissance and creating new employment opportunities and economic diversification.

8.147   Included within the RSS Phase 3 Background Paper on Tourism Culture Sport and Tourism Background Paper June 2009 WMRA was reference to a number of reports and evidence which have been used to inform emerging policy, one of which related to 'Culture Demand in the West Midlands' West Midlands Regional Observatory and Culture West Midlands (bmg research) 2009 which highlighted that within Lichfield district , Drayton Manor Theme Park was considered to be one of the regions significant cultural assets along with Lichfield Cathedral.

8.148   In terms of rural services the consultation highlighted the problems of defining key rural services, which can vary over time and by area. This work was supported by reference to other studies that have demonstrated how difficult it is to deal simply with issue of sustainability in rural areas and settlements.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.149 **Regional Economic Strategy (RES):** This Strategy set out the vision to which the West Midlands economy should be aspiring. At the heart of this vision was the need to narrow the current output gap of Gross Value Added per head between the region's performance and that of the UK as a whole.

8.150 Prior to the change of Government in May 2010, the Regional Economic Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy were to be incorporated into one document, the Single Integrated Regional Strategy (SIRS).

8.151 **Skills Action Plan 2009:** This report provided an update and refresh of the Regional Skills Action Plan and reflected the downturn in the economy and changes in national and regional policy. Overall it concluded that there was an overall improvement within the region in terms of skills.

8.152 **The West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Draft: Preferred Option December 2007:** This covered the topic areas of housing figures, centres, employment land, waste and encompassed the West Midlands Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). It recognised that the development of an efficient transport system was a key priority for the Region's economy and that a major transport challenge for the Region was balancing the needs of new housing and the economy against increasing levels of congestion on the strategic network. A cross-cutting theme of the RTS in the West Midlands was therefore the need to manage the increasing demand for travel through a holistic approach supported by a coherent package of measures including:

- measures to reduce the need to travel;
- provision of good quality, well designed walking and cycling facilities;
- promotion of travel awareness initiatives;
- a significant improvement in public transport;
- well-designed park and ride facilities;
- better management of public and private car parking;
- appropriate demand management measures; and
- better management of transport networks.

8.153 The Phase Two Preferred Option was published on 21st December 2007 and ran for consultation for 12 weeks before being subject to an Examination in Public in May and June 2009. Following the Examination in Public (EiP), the 'Report of the Panel' was published in September 2009 and included recommendations for policy amendments. The 'Report of the Panel' recommended changes to the transport and accessibility policies of the WMRSS Phase 2 to include reference to the aims set out in the DfT's consultation on Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS). Updates to maps were also recommended to more clearly represent the proposed reinstatement of the Stourbridge-Walsall-Lichfield line as part of the Strategic Rail Freight National/Regional Network priorities. The list of potential Strategic locations for Park and Ride schemes recommended under Policy T6 were expanded, but still included one in the vicinity of Lichfield Trent Valley Station. Suggested revisions to Policy T12 'Priorities for Investment' encompassed the reinstatement of the freight line through the District, as mentioned above, and improvements to the A38 at Streethay, as a national/regional network priority were also continued to be identified.

8.154   **West Midlands RSS Phase Three Revision:** Whilst transport and accessibility were themes encompassed within the West Midlands RSS Phase Two, Phase Three Revision dealt with all matters relating to the 'Quality of the Environment' and underwent an Options Consultation in 2009. Issues considered in the WMRSS Phase Three Revision included 'Rural Services: Identification and provision of services that are critical to the sustainability of rural communities', which encompassed rural transport.

8.155   Due to the delay of the RSS Phase Three Revision, RSS Phase Three Interim Policy Statements and Policy Recommendations were published in March 2010, and included Policy Recommendations for Rural Services set out in a Background Paper, which also comprised rural transport issues.

8.156   Following on from a series of options which were presented via the Phase 3 consultation, the recommended policy approach for rural services was one of flexibility, allowing for distinctions to be drawn between one place and another. The policy objectives were to identify:

- The role, if any, that service provision plays in enhancing the sustainability of rural communities
- Whether particular services are critical to enhancing the sustainability of rural communities, and if this is the case;
- Prioritise those services, particularly those which meet the needs of disadvantaged groups, in different types of rural areas and;
- Whether different policy responses are required in remote and accessible rural locations.

8.157   The **'Thinking about Rural Transport' 2008 report**, by the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC), emphasised the importance of developing land-use patterns which maximise the ability to capture trips by sustainable modes, and which thereby reduce the need to travel. The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Report 'Rural Public Transport: Room for Improvement', December 2008, sets out the CPRE policy approach, and drew on a more detailed report 'Cause for concern: improving rural accessibility in the rural West Midlands' produced in June 2008. This study identified four key policy areas that the CPRE felt needed addressing through a strong mix of interventions to improve rural accessibility:

- Scheduled public transport: the backbone of rural transport;
- Demand responsive transport: more planning and co-ordination needed;
- Location of services and facilities: local authority leadership and community involvement required;
- The need for better integration with more demanding targets.

8.158   The **RSS Background Paper on 'Policy Recommendations for Rural Services'** also highlighted the findings of a previous report by Ecotec in 2005 on the 'Evaluation of Rural Transport Programme in the West Midlands', which identified four priorities:

- Provision of integrated and co-ordinated transport systems;
- Ensure an informed public;
- Develop a demand responsive system; and
- Address the needs for all.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.159 In order to deliver against these priorities, the report recommended building on and making use, not only of existing organisational structures, but also of local knowledge and expertise.

Local economic influences (including transport)

8.160 **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs):** Introduced by the Coalition Government, they are aimed at strengthening local economies. At local level their role is to provide strategic leadership setting out local economic priorities.

8.161 In October 2010 Lichfield District joined with Birmingham, East Staffordshire, Solihull and Tamworth Councils to form a Business LEP. Lichfield District is also part of the Staffordshire LEP. Both joint proposals were approved by the Government.

8.162 The vision for the LEP is to '*create and support a globally competitive knowledge economy, the natural home for Europe's entrepreneurs and wealth creators. Reflecting our tradition for attracting innovators, risk takers, entrepreneurs and mavericks, within ten years the economic area covered by the LEP will be renowned for being the easiest place in Europe in which to set up and run a business*'.

8.163 Key aims are to :

- increase economic output (GVA) in the area by 30% (£8.25 billion) by 2020;
- Create 100,000 private sector jobs by 2020;
- Stimulate growth in the business stock, survival rates and business profitability;
- Boost indigenous and inward investment;
- Achieve global leadership in key sectors, including: automotive assembly; low carbon R&D, transport and building technologies; business, professional and financial services;
- clinical trials; ICT; creative and digital sectors;
- Build a world class workforce with the skills needed to achieve our ambitions whilst dramatically reducing worklessness.

8.164 The Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire LEP has the following priorities:

- Supporting Existing Businesses to Grow
- Increasing Inward Investment
- Successfully Marketing Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire as a place to do business
- Improving Access to Finance and Funding
- Providing the Right Sites & Infrastructure
- Ensuring the Skills & Training of our Workforce Meet Business Needs

8.165 **The Tamworth and Lichfield Business Economic Partnership (BEP):** This partnership has produced the Tamworth and Lichfield Economic Strategy (2011). The overall aim of this strategy is to promote a stronger, more resilient local economy through sustainable business development and growth, which reflects both the urban and rural dimensions to the Tamworth and Lichfield area. In order to achieve this, the strategy will:

- Set a strategic economic vision for the Tamworth and Lichfield area which is more focused on identifying and developing key business sectors of importance to the local economy;
- Exploit and develop the main attributes of the area in terms of being a place that is good for business development and enhance the overall reputation and image of the area;
- Influence the immediate priorities of the two local LEPs and directly contribute to LEP workstreams;
- Be based on an assessment of the state of the local economy and the collective knowledge of local businesses and partners regarding economic and business issues and priorities;
- Highlight key themes around which issues and priorities can be grouped based on the acknowledged strengths and weaknesses of the area, along with an assessment of the current and future economic opportunities that have been identified;
- Focus businesses and partner organisations to work together on common areas of priority and need where coordination of effort at the local level will be desirable and feasible. This will lead to more efficient use of resources, removal of duplication and ultimately decreased confusion amongst the business community.

8.166   The Plan for Lichfield District 2012 - 2016: This focuses on boosting business (under theme 3). It emphasises the need for an improved retail offer in Lichfield and Burntwood, more manufacturing and service sector jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship,innovation, inward investment, wealth creation,and skills development. It also focuses upon tourism and culture, and the creation of a vibrant rural economy.

8.167   'Our County, Our Vision - A Sustainable Community Strategy for Staffordshire (2008-2023):' Identifies 'a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable economy' as one of its four overarching priorities. Within this, a number of themes have been identified:

- Improving basis skills;
- Reducing the number of young people who are not in employment, education or training;
- Raising the high level skills base and retaining skilled workforce;
- Encouraging graduate retention;
- Maximising opportunities presented by Staffordshire universities and associated networks;
- Increasing levels of enterprise and ensuring higher value added sector business start ups;
- Raising aspirations of our children and young people;
- Reducing worklessness, increasing the employment rate and improving access to employment opportunities;
- Embracing and investing in new environmental technologies;
- Attracting sustainable, quality public and private investment in the County; and
- Developing housing which is decent, affordable and sustainable.

8.168   Previous key economic influences which have played a role in the shaping of the Local Plan: Strategy are listed below.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.169   **Lichfield Sustainable Community Strategy (2006-2021):** The aim of the Lichfield District SCS was,'to make measurable improvements to the quality of life of people who live in, work in, and visit Lichfield District, through actions to improve long term economic, social and environmental well-being.'

8.170   The key outcome from the Lichfield District SCS in terms of Economic Development & Enterprise, was that 'Lichfield District must be a place where trade can flourish and competitiveness can act as a stimulus for growth and greater resource efficiency. It must be a place where people of different skills and abilities have the opportunity to live and work.'

8.171   The key priorities for the Lichfield District SCS that relate to economic development and enterprise were:

- Affordable Housing/Retaining Workforce in Lichfield;
- Business retention and inward investment;
- Transport: including need to improve travelling patterns to and from work, by reducing the need to travel, and/or improving quality of the (public) transport .
- Parking: The need to investigate alternatives to ease the parking congestion in Lichfield City.
- Skills: Difficulties in recruiting local people with basic business skills.

8.172   A range of evidence has also informed the shaping of the Local Plan: Strategy in terms of economic issues.

8.173   The most recent key pieces of evidence are:

- The Employment Land Review 2012
- The Update of Retail evidence 2011

8.174   These refresh and update former pieces of evidence which were in place as the strategy was developing. The studies have assisted in helping to shape and make policy recommendations for the sustainable location of development.

8.175   **The Lichfield Transport and Development Strategy (LTaDS):** This strategy ran until 2011 and informed improvements to transport infrastructure within Lichfield City. This was supported by the **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** which has now reached its third phase (covering the period 2011-2026). Future transport improvements will be informed by policies within Staffordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan, including the **Lichfield District Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 - 2026 and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.**

8.176   The Lichfield District Integrated Transport Strategy includes the development of Local Transport packages for south and east Lichfield and for Burntwood. Where development is allocated to meet local needs, such as in rural areas, developer contributions may be utilised with the aim of delivering appropriate local transport mitigation measures in accordance with Core Policy objectives

8.177   Other studies carried out include a **Phase 1 Acessibility Assessment** for the District and The T**ransport Appraisal of the Preferred Option for Lichfield City and the Transport Appraisal of the Preferred Options for Burntwood Town.**

8.178   A strategy for the A5: Thishas been recently produced, covering the section of the route from Gailey in Staffordshire to Weedon in Northamptonshire. The strategy looks at issues of capacity, economic activity and growth, access to leisure and tourism, priority improvements and reduction of the impact of traffic on communities along the route.

8.179   The aims of the strategy are as follows:

* To ensure that the A5 is fit for purpose in terms of its capacity and safety, both now and in the future;
* To allow the A5 to play its full and proper role in supporting and facilitating economic activity and growth at a national and local level;
* To promote and encourage improvements to sustainable transport (walking, cycling, public transport and behavioural change measures) in order to help reduce congestion on the A5, improve air quality and deliver a lower carbon transport system; and
* To reduce, where possible, the impact of the A5 on communities along the route.

Social

8.180   In relation to social issues, many influences have been covered in earlier sections of this chapter, particularly those in relation to transport, and the economy. This section therefore focuses upon key influences around housing, health, community safety and community engagement.

Key national social influences

Housing

8.181   NPPF: Provides the framework for'delivering a wide choice of high quality homes'including planning for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community, delivery of affordable housing where needed, and the identification of size, type, tenure and range of housing.

8.182   Planning Policy Statement 3: Prior to the NPPF the key national influence was PPS3 and accompanying advice and guidance were developed in response to recommendations in the Barker Review of Housing Supply in March 2004. A principal aim of PPS3 was to underpin the Government's response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply and the necessary step-change in housing delivery, through a new, more responsive approach to land supply at the local level.

8.183   PPS3 reflected a commitment to improving the affordability and supply of housing in all communities, including rural areas, informed by the findings of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. The delivery of housing in rural areas should respect the key principles underpinning this PPS, providing high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

Health

8.184 **Our Healthier Nation (1999):** National policy concerning improving health and keeping people healthy was originally set out in this Government White Paper**,** which had two main goals: to improve health and to reduce the health inequality gap. This recognised that factors such as poverty, social exclusion, employment, housing, education and the environment are all important factors in contributing to people's health. The White Paper required that every local area was to address the following priorities: cancer, coronary heart disease / stroke, accidents and mental health. In addition, local needs assessments would address local priorities, led by health authorities working in partnership with local authorities and others by developing Health Improvement Programmes. Reforms were subsequently set out in the Health Act (1999).

8.185 **Choosing Health:** In 2004 this White Paper was launched which focused upon four key priorities: reducing health inequalities; healthy choices; children and young people and the role of communities. The paper is wide reaching but elements with particular relevance to the Local Development Framework include the emphasis upon sustainable travel, particularly active travel such as cycling and walking; the importance of sport and physical activity; the role air quality plays in determining health; the significance of education and the role of schools, extended schools and childrens centres; and the importance of the local community in enabling more localised provision and innovative solutions to improving health.

8.186 **Our Health, Our Care, Our Say:** This White Paper was launched in January 2006 with the aim of ensuring better prevention services, tackling inequalities, improving access to community services and providing more support for people with long term needs. There is a particular emphasis on enabling more care to take place outside hospitals and in the home (which links to the later Lifetime Homes Lifetime Neighbourhoods strategy) and supporting increased levels of independence and wellbeing. In the same year 'A Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing' was established.

8.187 **Strong and Prosperous Communities: I**n October 2006, this Local Government White Paper placed emphasis upon local leadership with the aim of 'engendering systematic partnership working between NHS bodies, local authorities and other parties.....we want to see health and social care services delivered seamlessly around the needs of patients, families and carers and local partners able to work together in tackling the wider causes of social exclusion, worklessness and vulnerability.' This White Paper introduced Local Area Agreements to ensure the delivery of Sustainable Community Strategies. This was enacted by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

8.188 **Planning for a Sustainable Future:** In May 2007, the Government published this White Paperwhich focused upon producing a revised and more strategic policy framework, enacted by the Planning Act 2008. The increasingly strategic and cross - cutting approach to planning policy resulted in a draft consultation PPS, Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment.

8.189 In 2008, the **Darzi review (Higher Quality Care for All)** placed greater emphasis on assessing local needs, and prioritising investments to deliver long-term improvements in health outcomes. There is an emphasis upon world class commissioning which will be pivotal

in reducing health inequalities, supporting the shift from treatment and diagnosis to prevention of ill health and the promotion of well-being. Strengthening relationships between key local partners such as Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and local authorities was considered vital.

8.190   Most recently the Government has published the **Health and Social Care Act2012**, which set outs a reform of the National Service and is designed to put clinicians at the centre of commissioning, frees up providers to innovate, empowers patients and gives a new focus to public health.

8.191   Also of relevance in terms of air quality and pollution issues was **Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and the linked Air Quality strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007,** covered earlier in this chapter.

8.192   **Steps to Healthy Planning: Propsals for Action:** This was produced by the Spatial Planning and Health Group in June 2011 and set out a number of actions for ensuring health issues were incorporated into planning (for example access to services, open and green space, safety and security, affordable and energy efficient housing, air quality and noise, climate change, community interaction, transport.

8.193   **Spatial planning for Health (November 2010):** This was produced to:

- Promote the contribution of well planned developments in achieving long term health and well-being outcomes;
- Promote the application of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Highlight the impacts and opportunities of the Localism agenda;
- Aligning planning and health;
- Making best use of guidance.

8.194   **The 'World Class Places' strategy (May 2009):** Recognised the role that Green Infrastructure has to play in ensuring a decent quality of life.

8.195   **Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross - Government Strategy for England (Department of Health, January 2008):** Sets out the importance of creating built environments which help to tackle obesity and support healthy communities.

8.196   **Be Active, Be Healthy - a Plan for Getting the Nation Moving (Department of Health, February 2009):** This promoted physical activity in peoples' every day lives alongside sport and based upon local needs. This particularly focuses upon creating active environments and access to high quality open spaces.

8.197   **The Play Strategy (Department of Children, Schools and Families, and Department of Culture, Media and Sport, December 2008):** Thisset out the long term vision for play including a range of safe and stimulating places for children of all ages to play close to where they live.

8.198   **Waterways for Everyone (Defra consultation draft, 2010):** This was a draft strategy setting out the multi - functional role of waterways including their contribution to green infrastructure.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.199 **Air Quality and Climate Change, a UK perspective(DEFRA, 2007):** This report looked, in an holistic way at the impacts of air pollution and the contribution this makes to climate change, also having an impact upon health.

8.200 **Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods: A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (2008), and Lifetime Homes Standards:** These were designed to help prevent many health issues which arise through unsuitable housing and environments for older people.

8.201 **Natural England produced a study: Our Natural Health Service (July 2009):** Stated: 'Natural England believes that the provision of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces is essential to improve the health of people today and in the future. We will work with Local Authorities, planners, developers and the NHS to achieve this goal.' The study cites the following aims:

- To increase the number of households that are within 5 minutes walk of an area of green space of at least 2 hectares;
  To enable every GP or community nurse to be able to signpost patients to an approved health walk or outdoor activity programme.

8.202 The Department of Health commissioned a review into social inequalities and their impact on health, and as a result the 'Marmot' report was produced in February 2010. The report identifies six policy objectives:

- Give every child the best start in life;
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives;
- Create fair employment and good work for all;
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all;
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention.

8.203 **Policy Guidance 17 (Planning for Open Space,Sport and Recreation):** Specific planning policy guidance for healthy communities originally centred upon Planning. The objectives of this PPG were to support urban renaissance and rural renewal, to promote social inclusion and community cohesion, to promote health and wellbeing and to promote more sustainable development.

8.204 This required local authorities to undertake assessments of need, covering the differing and distinctive needs of the population for open space and built sports and recreational facilities. Local authorities should undertake audits of the existing open space, sports and recreational facilities, the use made of existing facilities, access in terms of location and costs and opportunities for new open space and facilities. Both qualitative and quantitative aspects had to be considered in the assessment, and there was emphasis upon developing local standards for open space.

8.205   **Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment:**, A new PPS was published for consultation in March 2010. This draft PPS aimed to bring together related policies on the natural environment and on open and green spaces in rural and urban areas to ensure that the planning system delivered healthy, sustainable communities.

8.206   The following Planning Policy Statements (and Guidance notes) were also relevant to health:

- PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development;
- PPS1 Supplement: Planning and Climate Change;
- PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth;
- PPS12: Local Spatial Planning;
- PPS23: Planning and Pollution Control;
- PPS25: Planning and Flood Risk;
- PPG 24: Planning and Noise.

Safer communities

8.207   **Section 17, of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998:** Requires all Local Authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to their likely effect on crime and disorder and do all they reasonably can to prevent issues arising. This includes the need for designing out crime and designing in safety.

8.208   **The Police and Justice Act 2006:** Requires Community Safety Partnerships to carry out an annual strategic assessment of community safety issues in their area, including information gathered from the local community on their problems and priorities. The assessment must then be used to develop a 3 year Partnership Plan which is revised annually.

8.209   **Strong and Prosperous Communities:** In October 2006, this Local Government White Paperplaced emphasis upon the need for partnership working, giving communities 'a bigger say in identifying and tackling local safety priorities'.

8.210   **Safer Places, the Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004):** states that Local Planning Authorities must have regard to this guidance when preparing Local Development Documents. This has recently been supplemented by 'Crowded Places: the Planning System and Counter Terrorism' (March 2010) which provides more specific guidance for the safety of public places.

8.211   **Cutting Crime - A New Partnership 2008 - 11:** In 2007 the Home Office produced this national crime strategy. Key elements of this which related to Planning Policy were a new national approach to designing out crime, and greater flexibility for local practitioners. This was reflected in the National Community Safety Plan.

8.212   **Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities:** In July 2008, statutory guidance was issued to ensure that local partnerships addressed key issues, with changes to the Local Area Agreement process.

8.213   **PPS1 (Delivering Sustainable Development):** This had a particular focus upon socially inclusive communities, delivering 'safe, healthy and attractive places to live'.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.214   **PPS12 (Local Spatial Planning):** This places particular emphasis upon coordinating the LDF with the Sustainable Community Strategy (and in this case this would particularly be the need for planning to link with the Crime Reduction Partnership).

8.215   There are a number of nationally applicable design guides and methodologies available aimed at achieving safer and better designed communities. Key ones are as follows:

8.216   **The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE): 'By Design - urban design in the planning system, towards better practice':** This carries the central message that good design is important everywhere not least in helping to bring rundown neglected areas back to life. CABE have also produced **'Living with Risk: promoting better public space design'** (2007) which provides guidance and good practice examples.

8.217   **Secure by Design standards:** the Police flagship scheme aimed at reducing crime: this is aimed at both physical design relating to individual premises and wider issues of design and layout of developments.

Key regional social influences

Housing

8.218   **The WMRSS Phase 2 Options Consultation (June 2009):** Identified a range of housing growth options for each local planning authority within the region. The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Phase 2 Review Preferred Option (December 2007) identified a housing requirement for Lichfield District of 8,000 (net) homes to be delivered between 2006 and 2026. Since the proposed abolition of the RSS, the Coalition Government has required local authorities to provide their own assessments of need (covered under the Local Influences section).

Health, wellbeing and community safety

8.219   **Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 2 Revision:** Policy QE2 (Restoring degraded areas and managing and creating high quality new environments) acknowledged the role that the environment plays in the community. This policy stated under part B (i) that development plans and other strategies should 'contain policies that promote environmental improvements as a means of regenerating areas of social, economic and environmental deprivation'. Part C stated that 'in implementing this policy...preserve and create open spaces for recreation, community health and natural habitats'.

8.220   Policy QE3 (Creating a high quality built environment for all) focused on the need for good quality design, in changing the image of an area to attract investment and renew confidence, in creating a sense of identity and place and the role this plays in encouraging community pride and ownership, and in securing safer neighbourhoods and discouraging crime.

8.221   Policy QE4 (Greenery, Urban Greenspace and Public Spaces) appeared to be a policy which bridged the requirements of PPG17 and the draft PPS 'Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment'.

8.222   Regional Spatial Strategy Phase 3 Revision: Two interim policy statements were issued concerning the provision of pitches for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and the Sub-regional Apportionment of Construction Aggregates. The remaining policies which the RSS Phase Three revision covers were updated following the consultation which took place in Summer 2009 and a number of policy recommendations were issued.

8.223   The following policies and their updated policy recommendations are relevant to health and wellbeing and are summarised in the following paragraphs.

8.224   Rural Services: Following on from a series of options which were presented via the Phase 3 consultation, the recommended policy approach for rural services was one of flexibility, allowing for distinctions to be drawn between one place and another. The policy objectives were to identify:The role, if any, that service provision plays in enhancing the sustainability of rural communities;

- Whether particular services are critical to enhancing the sustainability of rural communities, and if this is the case, prioritise those services, particularly those which meet the needs of disadvantaged groups, in different types of rural areas and;
- Whether different policy responses are required in remote and accessible rural locations.

8.225   The following extracts from the policy recommendations were of particular relevance to health:

- Require Local Planning Authorities, in their plan making and development management process, to take into account legitimate local service needs of rural communities and what contribution can be made towards delivering more sustainable places based on local intelligence.
- Require Local Planning and Transport authorities to demonstrate how their LDFs and LTPs have used tested and / or innovative approaches to locally led reviews, to assess rural service provision at a scale appropriate to the locality and to demonstrate how this delivers the Regional Strategy, and local Spatial strategies addressing rural settlements.
- Be clear about the approach to be adopted as to how local development may usefully contribute to local regeneration and needs i.e. locally identified (bottom up community led) service, facility and infrastructure needs including affordable housing.
- Be able to demonstrate, through their Local Implementation Plan or Single Conversation Investment Plan, how this evidence is to be used to guide delivery matched to that need.
- Be clear how local community plans, such as Parish Plans, have been taken into consideration in establishing a coherent strategy for rural renaissance.
- Be able to demonstrate how the resilience of cross border communities has been supported.

8.226   The implications of this emerging policy for the Local Plan were that local evidence is vital: each village / rural settlement needs to be assessed on its own merits, there is no 'one size fits all' solution to planning for rural communities a

8.227   Culture & Sport: The policy objectives were:

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8 Links to other plans and programmes

- Improve health - physical and mental well-being;
- Improve education and help address social exclusion;
- Deliver safe, strong and sustainable communities;
- Improve achievement e.g. sporting success.

8.228 The recommended policy approach placed particular emphasis upon levels of participation and engagement in culture and sport. In terms of health and wellbeing (but also cross referenced to potential economic benefits) there was emphasis upon places and upon people.

8.229 In terms of **places ('living places')** the emphasis was upon the following:

- Intervention in areas of low participation;
- Opportunities through partnerships and co-location of services;
- Conserving and enhancing heritage assets to encourage enjoyment and participation in the historic environment;
- Encouraging investment in new culture and sports assets where shortfalls in supply are identified.

8.230 In terms of **people** the emphasis was upon encouraging 'a long term cultural shift in attitudes, aspirations and behaviours'.

8.231 The key messages from the policy recommendation were that planning can play a key role in changing peoples' behaviours and aspirations, and that addressing shortfalls in provision and locating facilities in areas where there are particular issues of deprivation can have a major influence upon access to, and participation in sporting and cultural activities.

8.232 **Quality of the Environment:** Of particular significance however, was policy QE4: which in its updated form was entitled **Green Infrastructure** (it was formerly called Greenery, Urban Greenspace and Public Spaces). The recommended policy approach was that the policy on green infrastructure should be based upon the following:

- Placing a greater emphasis on Green Infrastructure, advocating an integrated, multi-functional and consistent approach across the region, as defined by green infrastructure planning;
- Using the West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus definition as a foundation with supporting text including historic character / local distinctiveness;
- Placing emphasis on the wider sustainability benefits that green infrastructure can deliver in all parts of the region, but especially in areas of deprivation. These benefits include mitigation and adaption to climate change, minimising flood risk, improving the image and attractiveness of an area, potential contribution to renewable energy / biomass, health and wellbeing, opportunities for recreation / play, mitigating the adverse effects of growth policies, enhancing the supporting functions of the land around European sites and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and woodlands. The growth agenda and new developments will present important opportunities for securing the benefits that green infrastructure provides;

- Referring to recreational resources including access and emphasising the importance of PPG17 assessments being seen as part of wider Green Infrastructure Strategies rather than stand alone documents;
- Encouraging/ requiring local authorities to produce Green Infrastructure Strategies especially in growth areas and regeneration areas.

Key local social influences

8.233   ThePlan for Lichfield District 2012 - 2016: This states 'we'll support people' as one of its key themes. This includes addressing crime and antisocial behaviour, supporting and encouraging individuals and groups to shape and improve their communities, supporting vulnerable adults, families and children to live independent and fulfilled lives in their own homes and communities and improving the health and wellbeing of the population making the biggest improvement for people with the lowest life expectancy.

Housing & balanced communities

8.234   Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA Update (May) 2012: This study was commissioned by lichfield District Council, Chase Council and Tamworth Borough Council following the demise of the Regional Spatial strategy and the need to provide a local updated evidence base.

8.235   The purpose of the study was to set out the potential scale of future housing requirements in the three districts, based upon a range of housing, economic and demographic factors, trends and forecasts. This sought to provide the Councils with evidence on the future housing requirements of their districts to help them plan for future growth and make informed policy choices through the development plan preparation process.

8.236   In addition to establishing the overall housing level associated with different scenarios, the study also appraised the level of affordable housing need. This involved a partial update of the two earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessments undertaken for the Councils. The affordable housing target was broken down by tenure, size and type, for each sub-housing market area, and identified the dwelling requirements of households with a variety of special needs.

8.237   Prior to this update, the following evidence was used to shape the Local Plan.

8.238   Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2008: Consultants, Outside UK, completed the sub-regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) in partnership with the local authorities in the C1 group Lichfield District Council, Tamworth Borough Council, Birmingham City Council & Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. This considered the housing mix, including affordable provision, that should be delivered to meet the needs arising across a broad market area.

8.239   Rural Housing Needs Survey 2008: Lichfield District Council commissioned 'Outside UK' to carry out a rural housing needs survey for the District. This was also finalised in December 2008.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.240   **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2007:** A number of local authorities across the Southern Staffordshire and Northern Warwickshire area (Lichfield District Council, Rugby Borough Council, South Staffordshire Council, Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council, Cannock Chase District Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council and Tamworth Borough Council) commissioned a joint Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) in May 2007. The study was carried out by the University of Salford and assisted by staff at the Centre for Urban & Regional Studies (CURS) at the University of Birmingham. The study was greatly aided by research support and expertise provided by members of the Gypsy and Traveller communities. The study was managed by a steering group composed of officers representing the Partner Authorities. It recommended the number and types of pitch provision for each area which then fed into the RSS.

Health

8.241   **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Staffordshire:** JSNAs are the means by which local leaders work together to understand and agree the needs of all local people, with the joint Health and Wellbeing strategy setting the priorities for collective action. Taken together they are the pillars of local decision-making, focusing leaders on the priorities for action and providing the evidence base for decisions about local services. This has informed the **Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Staffordshire** (see below). Further specific and detailed information relating to Lichfield District is contained within the **Health and Wellbeing profile for Lichfield District Council** (2012).

8.242   **Healthy for Life' (2008 - 2012):** The Primary Care Trust's Staying Healthy Strategyidentified the vision to keep people healthy across the South Staffordshire PCT area. The vision wass 'a measurable improvement in the health and well being of our population in response to local need'. South Staffordshire PCT Strategic Plan (2008 - 2012) had the following strategic themes which are based on national priorities, and local need:

- Improving child health
- Increasing life expectancy
- Quicker high quality health care
- Care closer to home
- Improving care for patients with long term conditions
- Patients in control of their health
- Working with partners
- Improving end of life care

8.243   **The Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (September 2010):** This was produced by the County Council and South and North Staffordshire Primary Care Trusts in order to coordinate a coherent, county-wide approach to public health and wellbeing. The strategy provided evidence of the differences in health and wellbeing across the County. Compared to other Staffordshire local authority areas, Lichfield is relatively 'healthy and well' although mental health is highlighted as a particular issue, linked to the numbers of people on the dementia register (statistically higher than the England average). The policy objectives of the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy can be summarised as follows:

- Raising aspirations and empowering individuals and communities to achieve their full potential;

- Encouraging and empowering individuals and communities to influence their own health and wellbeing through improved awareness and access to lifestyle and behaviour support services;
- Promoting a healthy standard of living for all, fair employment and positive work;
- Promoting and strengthening healthy and environmentally sustainable places and communities.

8.244   **The Lichfield District Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS):** Placed particular focus upon tackling health inequalities in the communities and neighbourhoods of most need, particularly:

- Engaging people with mental health problems in order to maximise their potential
- Preventing an increase in the prevalence of obesity and improving diet and nutrition
- Promoting responsible drinking among young people
- Tackling the problem of over - indebtedness

8.245   With regard to the ageing population, the SCS identified two key priorities:

- Improving quality of life and independence of older people
- Increasing the number of older people who are productively engaged in the process of development and design of services that meet their needs and aspirations.

8.246   Ensuring access to a range of services and facilities is essential in terms of health and wellbeing and evidence which contributes to this includes the **Greens and Open Spaces Assessment**, the **Playing Pitch, Tennis and Bowls Strategy 2012** (updates previous assessments), the **Play Strategy 2007 - 2012**, the **Rural Settlement Sustainability Study 2011**, the **Open Space Assessment 2012,** and **Facilities Planning Model: Strategic assessment of Need for Sports Halls and Swimming Pools in Lichfield 2010.**

Community safety

8.247   **Lichfield District Community Safety Strategic Assessment:** This is produced annually, and provides information and analysis in terms of crime and antisocial behaviour issues, setting out key findings and highlighting priorities for action.

8.248   **Our County, Our Vision, A Sustainable Community Strategy for Staffordshire 2008 - 2023:** This sets out the following long term priorities:

- Tackling the anti social behaviour and crime that matter most to our local communities;
- Addressing the causes of crime, and reducing the impact of crime on the vulnerable;
- Preventing domestic violence and reducing its impact on individuals and families;
- Building trust and confidence within and between our communities;
- Promoting participation in cultural activities and raising the aspirations of children, young people and communities;
- Creating a strong, effective and influential third sector in Staffordshire, which is fully engaged in planning and delivering services.

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8 Links to other plans and programmes

8.249 **Lichfield District Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS):** Placed continued focus upon anti social behaviour and criminal damage with specific emphasis on community reassurance and improving perceptions.

9 Social, Environmental and Economic Issues

General characteristics

9.1   The SEA Directive requires the characteristics of areas likely to be affected by the plan to be described.

9.2   Lichfield District is located in southern Staffordshire, bounded to the south by the West Midlands conurbation (Birmingham and Walsall), to the east by Tamworth Borough, to the north and north east by East Staffordshire District, and to the West by Cannock Chase District.

9.3   The District is comprised of a variety of landscapes within a relatively small area, due to significant variations in geology, the presence of two significant river valleys, the Tame and Trent, and remnants of historic landscapes, including extensive forest and heathland. The landscape is constantly changing, and much of today's countryside includes remnants of historic landscapes, such as the former Forest of Needwood, areas of heathland and historic field patterns. Some landscape character types and habitats have suffered significant losses or degradation, and all of the Districts landscape is affected by change arising from development, mineral working, agriculture and climate change.

9.4   Lichfield District has a population of 98,700.[ii] The population is mainly concentrated in two urban centres, Lichfield City and Burntwood, each with a population of around 30,000. The majority of the remaining 40% of the population live in rural villages of varying sizes and characteristics, some of which are very self contained, whilst others such as Fazeley or Little Aston have close links to the cross boundary settlements of Tamworth and Birmingham respectively.

9.5   The general trend of changes to the District's population have remained similar over the last 40 years in that younger age groups (especially 16 - 24 year olds) tend to move out to other areas in search of affordable housing, and jobs. This exacerbates the trend towards an already ageing population, with people in older age groups also moving in as they near retirement age. By 2026 there is a predicted 117.4% increase in those aged 80 - 84, which rises to a 134.8% increase by 2031. [iii]

9.6   The compact cathedral city of Lichfield is the administrative centre of the District and has an important role within the West Midlands Region as a strategic centre fulfilling a wider role than just local need. It is also a nationally important, attractive and distinctive historic centre and focus for tourist activity.

9.7   Burntwood is a settlement of similar population size to Lichfield City,but with very different characteristics. It has formed through the coalescence of a number of different mining communities and expanded particularly rapidly between the 1960's and 1990's and as a result suffers from an inadequate town centre and associated facilities for its size which do not meet local needs. The town is sited close to boundaries with Cannock Chase and Brownhills (in Walsall).

ii   ONS 2010 mid-year estimates
iii   Sources: Demographics Background Paper 2009 and Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA update

9 Social, Environmental and Economic Issues

9.8   The availability of jobs, the history of in-migration in the District and the regional pattern of larger town centres all contribute to a high level of travel by residents of the District. High car usage is supported by generally good road connections, with the A38 and A5 being important routes to the north/south and east/west respectively. The construction of the M6 Toll has further increased accessibility and raised the profile of the District as an area for business investment, both in terms of distribution and office market potential.

9.9   Although the availability of a frequent rail service from Lichfield via the cross-city rail line allows a degree of rail commuting, journey to work movements from the District are largely made by car. This is one of the factors, combined with a high level of gas consumption in the regional context, that results in a relatively high level of carbon emissions by District residents.

Environmental Issues

Landscape, heritage, built and natural environment

9.10   The landscape of the District is varied due to underlying variations in geology and the presence of the two major river valleys of the River Trent and River Tame that have a confluence to the east of Alrewas. While modern changes to the landscape have been substantial, there remains evidence of former landscapes across the District and therefore historic character of the environment is a significant factor to be taken into account in determining future strategies, including development locations.

9.11   Evidence relating to landscape, heritage and the built and natural environment includes the Staffordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project, the Lichfield Historic Environment Character Assessment (HECA, 2009) and the Lichfield Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) carried out by the County Council, the West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscapes Project (2010), Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.

9.12   Lichfield District has a rich and varied heritage. Throughout history, settlers have made their mark on the District from the buildings they created, to the wars they fought, to the roads they laid. Features from across the centuries are still evident, including Roman roads (Ryknild Street, A38 or Watling Street, A5), Georgian buildings and Victorian shops. The village of Wall is famous for being a military base and still today Roman remains can be seen there. The importance of many of these sites has been recognised, for example, 15 archaeological sites have been given legal protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

9.13   Across the District many settlements have access to the canal network which has been an important part of the historic development of many areas. There are 20 village conservation areas within the District, which is an indication of the historic and architectural quality of the rural settlements. The District has 21 conservation areas in total and approximately 800 listed buildings. This indicates the wealth of historic and heritage assets which play a significant part in the character of Lichfield District.

9.14   The City of Lichfield is an important historic centre, with a major conservation area based around the Cathedral, a medieval street pattern and historic city centre buildings. The Cathedral Close and Linear Park is the only Registered Park and Garden within the District. The Cathedral spires (the 'ladies of the vale'), are visible from many points in the wider rural

landscape. Post war growth has been a feature of the City, which saw some major housing estates developed through 'overspill' agreements, mainly in the north of the City and these are now the subject of initiatives to help their regeneration. More recent housing developments from the 1980's at Boley Park and since 2000 at Darwin Park, have seen further outward expansion and growth of the City, to the south-east and south-west respectively.

9.15 Burntwood is a town that has formed as a consequence of recent growth and is the amalgamation of several smaller settlements through significant residential growth from the 1960's to the 1990's. The character and physical structure of Burntwood is therefore unusual for a freestanding town. The structure and rate of its growth have had consequences that planning policies have previously sought to address, in particular the need for a range of facilities and jobs that are appropriate for a town of its size that enable people to work, shop and access social and recreational infrastructure locally.

9.16 The rural landscape forms the setting for the District's villages that mainly have an agricultural past: this includes a number of historic farmsteads. Although many rural parts of the District have good quality agricultural land and remain productive, in common with most areas there is now relatively little employment in agriculture. Some of the villages retain a significant historic core - Alrewas being most notable. Some of the larger rural settlements have a modern employment base with Fradley providing significant employment opportunities and other villages with small industrial estates or major employers, notably Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley and Shenstone.

9.17 The historical and built heritage of the District is finite, and pressure for development and change in the District has the potential to provide for heritage led regeneration, contribute to a high quality environment, improve the management and maintenance of our historic assets, provide for better access and understanding of the historic environment yet it could also easily adversely affect archaeological sites, or the features and character of historical buildings and areas. The Council is keen to ensure that the effects of development on the District's heritage assets and their settings are adequately assessed, create a positive outcome through enhancement, or else minimised or where necessary mitigated. This includes as of yet unrecorded archeological interest, other nationally important archeological remains, non-designated archeological remains, parks and gardens and other feature of local historic interest.

9.18 A large part of Lichfield District is covered by the West Midlands Green Belt. This has meant that a substantial area within the south of the District has been subject to development restraint for many years and the northern part of the District has been less constrained for rural growth, allowing for employment provision centred around the former Fradley airfield and significant levels of housing growth in Armitage with Handsacre, Fradley and Alrewas.

Biodiversity and nature conservation

9.19 Key evidence in relation to biodiversity and nature conservation includes the Ecological Assessment for Lichfield District (2009), the Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment (2007), Evidence Base Report & Visitor Mitigation Strategy for Cannock Chase SAC (April 2010), Planning for Landscape Change, Staffordshire County Council SPD (1996-2011), River Mease Nutrient Management Plan and Water Quality Management Plan (2012),

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Lichfield Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping, Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Lichfield and Tamworth Local Plans 2012, Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2009-14, Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (ongoing programme), Humber River Basin Management Plan (2009), Severn River Basin Flood Management Plan (2009), A Living Landscape (Wildlife Trust, 2009), Hedgerow Study, Lichfield District Council (2008).

9.20   There are several areas of high landscape and nature conservation quality both within and adjoining the District. Of greatest importance are the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the eastern fringes of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), where there is a statutory obligation to protect and manage them. There are also 6 designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within the District which need careful management and protection. The varied landscapes within the District are home to a rich biodiversity resource, providing many types of habitats.

9.21   There is a need to stem the gradual loss of biodiversity that has seen a decline in the extent of lowland heathland and loss of local biodiversity sites. Recent years have seen the introduction of sustainable management practises at Chasewater and partnerships such as the Central Rivers Initiative, which both look to make the most of opportunities arising in these areas for management and habitat creation. The Forest of Mercia and the National Forest are both landscape orientated initiatives that seek to fundamentally change the character of parts of the District and to redress the major loss of woodland that the area has suffered, whilst enhancing the District's biodiversity and playing an important role in providing for recreation and tourism. The Midlands Plateau Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area has also been identified as a major regional project that extends from Cannock Chase to Sutton Park (within Birmingham); aimed at promoting the improved management of lowland heathland.

9.22   In addition the District has one Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site (RIGS) at Barrack Lane Quarry, Hammerwich, designated as an example of triassic sandstone in the southern part of Staffordshire, which has statutory protection.

Climate change and the use of natural resources

9.23   As a means of tackling climate change, Lichfield District must be a place where sustainable communities are created, where people can work, shop, learn and play near their homes and not have to drive unnecessarily long distances to access employment and other facilities, creating a district where people want to live and work, now and in the future. Communities must be safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run, offering equal opportunities and good services for all.

9.24   In terms of encouraging the prudent use of natural resources and mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, the need to respond pro-actively to this issue has been identified as a major priority for local authorities,and Lichfield District Strategic Partnership's Carbon Reduction Plan is the first step in the fulfilment of the District Council's commitment to tackling climate change. Planning has a key role to play in ensuring that development minimises its impact on the environment, helps to mitigate and adapt to adverse effects of climate change and reduces carbon emissions, including providing for renewable energy generation, in a sensitive way.

9.25   Utilising renewable energy from a variety of sources within Lichfield District will contribute to reducing carbon emissions. Under EU Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources the UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. Exploiting the District's wind and biomass resources is one way in which the District can contribute to this national target. In order to establish local feasibility and the potential for renewable energy generation within Staffordshire the Staffordshire Strategic Partnership (of which Lichfield District is a member) commissioned a study.

9.26   The Staffordshire County-wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study made recommendations in relation retro-fitting the existing housing stock with renewables and has estimated that Lichfield District is capable of meeting around 10% of its energy demand through renewable energy sources by 2020. The study has identified that Lichfield District's greatest opportunity lies in the diversion of biomass sources as alternative fuel sources, particularly from wood waste, straw and energy crops; which it is estimated could contribute up to 40% of renewable resources in 2020. For wind energy, scenarios modelled within the study, have identified that six turbines could be installed within the District, which would generate 21% of the modelled renewable energy in 2020 and the study identified six individual sites of greatest opportunity for wind development, considered to have the capacity for three or more large-scale turbines.

9.27   Waste management issues are set out in the Waste Hierarchy approach as advocated by the Waste Authority: Staffordshire County Council. This approach is fundamental to the emerging Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

9.28   Lichfield District contains significant mineral reserves and although coal mining activity has now ceased, there remain significant areas of sand and gravel extraction, concentrated on 'pebble beds' stretching from Weeford to Hopwas and on alluvial deposits in the Tame and Trent valleys. Almost all of the sites with permission are being worked, have been restored or are in the process of restoration, which will offer opportunities for green infrastructure projects, nature conservation, education and recreation. Staffordshire County Council is the minerals planning authority and has commenced the preparation of the Mineral Core Strategy and the Waste Core Strategy that that will form part of the Local Plan

Air quality

9.29   The District has low levels of pollution and generally good air quality. Local Authorities are required to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and where objectives are not met an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared and measures for addressing issues must be set out in an Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). Lichfield District has an AQMA at Muckley Corner.

Flood Risk

9.30   The Water Cycle Study highlights pressure on watercourses and aquifers and advises on suitable drainage systems to reduce surface water flooding. It advises that where flood risk assessments are required, these should follow national guidance, set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. In relation to the safeguarding of water resources and maintaining

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water quality regard should be had to the Southern Staffordshire Surface Water Management Plan Phase 1 which guides certain land uses away from locations that are key to delivering water supplies to avoid contamination.

Economic Issues

Economic structure

9.31   The nature of employment in the District has changed significantly over time with the decline of traditional engineering industries. There has been a substantial increase in distribution activities, particularly with the development of employment at Fradley airfield, however the significance of Lichfield as a centre for administration and professional services has continued. Much of the District's employment land is already determined by existing stock and planning permissions,but in some instances is not adequate to meet changing needs such as smaller start up units, 'touch down' units to support growing levels of home working, or modern, accessible and well located facilities.[iv]

9.32   As well as industrial, service and limited agricultural employment the District has a notable minerals industry, now confined to the extraction of sand and gravel within the Tame and Trent Valleys and the sandstone ridge extending from Weeford to Hopwas. The rate of future extraction and locations for working are currently being considered through the preparation of a Minerals Core Strategy by Staffordshire County Council which is the Minerals Planning Authority.

9.33   Lichfield District has a wide range of shopping and service facilities. Lichfield City is considered a strategic centre, whilst Burntwood Town is much smaller and currently does not provide for the needs of its catchment population. Key rural centres and neighbourhood centres provide much needed shops and services for local residents to use on a day-to-day basis. New communities proposed as part of the Local Plan will require similar neighbourhood centres to provide retail and services to the locality.

9.34   Tourism is a significant part of the local economy, based on the heritage, character and environment of the area, with Lichfield City being a particular focal point but with other attractions too. These include Drayton Manor Park to the edge of Fazeley, the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Chasewater Country Park near Burntwood, and the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Table 9.1 Employment by sector (Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2008 latest figures)

Employment by sector	Number of employees	Percentage
Manufacturing	5,100	12.8
Construction	2,300	5.6
Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants	8,900	22.3
Transport and Communications	2,900	7.2

iv   Employment Land Review February 2012

Employment by sector	Number of employees	Percentage
Finance, IT and other Business activities	8,200	20.5
Public Admin, Education and Health	9,100	22.8
Other services	2,500	6.2
Tourism Related	3,200	8.0

Workforce and employment

9.35   In terms of the working age population for the District this stood at 62.2% for Lichfield District in 2010 compared to 63.5% for the West Midlands as a whole and 64.8% for England. However, of these, some 78.5% of the working population were economically active compared to 74.2% for the West Midlands.[v]

9.36   Lichfield District has a job balance ratio of 83.3% based on 2001 Census figures, considerably lower than the West Midlands average of 88.1% (The job balance ratio is the number of jobs in the District divided by the number of economically active residents).[vi] This is partly caused by the District's high levels of commuting, particularly due to its proximity to large conurbations which offer higher skilled / paid jobs, and the good road links to these conurbations such as the A38 and the A5 corridors which offer easy access by car. It should also be noted that many residents commute by train as rail links are good in parts of the District, particularly around Lichfield City and Shenstone.

9.37   The economic downturn (2008 - 2012) is showing an impact within the District as unemployment within Lichfield District stood at a rate of 5% in June 2011, although this is slightly lower than both the Regional and National averages which stood at 8.7% and 7.7% respectively.[vii]

Earnings

9.38   People living in Lichfield District on average earn 12% more than people working in Lichfield District, which is an indication of residents travelling out of the District for higher paid jobs elsewhere, principally within the wider West Midlands, and the lack of higher-skilled / wage jobs within the District. Higher wages also results in higher house prices across the District, which exacerbates issues of affordability, particularly for younger people and those in lower waged employment. Consequently many people of working age leave the District to seek more affordable housing elsewhere.[viii]

Table 9.2 Average Annual Income Gross (Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics 2011)

	Lichfield (£)	West Midlands (£)	Great Britain (£)
Earnings by Residents	£28,574	£24,398	£26,094

v   Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2010
vi   Employment Land Review 2012
vii   Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics June 2011
viii Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA update 2012

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	Lichfield (£)	West Midlands (£)	Great Britain (£)
Earnings by workplace	£25,319	£24,310	£26,021

Skills and Education

9.39 The percentage of students achieving high GCSE Grades (A* to C) is slightly above the average for England (76.9% for Lichfield District compared to 75.3% for England in 2010), although the average A level points score at 699.1 in 2010 was lower than the average for England (744.8).[ix]

9.40 The percentage of residents with higher level qualifications (levels 4 and 5 i.e. degree level and above or the equivalent) is above both the West Midlands and National average - 15.5% as compared to 11.6% for the West Midlands and 14.4% nationally.[x] This is reflected in the number of residents who work as managers and senior officials (14%), professional occupations (11%) and associate professional and technical occupations (13%).[xi]

Social Issues

Population

9.41 The 2010 Mid-Year Population projections estimate that Lichfield District's population has grown to 98,700, from 93,232 as recorded in the 2001 census, this equates to an increase of 5,468 people (5.7%). Figures show that 20% of the District's population is within the Older People category and 17.8% is under 16 years of age. The proportion of Under 16s is lower than the national and regional averages and the proportion of Older People is higher than the national and regional averages. The number of Older People within the District has grown significantly since the 2001 Census from 15.5% to 20%. The impacts of an ageing population is recognised as a national issue, however, these figures show that the ageing of the population within Lichfield District and its movement into retirement and older age groups, could be a greater issue than for many other areas of the region.

9.42 The ethnic make-up of Lichfield District differs significantly from the regional and national compositions, with people of White British origin accounting for a larger proportion of the population than any other ethnic group (96.6% of the population according to the 2001 Census).

9.43 Lichfield District is often considered to be a relatively prosperous area in the regional and national context, ranking as low as 237 of 348 in Local Authorities ranked for overall deprivation in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 . Whilst it is generally true as an indication of prosperity and the health of communities that deprivation in the area is not severe, there are however pockets of deprivation, of different types, that are present within the District. Significant among these are Chasetown and Chadsmead wards in terms of overall deprivation, whilst several rural wards have barriers preventing access to housing, local services and amenities.

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ix   source: Department for Education 'in your area' website 2011
x   2001 Census
xi   AWM Future Market profiles 2010

Housing

9.44   Lichfield District is an area of high demand for housing, which has been exacerbated by significant levels of migration into the District, often from higher-income households. This has resulted in house prices that are higher than the average both nationally and in the wider West Midlands. Lichfield District will continue to be an area of housing growth which needs to be addressed in ways which protect the living standards and environment of those already resident as well as those people moving to the area.

9.45   Importantly, housing within the District will need to provide for a very different demographic by 2028. It will need to address issues relating to an ageing population and will need to encourage the retention of younger people and the economically active.

9.46   The overall quality of housing within Lichfield District is generally good and there is a high level of owner occupation, at over 79%, whilst social rented housing accounts for only about 13.5% of the total. The principal issues in relation to housing are affordability and meeting housing requirements.

9.47   The Affordability Index highlights how affordable an area is to live in by dividing house price by income, with lower figures indicating that an area is more affordable. Lichfield District's 'price:income ratio' has increased since 2009/2010 this is a trend that is reflected nationally. In terms of affordability, the ratio of income to house prices is amongst the highest in Staffordshire. Although there are significant variations in affordability within the District, there is a need for more affordable housing in all areas, to serve the needs of Lichfield, Burntwood and rural parts of the District where high house prices and limited availability are significant.

9.48   In addition there are a range of barriers to accessing housing and services which are particularly prevalent in the rural areas, these being: the rural north in the areas surrounding Armitage with Handsacre (including Kings Bromley, the Ridwares and Blithbury, Colton, the Longdons, Gentleshaw and Chorley); the Mease and Tame area to the east (including Croxall, Edingale, Harlaston, Clifton Campville and Thorpe Constantine), and the rural south (which includes Wall, Shenstone, Hopwas, Weeford, Hints and Drayton Bassett).[xii]

9.49   The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA 2008 & updated 2012) identifies the imbalance of housing types across the District with high concentrations of larger, detached homes, particularly in the rural areas. Consequently it has identified the need for smaller affordable dwellings, particularly those of an appropriate type and size for 'first-time buyers' or 'first-time renters' and families to access. Additionally, the shifting demographic patterns across the age ranges of 60-79 and the over 80s have major implications for meeting the differing and evolving housing and supporting the needs of older people living alone. In many of our rural areas issues arise in relation to "asset rich - income poor" home owners, and it is essential that sufficient resources are allocated to appropriate care and support services for older people living alone

xii   Barriers to Housing and Services geographical barriers and wider barriers sub domains, CLG Indices of Deprivation 2010

9 Social, Environmental and Economic Issues

9.50   Specialist accommodation also includes provision for Gypsies and Travellers, a need for 14 pitches has been identified plus 5 transit pitches in the District.[xiii]

Access to Services and facilities

9.51   Access to services and facilities is an issue within the District. As has been mentioned previously, the two main urban centres of Lichfield City and Burntwood are very different, with Lichfield operating as a strategic centre which serves a broad hinterland, and Burntwood having a shortfall in the services and facilities needed to serve its local population. In terms of the rural areas, these were scored based on a range of services and facilities, and transport access with the most sustainable (the Key Rural Settlements) being Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Little Aston, Shenstone and Whittington.[xiv]

9.52   Additionally,in 2008, Staffordshire County Council produced a report on the most sustainable locations for development in terms of public transport accessibility which showed particular problems in relation to rural areas. The best-served areas were Lichfield City and Fazeley (although the latter did not score quite so well in terms of access to supermarkets, secondary education and GP services).

9.53   The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) sets out the detail in relation to infrastructure needs which also includes existing shortfalls in services and facilities. Evidence used to inform the Local Paln and IDP in relation to sports facilities, there is a shortfall in Lichfield City and a need to provide a new leisure centre / swimming pool or provide improvements to existing facilities (Facilities Planning Model 2010). The Playing Pitch, Tennis and Bowls Strategy 2012 identifies where there is a need to improve or provide facilities, and the Open Space Assessment 2012 looks at the quantity and quality of, and accessibility to a range of different types of open space, identifying shortfalls and setting standards for provision. Open space types include: Play, Amenity Green Space, Natural and Semi Natural Green Space, Allotments, Green Corridors, Cemeteries, Churchyards and Civic Spaces.

9.54   In terms of arts and culture, organisations such as the Arts Foundation for Lichfield emphasise the importance of providing a range of facilities for the District, not just in relation to the larger tourist attractions (e.g. the Cathedral or the Lichfield Garrick theatre) but a range of facilities and locations where social and community events, courses and activities and delivery of outreach services can be held, for example in community halls, fields, parks and gardens. Sport England stress that provision should cater for a wide range of interests, needs and abilities to encourage more people in under-represented groups to participate and engage.[xv]

Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety

9.55   The Health and Wellbeing Profile for Lichfield District 2012 sets out details relating to the wider determinants of health, areas of health inequality and particular issues of concern. In summary these are:

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xiii   Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2007
xiv   Rural Settlements Sustainability Study 2011
xv   Sport England Active People Survey 2010

- The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010: two lower super-output areas (LSOAs) fall within the most deprived national quintile: these are in Lichfield City and fall within Chadsmead and Curborough wards;

- Child wellbeing index: the following LSOAs fall within the second most deprived quintile, these are within the wards of Chadsmead, Chasetown, Curborough and Fazeley;

- GCSE attainment: this is poor in Chadsmead ward (in 2011 only 24% attained five or more A*to C grades at GCSE level including English and Maths compared to 58% for Lichfield as a whole);

- Child poverty: 38% of children in Chadsmead ward are defined as living in poverty (compared to 14% for the District as a whole);

- Adults of working age: 9% live in income deprived households, income levels are particularly low in Summerfield ward (Burntwood);

- Older people living in poverty: around 13% of people aged over 60 in Lichfield District live in income deprived households;

- Jobseekers claimants: there are high proportions in Chadsmead and Curborough wards;

- Transport: around 36% of people in the District are defined as living in the most disadvantaged quintile nationally for geographical access to services. These are located in the wards of Alrewas and Fradley, Bourne Vale, Colton and Mavesyn Ridward, Hammerwich, Highfield, Kings Bromley, Leomansley, Little Aston, Longdon, Mease and Tame, St John's, Shenstone, Stonnall and Whittington.

9.56   The Lichfield District Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2011 sets out key priorities in terms of community safety issues and particular hotspots. The report recommends the following priorities:

- The locality focus for priority neighbourhoods in relation to violent crime, criminal damage and anti social behaviour (including alcohol related offences) identified hotspots in Lichfield City Centre, North Lichfield, Chasetown (including burglary) and Fazeley and Mile Oak.

- Re-offending should continue to be a priority: there are links between higher rates of re-offending and offender need in relation to alcohol, drugs and finance.

- Vulnerable people and people susceptible to harm should continue to be prioritised, this is a particular issue in areas of lower income, and in rural areas where social engagement levels are also lower.

9.57   The Lichfield District Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2011 also shows road safety to be a key priority. During 2010 there were 457 road traffic casualties in Lichfield District, a reduction of 13% from 2009. Most collisions occur in similar areas, on the arterial

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roads through the District, mainly at junctions / roundabouts or high speed sections of road, or in congested or built up areas such as Lichfield City Centre and the residential areas of Chasetown, Boney Hay and Burntwood.

9.58   Part of the health and wellbeing agenda is the level to which people feel they belong to a community and how they can shape and influence decision making in the local area. The Lichfield District 'Feeling the Difference' survey (Staffordshire Observatory 2011) showed that slightly more people in Burntwood (16%) felt they did not belong to their neighbourhood than those living in Lichfield (11%) and the Rural areas (10%). Additionally, those who felt they could most influence decision making were residents of small / mid size towns (Mosaic Group B), and professionals living in suburban or semi-rural homes (Mosaic Group D). The 16 - 25 year olds were the age group least likely to feel they could influence decision making.

10 Baseline Data and Indicators

10.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring environmental, economic and social impacts and alternative ways of dealing with them.

10.2 Baseline information assists in answering the following questions:

- How good or bad is the current situation? Do trends show that it is getting better or worse?

- How far is the current situation from any established thresholds or targets?

- Are particularly sensitive or important elements of the receiving environment affected? e.g. Vulnerable social groups, non renewable resources, endangered species, rare habitats;

- Are the problems reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary?

- How difficult would it be to offset or remedy any damage?

- Have there been significant cumulative or synergistic effects over time? Are there expected to be such effects in the future?

10.3 Baseline information is key to successful monitoring, and for this reason is incorporated into the table in the 'Monitoring Framework' Section of this report. It reflects the baseline information provided within the 2007 Scoping Report as this represents the 'starting point' for the implementation of the Local Plan which runs from 2008 - 2028. However, it also needs to be acknowledged that some data has only become available since the 2007 'start point' and so dates are also incorporated to provide a more accurate picture.

10.4 Our baseline information covers environmental issues such as condition surveys of SSSIs and locally important wildlife sites, tree preservation orders and buildings at risk, whilst economic issues cover the percentage of the population of working age, qualifications and skills amongst many others. Social issues such as health data on life expectancy, affordable and specialist housing provision, access to and participation levels in sport and recreation, crime and health statistics and on engagement with our communities are also included and this is set out in the 'Monitoring Framework' chapter of this report.

10.5 This data is monitored, where possible, through the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), and the monitoring chapter also sets this out. The AMR indicators have developed over time to reflect the issues identified in the Scoping Report, information available, changes in national requirements and the changes to the 'Local Plan: Strategy', and will be reviewed on an annual basis and baseline data will be updated were necessary.

11 SA Appraisal Framework

11.1   Issues and objectives which the SA should consider were identified through workshop event in 2007 with a wide range of consultees. The issues were then grouped together and the framework of questions and objectives were drafted.

11.2   From the workshop a smaller group of individuals were invited to form the Lichfield Sustainability Working Group (LSWG) to appraise the Local Plan in line with the objectives established by the group and following appraisal of the information from the scoping of the plans and programmes.

11.3   The group considered the framework objectives and these were published as part of the Scoping Report in June 2007. Comments were received from a number of sources especially with regard to the questions and these were amended to reflect the changes requested by English Heritage and Sport England. Subsequently when the group came to using the questions they found a number of them were duplicated unnecessarily, and further changes to the questions were decided by the group and these were published for consultation via the District Council website and sent directly to the statutory consultees. No comments were received, so the Scoping report as at September 2007 set out the appraisal questions used for the appraisal of the Core Strategy.

11.4   The strategic framework objectives identified were considered in relation to topics listed in Annex (f) of the SEA Directive in Section 4 of the Scoping Report September 2007 and is reproduced below:

Table 11.1 Draft Objectives & SEA Directive Topics

Sustainability Framework Objectives		SEA Directive Topics
Objective A	To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality	• Material assets • Cultural heritage • Landscape
Objective B	To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats.	• Biodiversity • Fauna • Flora
Objective C	To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings.	• Material assets • Cultural heritage
Objective D	To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	• Climatic factors
Objective E	To encourage prudent use of natural resources.	• Soil

Sustainability Framework Objectives		SEA Directive Topics
		• Water
		• Air
Objective F	To reduce flood risk.	• Water
		• Climatic factors
Objective G	To improve availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services.	
Objective H	To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems.	
Objective I	To create mixed and balanced communities.	• Population
Objective J	To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime.	
Objective K	To improve the health of the population.	• Human health
Objective L	To enable improved community participation.	

11.5 The resultant sustainability framework objectives and the questions which are used to inform the appraisals are as below:

Table 11.2 SA Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Suggested Target or Indicators
A. To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality	1. Will it promote and maintain and attractive and diverse landscape?	Landscape character and townscape quality
	2. Will it protect areas of highest landscape quality?	Loss or damage to historic view lines and vistas
	3. Will it improve areas of lower landscape quality?	Loss of historic landscape features, erosion of character and distinctiveness (HLC)
	4. Will it preserve and enhance conservation areas including their settings?	Extent and use of detailed characterisation studies informing development proposals (HLC)
	5. Will it achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality?	Improvements in the quality of the townscapes, e.g. Delivery of street/public realm audits, improvement works, de-cluttering works both in the urban and rural areas
	6. Does it value and protect diverse and locally distinctive settlement and townscape character?	Whether development meets design standards
	6a. Does it safeguard historic views and valuable skylines of settlements?	

11 SA Appraisal Framework

11 SA Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Suggested Target or Indicators
B. To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats.	7. What affect will there be on priority habitats?	Amount of priority habitat created/recreated - Lowland/Heathland
	8. What affect will there be on national and local sites, including veteran trees?	Amount of priority habitat created/recreated - Wet Grassland
	9. What affect will there be on green corridors/water courses. Will it reduce/eliminate fragmentation/wildlife connectivity?	Amount of priority created/recreated - Rich Flower Grassland
		Number of hectares of Local Nature Reserves
	10. Will it improve the number and diversity of sties and habitats of nature conservation value in the District?	Number and type of internationally/nationally designated sites
	10a. What affect will there be on the RIGS site?	Number of species relevant to the district which have achieved SBAP targets e.g otter and snipe
		Veteran trees, ancient woodland
C. To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings.	11. Will it safeguard sites of archaeological importance (scheduled or unscheduled) and their settings?	Number of Conservation Areas with and up-to-date character appraisal and a published Management Plan
	12. Will it preserve and enhance buildings and structures and their settings and contribute to the District's heritage?	Number of sites subject to development where archaeology is preserved in situ compared with those scientifically recorded
	13. Will it improve and broaden access to, and understanding of, local heritage, historic sites, areas and building?	Number of Grade II Buildings considered to be of building at risk standard
		Number of buildings of historic or architectural interest brought back into active use
		Number of historic and archaeological sites, features and areas with improved management
		Number of historic assets providing greater understanding, enjoyment and access
		Number, or %, or area of historic buildings, sites and areas and their settings (both designated and non designated) damaged
D. To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	14. Will it encourage prudent use of energy?	CO2 emissions per capita
	15. Does it enable opportunities for renewable energy?	Energy consumption
	16. Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal?	Average energy efficiency of housing stock
		20% of electricity produced from renewable sources

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Suggested Target or Indicators
		% developments with Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS)
E. To encourage prudent use of natural resources.	17. Will it improve air quality?	Indicator for air quality
	18. Will it protect controlled waters?	Indicator for water quality
	19. Will it use water efficiently and with care?	Sand and gravel
	20. Will it encourage greater use of alternatives to primary resources?	Crushed rock
	21. Will it prevent sterilisation of mineral resources?	National waste targets
	22. Will it encourage a move towards alternative methods of waste re-use and recovery e.g energy?	Lichfield recycling targets
		Increase the % of municipal waste recycled
		Reduction in the % of municipal waste landfilled
		Target from renewables
		CO2 emissions
F. To reduce flood risk.	23. Will there be an opportunity for flood risk reduction?	Number and types of flooding incidents
		Number of residential units granted permission contrary to an EA objection
		% developments with Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS)
G. To improve availability of sustainability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services.	24. Will it provide opportunities to reduce trips by car?	Traffic levels (million vehicle kilometres) on the local road network
	24a. Will it provide increased opportunities/facilities for walking and cycling?	Access to bus services
	25. Will it provide access to new developments for those without access to a car?	Increased opportunities for walking and cycling
	26. Will it reduce the overall impact in traffic sensitive areas?	
H. To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems.	27. Will it encourage an increase in the provision and use of e-businesses?	Introduce Workplace Travel Plans in x% of companies by 20xx
	28. Will it encourage local supply chains?	
	29. Will it encourage business to use more sustainable forms of transport (e.g Travel Plans)?	

11 SA Appraisal Framework

11 SA Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Suggested Target or Indicators
	30. Will it encourage distribution and warehousing to be close to main transport networks?	
I. To create mixed and balanced communities.	31. Will it encourage higher skilled economic sectors in the District (e.g R&D, high technology)?	Number of VAT registrations per 1,000 populations
	32. Will it encourage new employment that is consistent with local needs?	% of Working Age Population with NVQ Level 4 and above
	33. Will it encourage growth of indigenous businesses?	% of Working Age Population with NVQ Level 2 and above
	34. Will it encourage micro and small businesses?	Numbers of leavers achieving a skills for life qualification Entry Level 3 and above
	35. Will it provide for affordable housing for local people in need of a home?	Success rate for further education
	36. Will it provide housing that meets the needs of the young, elderly, those on limited incomes including within the rural areas and those with special accommodation requirements such as Gypsies and Travellers and disabled people?	Success rate for Work Based Learning (WBL)
		% of 18-59 year olds attending Higher Education Institutions
		% of new retail floorspace development in centres and on the edge of centres
	37. Will it improve levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities?	% of new housing that is affordable
	38.Will it encourage home-based businesses?	Employment rate
	39. Will it improve service provision for the young, elderly and disabled, in particular transport?	Mean household income attained in Targeted Wards
	40. Will it address the sport and recreational needs of children and under-represented groups like girls/women, the disabled, the elderly?	Increase the numbers of businesses registered with Think Local in Lichfield District
	41. Will it provide for local retail needs?	Proportion of children and young people with good access to high quality leisure, cultural and sport experiences
	42. Will it encourage cultural activity?	Increase from 35.2% the % of the population within 20 mins travel time of a range of 3 different sports facilities, one of which is quality assured
	43. Will it improve transport provision and accessibility?	
	44. Will it improve choice of transport mode?	
J. To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime.	45. Will it encourage crime-sensitive design?	Reduction in overall British Crime Survey comparator recorded crime - Lichfield District

11 SA Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Suggested Target or Indicators
	46. Will it target, reduce and sustain a reduction in burglary?	% of residents who say that they feel "very" or "fairly" safe when outside in Staffordshire during the day
	47. Will it help ensure safe journeys and reduce road casualties?	% of residents who say they feel "very" or "fairly" safe when outside in Staffordshire after dark
		Public perceptions of high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour
K. To improve the health of the population.	48. Will it improve the standard of health care, particularly for the elderly?	Reduction in health inequalities between the populations of most deprived super output areas and least deprived areas by narrowing the gap in all ages, call cause mortality (age standardised rate per 1,000)
	49. Will it support a healthy lifestyle?	Number of adults aged 18-64 with physical disabilities helped to live at home, per 1,000 population
	50. Will it help to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol?	Life expectancy
	50a. Will it help to reduce health inequalities?	Increase the level of physical activity from 22.4% of the population taking 3x30 mins of moderate exercise a week (Active Peoples Survey)
L. To enable improved community participation.	51. Will it empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making and the impacts of those decisions?	
	52. Will it improve community capacity to enable engagement in community enterprise?	
	53 Is there a framework for engagement with communities, including novel approaches to reach particular groups/sectors?	

11.6   The appraisals were undertaken using the following scoring matrix:

Table 11.3 Scoring System Used for Appraisals

++	Clear and strong positive effect in response to criterion
+	Positive effect in response to criterion
- -	Clear and strong negative effect in response to criterion
-	Negative effect in response to criterion
+/-	Mixed effect in response to criterion
0	No effect in response to criterion

?	Effects impossible to determine from information in Strategy

11.7   As the appraisal process evolved the group found a need for a wider range of conclusions to be drawn and the addition of a ++ and - - ve was added to help differentiate between the options. A comments box was also added to assist in clarification and to identify any mitigation and uncertainty remaining. Again this was included as part of the September 2007 Scoping Report.

11.8   Since the original scoring matrix was developed, situations have arisen where the group have felt it is necessary to identify major constraints/ opportunities which could get hidden in the analysis - identified at the time with either a green or red asterisk. For example a red asterisk was used to refer to loss of an SBI. 'The Local Plan: Strategy' appraisals have resulted in no asterisks being incorporated as all of the issues previously identified in this way have now been addressed.

Strategic Priorities
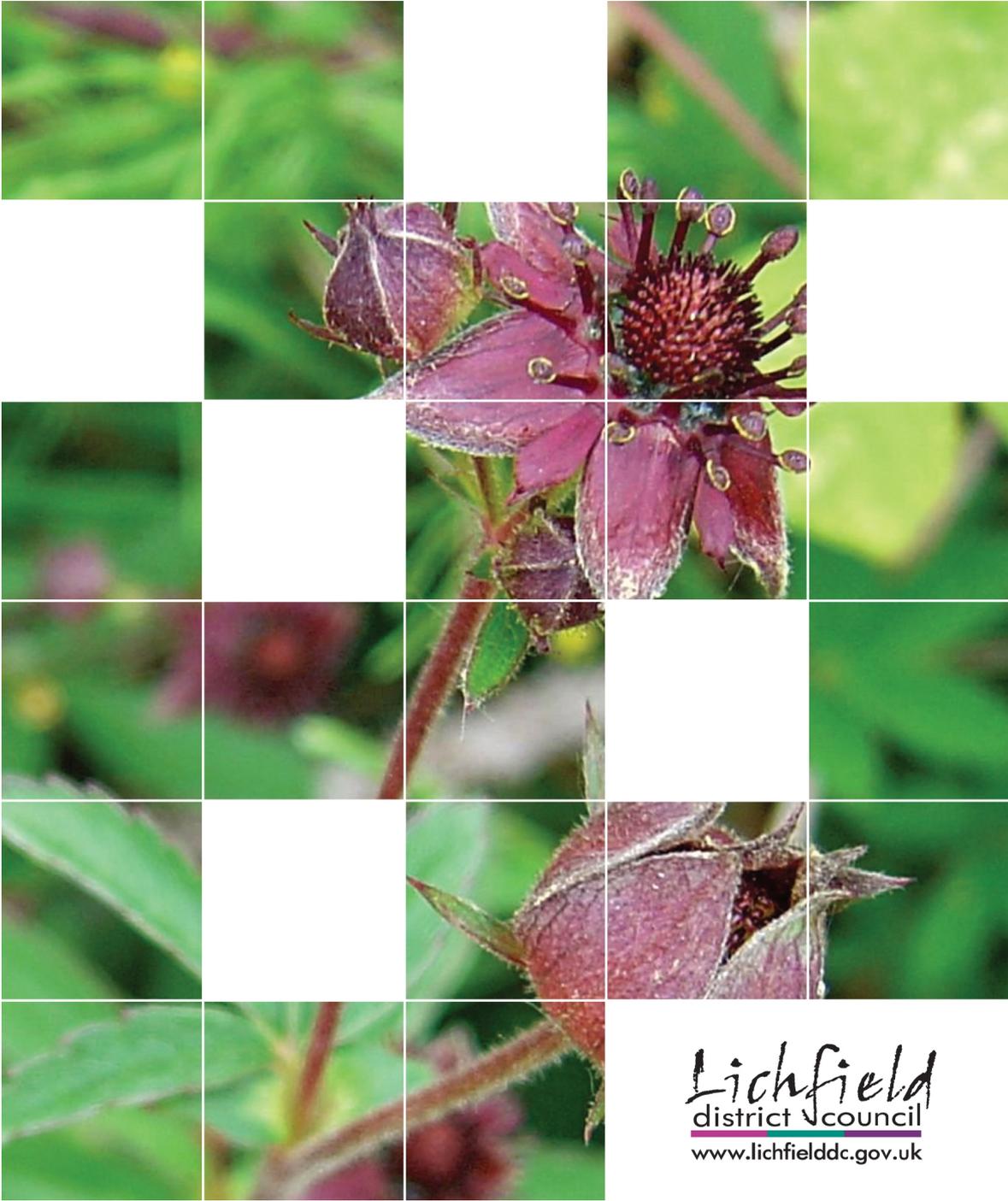
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12 Strategic Priorities

12.1　The 'Issues' and the 'Issues and Options' consultation included Strategic Objectives (now called Strategic Priorities) and the LSWG compared these to the SFO, the findings were published in the ICSSA (table 5.1).

12.2　The Strategic Priorities in the 'Preferred Options' consultation were called 'Spatial Objectives' and had been amended to include the need to broaden the approach to climate change and make them more specific. An additional objective which related to regeneration issues within existing communities was also added and the objectives simplified. Since this time the Strategic Objectives have been renumbered and redrafted following representations, the SA process and evidence.

12.3　The 'Policy Directions' document did not include Spatial Objectives or Strategic Priorities, as it was primarily a document focusing on policy development, rather than strategy. The 'Shaping our District' consultation did include Strategic Objectives and these are similar to the Strategic Priorities within the 'Local Plan: Strategy'. The changes between these two documents have arisen through working with our partners, the SA, the NPPF and representations received. They now provide greater protection to the character of our rural communities by requiring employment and housing development to be locally relevant; the character of the countryside has been strengthened positively by including a requirement to preserve the openness of the Green Belt; greater clarity is now afforded by Strategic Priority 14 to include protection and enhancement of heritage assets including Lichfield Cathedral; Strategic Priorities 11 now includes 'To create an environment that promotes and supports healthy choices' and Strategic Priority 13 now seeks to expand as well as protect and enhance our natural resources.

12.4　A comparison between the 'Local Plan: Strategy' Strategic Priorities and the Strategic Framework Objectives of the Scoping Report is set out in the table below. A greater level of detail in the plan has enabled greater certainty of the scorings and a greater understanding of how our communities function through widening the LSWG and the evidence gathered through the Rural Masterplanning exercise has enabled improved scores. The table now shows no negative effects. All the sustainability framework objectives have been addressed and the scoring shows the Local Plan should have a positive effect on the Sustainability Framework Objectives. These overarching principles of the plan will deliver the vision of the Plan and should achieve sustainable development.

Table 12.1 Comparison of Strategic Priorities against Sustainability Framework Objectives

Local Plan: Strategy Strategic Priorities	Sustainability Framework Objectives													
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
1				+	+		+	+	+	+	+		+	+
2	+						+		+	+	+			+
3	+	+		+	+	+								
4	+										+	+	+	+
5							+			+	+			
6											+			
7								+	+					
8								+	+					
9	+		+	+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+
10	+	+	+					+	+		+			
11		+	+		+						+	+	+	+
12	+													
13	+	+		+		+								
14	+	+	+								+			
15	+	+	+				+	+		+				

12 Strategic Priorities

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13 The Spatial Strategy

13.1   The spatial strategy for Lichfield District has been developing since consideration of 'Issues and Options' in 2007. The development of the strategy from then until its final iteration, included within the 'Local Plan: Strategy', is set out in Section 4 of this report 'Background to Lichfield District Local Plan'. The spatial strategy included within the Local Plan directs development towards the most sustainable locations, and plans for making the best use of, safeguarding and improving our existing facilities and infrastructure to create and maintain sustainable communities.

13.2   The spatial strategy seeks to deliver 8,700 dwellings between 2008 & 2028 within the District boundary, and directs approx. 32% of housing growth to Lichfield City, which includes to development of two Strategic Development Allocations (SDAs) to the South of Lichfield and to the East of Lichfield, at Streethay, as well as the redevelopment or infilling of sites within the urban area.

13.3   Approximately 15% of the District's housing is apportioned to Burntwood, including a SDA to the East of Burntwood bypass.

13.4   To assist in meeting the housing needs of neighbouring towns approximately 12% of the District's housing will be focused to the East of Rugeley, including a SDA on brownfield land at Rugeley Power Station and also approximately 12% of housing to the north of Tamworth, adjacent to the Anker Valley development with a Broad Development Location (BDL).

13.5   Within the key rural settlements approximately 12% of housing growth is directed towards Fradley area, which includes an SDA focused on the former Fradley airfield and around a further 12% to be allocated between the remaining key rural settlements of Alrewas, Armitage with Handsacre, Fazeley, Shenstone and Whittington.

13.6   The other rural areas are set to take 6% of housing growth in the District.

Table 13.1 Proposed Settlement Hierarchy

Area	Hierarchy	Residential	Employment	Centres
Lichfield	Strategic Centre	Approx. 32% of housing (2,775) including Strategic Development Allocations (SDAs) to South of Lichfield and E. of Lichfield (Streethay)	Employment through implementation of existing commitments and redevelopment.	Major growth in town/City Centre uses: Limit of 36,000m^2 gross additional retail within City Centre. A target of 30,000m^2 office provision within City Centre

13 The Spatial Strategy

Area	Hierarchy	Residential	Employment	Centres
				Focus for District's leisure activities.
Burntwood	Other Large Centre	Approx. 15% of housing (1,275) including Strategic Development Allocation (SDA) to E. of Burntwood Bypass	Employment through implementation of existing commitments and redevelopment. Release of poor quality employment sites from the employment land portfolio	Town centre uses to meet local needs: Limit of 14,000m^2 gross additional retail within Town Centre. Up to 5,000m^2 office provision within Town Centre.
Rugeley	Neighbouring Town	Approx. 12% of housing (1,125) focused to the East of Rugeley on brownfield land, including Strategic Development Allocation (SDA) [xvi]	Employment through implementation of existing commitments.	Not covered within Lichfield District Local Plan
Tamworth	Neighbouring Town	Approx. 12% of housing (1,000) focused to the north of Anker Valley within a Broad Development Location. [xvii]	Not covered within Lichfield District Local Plan	Not covered within Lichfield District Local Plan
Fradley	Key Rural Settlements	Approx. 12% of housing (1,000) including Strategic Development Allocation (SDA) focused on former airfield.	Focus for rural employment creation. Employment through implementation of existing commitments at Fradley and redevelopment. Release of poor quality employment sites from the employment land portfolio	Retention of local services and facilities to meet needs of local population and smaller outlying villages.
Fazeley		Approx. 12% of housing (1,025) including 440 yet to be allocated between settlements within the Local Plan: Land Allocations		
Shenstone				
Armitage with Handsacre				
Whittington				
Alrewas				

xvi   500 to assist in meeting the needs arising within Rugeley
xvii   50% to assist in meeting Lichfield District's needs and 50% to assist in meeting needs arising within Tamworth Borough

Area	Hierarchy	Residential	Employment	Centres
Clifton Campville;Colton; Drayton Bassett; Edingale; Elford; Hamstall Ridware; Harlaston; Hill Ridware; Hopwas; Kings Bromley; Little Aston; Longdon; Stonnall; Upper Longdon; Wigginton	Other Rural	Approx. 6% of housing (500)	Rural employment diversification. Release of poor quality employment sites from the employment land portfolio	Look to key rural settlements for local services and facilities.

13.7   The proposed spatial strategy is set out in Core Policy 1 of the Local Plan. The table below compares the spatial strategy proposed in the 'Shaping our District' document with the amended strategy set out in the proposed submission 'Local Plan: Strategy' Core Policy 1. Overall the spatial strategy proposed in the Local Plan scores better through the SA process than any strategy proposed previously in consultation documents, as more detail is now included enabling positive scores to be given where single positives were determined previously and also more positive scorings given where effects were impossible to determine previously.

13.8   The current strategy is clearly stronger in promoting the environmental impacts of sustainability. Clear and strong positive scores were determined for maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape quality, for promoting biodiversity and geodiversity through the protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats and for reducing flood risk.

13.9   With regard to economic impacts the strategy has scored positively, particularly with regard to encouraging higher skilled economic sectors and sustainable distribution and communication systems.

13.10   Additionally the strategy scores positively with regard to social impacts, especially upon creating mixed and balanced communities, and particularly in relation to improving levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities and in reducing trips by car.

Table 13.2 Core Policy 1: Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+/-/?	Positive impacts with regard to landscape, but mixed impact on historic environment, esp. Conservation Areas, & listed	++	Clear and strong positive impacts for maintaining &

13 The Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+	buildings esp. due to quantum of development in Lichfield City, but may aid understanding of heritage assets, including archaeology. No or positive impact on biodiversity, due to mitigation proposals only available for some locations. Positive impact on encouraging prudent use of energy & enabling opportunities for renewable energy though scale of development on SDLs, but negative impact as more waste created form development, therefore mixed effects overall. Strategy avoids areas of mineral resources, but effect on air quality water use and waster management impossible to determine. No impact on flood risk due to mitigation proposed.	++	enhancing landscape and townscape quality, due to quantum of development on edge of Lichfield City (housing numbers in proposed SDAs) reduced slightly & strongly worded policies to shape the way in which development takes place. Clear and strong positive impact on promoting biodiversity as strategy seeks to enhance connectivity and diversity of habitats & wildlife corridors. Also mitigation proposed for all SDAs & minimisation of any impacts on designated wildlife sites. Spatial strategy does not impact on RIGS site & protection afforded though policy. Potentially stronger on protection of
	C: Protect historic environment	+/-/?		+?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+/-/?		+	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+/?		+	
	F: Reduce flood risk	0		++	

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
					historic environment trough strong policies, but uncertainty over impact on archaeology & heritage assets in villages as sites not determined until allocations stage of Local Plan. Positive on encouraging energy efficiency & enabling opportunities for renewables, due to policies strengthened.
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	Positive economic impacts determined due to opportunities provided to reduce trips by car through locating development within and on edge of settlements with good access to facilities & services. Economic strategy seeks to re-balance housing & type of jobs available & therefore positive for encouraging higher skilled economic sectors, employment consistent with local needs, e-business, local supply chains, and indigenous, micro & small businesses. Will also provide for local retail needs through hierarchy of retail centres, and proposed provision of local retail facilities in SDL locations .	+	Economic strategy is now clearer & defines specific growth sectors in relation to high value professional services, R & D (including health & medical technologies), tourism, construction, social care, education, logistics. Therefore economic impacts now
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+		+	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+/?		+	

13 The Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
					more positive in relation to the creating mixed & balance communities.
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+	Mainly positive social effects determined, especially on increasing opportunities for walking & cycling & accessibility due to location of new development & proximity to public transport networks.	+	Locations of SDAs (formerly SDLs) have not changed & therefore social effects of improving availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services remains positive.

Clear & strong positive effects with regard to creating mixed & balanced communities, as required dwelling mix & provision for specialist housing now specified in strategy.

Overall strategy more positive in encouraging cultural activity, home-based businesses, & improved service provision for young & elderly. |
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+/?	Strongly positive for supporting healthy lifestyles, due to sports & recreational facilities proposed and also green infrastructure.	++	
	J: to promote safe communities	+/?/-	Potentially positive impacts upon providing specialist housing, encouraging crime sensitive design, reducing anti-social behaviour & providing health-care for the elderly, through infrastructure detailed in SDL concept statements & IDP.	+?	
	K: improve health	+/?		+?	
	L: to enable improved community participation	?	Some issues considered too detailed to be addressed by spatial strategy, such as reducing health inequalities, the number of burglaries & the use of drugs & alcohol & little detail given on community participation.

Only negative impact from lack of reduction in potential road casualties, due to increased numbers of people and traffic in certain locations. | +? | |

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
					Potentially positive for enabling community participation through development of SDAs with community facilities and policies which specifically mention working with Parish Councils & other local groups.
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy	Plan period changed from 2006-2026 to 2008-2028 & housing numbers increased slightly from 8,000 dwellings to 8,700 recognising that some of the homes would assist in meeting the needs arising within Tamworth and Rugeley. Percentage housing growth in Lichfield City reduced from 41% to 32% & in Burntwood from 15% to 13%. Rugeley SDA housing numbers reduced from 14% to 12%. In the rural areas the housing allocation has increased in the Key Rural Settlements (excluding Fradley) from 15% to 12% and in the other rural settlements from 5% to 6%. Small increase in retail floorspace limit within Lichfield City and decrease in Burntwood due to updated retail evidence.				
Mitigation and maximisation	The strategy seeks to maximise development in areas of greatest accessibility by sustainable means of transport, namely in Lichfield City, Burntwood and the Key Rural Settlements. SDAs will mean that economies of scale are created enabling greater opportunities for key infrastructure such a primary schools, community hubs, local retial provision, public transaport services and low carbon energy generation. Concentrating development in Lichfield, Burntwood and in the Fradley area will assist the growth of local businesses and enterprise. In concentrating the majority of housing growth in the more sustainable settlements the strategy seeks to minimise the impacts of development on smaller communities, where high levels of growth would have significant detrimental effects, on environmental issues particularly. In addition sensitive areas for biodiversity, landscape, heritage assets, mineral deposits and flood risk have been avoided where possible, with policies and concept statements to ensure mitigation and to minimise impacts where this has not been possible.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Development of large scale housing, infrastructure and the delivery of enhanced retail and leisure facilities are all, to differing extents, dependant upon the national and global economy, and may affect the viability of the spatial strategy.				

13 The Spatial Strategy

13 The Spatial Strategy

Spatial Strategy	SA SFO	Shaping our District Policy CP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP1	Assessment of Effects
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts	Cumulatively and in the long term the impacts of the proposed strategy will also be very positive, as per the overall scorings for the strategy. In some cases however, until a certain quantum of development exists, enabling the required infrastructure to be provided, mixed impacts will result, particularly in the short term. This was considered to be the case for environmental impacts, particularly with regard to effects on biodiversity through loss of habitats, where mitigation measures will take time to achieve positive benefits. This was also considered to be relevant in relation to creating mixed and balanced communities and to improving the availability of transport options to jobs and services, as many public transport improvements and provision of additional community, healthcare and educational facilities and improvements will be realised in the medium and long term.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	Overall it was determined that there would be a positive impact with regard to the effects of the strategy on cross-boundary issues. This is especially the case in relation to social impacts, and with regard to the provision of affordable housing in particular, as a joint housing evidence base has been developed with neighbouring Southern Staffordshire authorities and the strategy will provide housing to meet Tamworth and Cannock's needs. Additionally through the impact of the strategy, in combination with the County Council's transport strategies and plans, it was considered that there would be greatly improved access to increased opportunities for walking and cycling and provision of access for those without access to a car, as improvements are planned at Rugeley Trent Valley station and also highway improvements in Tamworth. Also it was determined that there would be clear and strong positive impacts upon biodiversity through policies effecting the SAC, AONB and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping which has considered cross boundary habitat and species movement. However, some effects where considered impossible to determine at present with regard to cross-boundary issues, for example in relation to reducing the overall impact on traffic sensitive areas work is still being undertaken by the County Council on transport for Tamworth and the full impact of development outside of the District on the A38 is unknown. Another cross-boundary effect which will have to be assessed for sustainability impacts in the longer term is that of HS2. This may have implications on environmental objectives such as landscape, biodiversity, heritage assets and air quality, as well as social and economic impacts on connectivity & transport networks other than rail. Until more details are known about route and the mitigation proposed these impacts are impossible to determine.				

14 Alternative Options

14.1 In formulating the preferred spatial strategy the District Council has considered a variety of alternative options and different combinations of spatially distributing growth to achieve its vision for the District.

14.2 The four options considered at 'Issues and Options' stage (as set out in Section 4 of this report - Background to the Lichfield District Local Plan) represented the District Council's first consideration of different spatial options for housing growth across the District. In addition the LSWG considered a variety of directions of growth for various settlements across the District as set out in ICSSA, with a number of these being excluded via the SA process. At this stage the LSWG also re-appraised the new settlement proposal at Curborough. Appendix i of the ICSSA sets out the scoring and orders the directions of growth/options from least to most impact.

14.3 Through the consultation on the Lichfield District Core Strategy "Shaping our District" document (December 2010) three main alternative spatial strategies were submitted as representations. These being:

1. Fradley West – this proposal was submitted by the Fradley West Consortium (comprised of the Banks Development Group, Hallam Land, Redrow Homes and Gleeson) represented by RPS Planning & Development Ltd. The strategy proposed is for a mixed-use scheme of housing (around 850 dwellings) and employment (30 hectares), on land to the west of Fradley Park, bounded by Gorse Lane to the east Wood End Lane to the south, the Coventry Canal to the north and the Trent and Mersey Canal to the west (see Appendix D). Although originally submitted as an 'alternative' location for growth, the latest information on this proposal indicates that the Consortium wish their contribution to the process to be considered as an extension to the existing Fradley South settlement; seeking to integrate this development with the current housing development proposed (via an outline planning application and proposed as part of an SDA in the Local Plan : Strategy) at Fradley Park. For the purposes of the SA the proposal has been considered separately from the Fradley Park proposal, as well as considered together integrated with the Fradley Park residential proposal.

2. The New Village Option: North East of Lichfield – two broad alternatives for a new village to the north east of Lichfield City have been put forward by a local landowner. Option A proposes a settlement of around 2,000 new dwellings and Option B proposes a settlement of around 4,000 new dwellings, on land between Lichfield and Fradley, around Curborough (see Appendix D). At present only an indication is given of the potential scale and extent of these options, with detailed boundaries, and land use locations to be refined and developed over time. At the time of submission the HS2 route was still at draft stage and both proposals were prepared showing a 'with and without' the proposed line of HS2. As the HS2 line shown has now been confirmed as the Governments final route (February 2012) the SA scoring still remains valid for these proposals.

3. JVH Town Planning Consultancy Ltd – two alternative options were submitted by this consultancy, which essentially proposed combining sites submitted on behalf of clients with land interests across the District. Option A proposes zero dwellings for Lichfield

14 Alternative Options

City, 950 dwellings for Burntwood (including 500 dwellings on land at Meg Lane), 400 at Rugeley, 700 at Fradley, 1,500 dwellings at the other key rural settlements, including 400 dwellings at Fazeley on sites around Bonehill and infill sites, land to the south west of Little Aston (315 dwellings), land to the south of Handsacre, Armitage (500 dwellings) and 400 in the smaller rural settlements. Option B proposes similar allocations, but with an alternative of 550 dwellings at either Lichfield South (which is part of the existing LDC Core Strategy) or at Cricket Lane, and none at Fradley (see Appendix D).

14.4   Since December 2012 a further request to combine the site known as Fradley West with land proposed as the Fradley Park SDA has been made and this combined site has also been appraised.

14.5   It should also be noted that in addition further information was submitted in May 2012 in relation to the proposed New Village Option North-East Lichfield. However, as this was not submitted in response to a consultation process the SA process has not taken account of this latest information and the New Village Option has been appraised as per the information submitted in November 2011.

14.6   The two options submitted by JVH Consultancy Ltd were appraised taking the Meg Lane site separately. This was in order to enable the scoring of growth in the rural villages as an alternative strategy to be more clearly shown, especially given the sensitive nature of any development at Meg Lane, Burntwood.

Overall Findings

14.7   Overall the SA found that none of the alternative spatial strategies submitted would be as sustainable as the District Council's strategy proposed within the 'Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy,' mainly due to their inability to meet local housing, economic and infrastructure requirement across the District.

14.8   Both options submitted by JVH Town Planning Consultancy Ltd have scored more negatively than any other spatial distribution of housing proposed. This is primarily due to the impact of an additional 1,500 dwellings proposed to be allocated to the key rural settlements, as opposed to 440 within the Lichfield District 'Local Plan: Strategy'. No mitigation details for the sites proposed in these options were submitted and thus on the information available the SA shows that these options score particularly poorly with regard to environmental impacts.

14.9   When the site at Meg Lane, Burntwood, is included, significant clear and strong negative environmental impacts would result, due to the impacts upon Cannock Chase SAC and Gentleshaw Common, which is the District's only AONB. The Meg Lane site is considered to be important as habitat and part of a green corridor supporting and protecting these precious biodiversity and landscape resources which are greatly important to the District, and although considered as part of the appraisal of the directions of growth for Burntwood as part of the District Council's overall spatial strategy, it was not taken forward as a preferred location for growth by the District Council for the above reasons.

14.10   Of the two new village proposals, both score relatively poorly due to the lack of information on mitigation submitted. The option for 2,000 dwellings scores better than the option for 4,000 dwellings with regard to environmental impacts, as development of 4,000 houses in this location would significantly erode the visual separation between Lichfield City and Fradley and have an adverse impact upon views of the City and its heritage assets. However with regard to social impacts the option for 4,000 dwellings scores better due to the that fact that scale of development would have a potentially positive impact on creating mixed and balance communities through infrastructure provision (for example development of 2,000 dwellings would not be enough to support a new GP practice within the settlement, but 4,000 may support such a facility).

14.11   However, it should be noted that the SA has assessed the proposals as of 2028, when the new village would be completed. It is the case that taking a delivery rate of housing at around an upper limit of 150 dwellings per annum (applying the SHLAA methodology) would mean that not only housing provision and housing choice within the District would be severely limited, infrastructure provision would be delivered at a relatively slow rate. For example this would mean that it would be at least three years before a new primary school would be delivered within a new village.

14.12   Additionally development in this location would be separate from other settlements and would therefore not assist in addressing deficiencies in any of existing settlements. Lack of investment in existing settlements would most likely result and depopulation within villages may also occur, to the detriment of services, facilities and local communities.

14.13   With regard to the Fradley West proposal, as a development site on its own this proposal scores relatively poorly, due to the negative impacts on biodiversity, archaeological and heritage assets, and lack of integration with the main settlement of Fradley. However, when assessed in conjunction with the Fradley Park application site, the proposal scores better in relation to mitigation of heritage assets, improving the availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services and for designing out crime and would have a positive impact on improving the health of the population.

14.14   The LSWG scoring for these alternative options is set out in Appendix A - Spatial Options Matrix an are shown against the scores for the 'Local Plan: Strategy' spatial strategy, ad well as against that of the spatial strategy set out in the 'Core Strategy: Shaping our District'.

14.15   In addition a 'Do Nothing Option' was assessed by the LSWG and it was considered that this option would be reliant on national polices, as saved local policies will carry diminishing weight over time as they become out of step with national policy. The findings showed there would be a resultant loss of local distinctiveness and difficulty in protecting locally significant biodiversity and historic landscapes.

14.16   No quantum of development would be set for housing, retail or employment and thus there would be no control over the amount or phasing of development which may have a negative influence on delivering services and facilities within the District and may also undermine the urban renaissance of the Major Urban Areas.

14 Alternative Options

14 Alternative Options

14.17   Development would be piecemeal and potentially only parts of larger sites may be proposed at a time giving difficulties in assessing and delivering necessary infrastructure such as education and highway improvements. Viability may also be negatively affected and economies of scale may not be reached which assist in the delivery of renewable energy, affordable housing, green infrastructure and community services and facilities. Development may be fragmented and connectivity lacking if developments are designed individually so that safe walking and cycling routes may not be connected. Large scale developments may be proposed which do not reflect existing local needs for housing and other facilities, or do not support existing centres and services. There would also be greater pressure on our conservation areas through greater pressure to allow infilling.

14.18   Overall there would be a greater number of planning appeals and a strain on cross boundary working with other authorities.
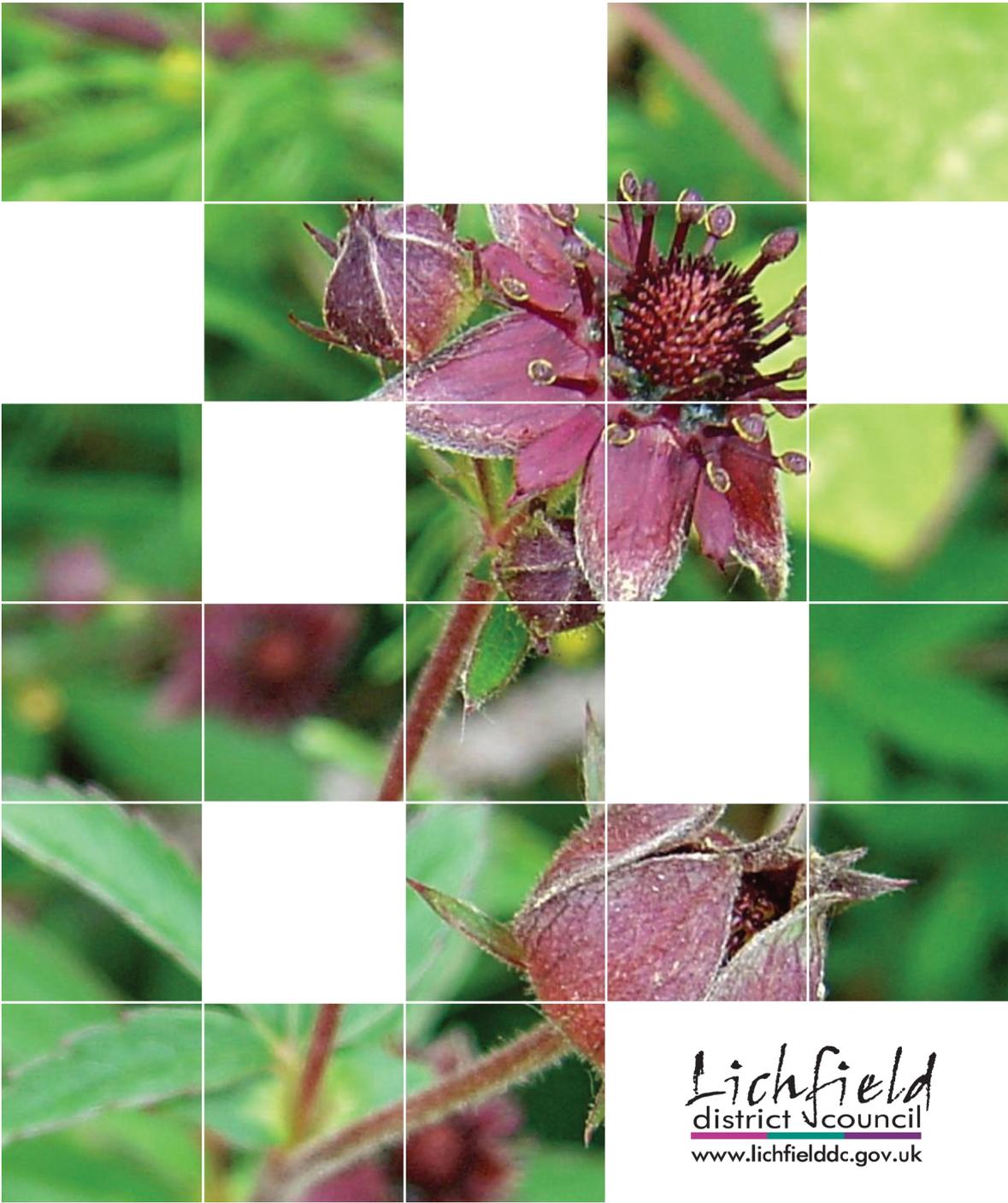
Policies

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

15 The Policies

Development of Policy

15.1   Policy issues were sought at 'Issues and Options' stage in the form of information and questions to assist in identifying broad intentions for the policies. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken of these questions to identify what information the Scoping Report held and identify if all issues in the Scoping report had been incorporated in the Issues and Options Consultation. The results of this were incorporated into the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA). One of the key findings was the need for additional work on historic landscape character, affordable housing and rural housing, demographics, employment demographics, offices, flooding, sport and recreation.

15.2   The 'Preferred Options' document focused on developing the spatial strategy for the District and included a possible list of themes and subjects for topic based policies. Full wording of draft policies was published within the 'Policy Directions' document in April 2009. It incorporated preferred policy directions for core policies and development management policies and posed questions to refine options, as well as seeking alternative options which should be considered. The LSWG assessed these policies using the sustainability framework objectives and the questions set out in the Scoping Report. The findings are summarised under each topic heading below. Overall the results were that areas could be strengthened and there was a need for cross referencing between the policies. However, generally the preferred policy directions were found to be supportive of the objectives within the scoping report.

15.3   Refined versions of policies were next published in the 'Shaping our District' document. The policies were appraised by the LSWG and the findings were summarised in the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping Our District'. These findings are included within the tables below and compared against the final policy wording incorporated within the Local Plan.

15.4   Following the publication of further evidence, the results of the consultation, changes in national planning guidance and the feedback from the LSWG the policies have been further developed and some additional policies and development management policies added. The LSWG have been involved in refining the policies for publication and have reappraised the policies. The results of the assessments of the policies now included in the 'Local Plan: Strategy are in the tables below and show how the policies have developed.

Appraisal of Policies

Sustainable Communities

15.5   Following the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 a new policy was inserted at the 'Local Plan: Strategy' stage to meet national requirements. This policy has been appraised against an option to not include this policy within the 'Local Plan: Strategy document'.

15 The Policies

15.6 The SA has found that the policy will have a positive effect on the sustainable development of the District by ensuring a proactive approach is taken to plan-making that improves the environmental, economic and social conditions of those that live in, work in and visit the District.

Table 15.1 Core Policy 2: Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development. Presumption in favour of positive sustainable development in line with the NPPF.

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Do not include policy	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP2	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+	Many environmental effects are controlled by national polices or rely on local policies for locally distinctive positive effect.	+	Overall positive impact when considered with the policies within the document. Development uses resources and creates waste which can have negative impacts upon mitigating for the effects of climate change and primary resources
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+		+	
	C: Protect historic environment	+		+	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	-		-	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	-		-	
	F: Reduce flood risk	+		+	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	Plan is written positively to deliver economic growth and in accord with national guidelines.	+	Positive economic impacts.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+		+	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+		+	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services sustainable transport to jobs and services	+	Spatial strategy seeks sustainable development. Inclusion of reference to neighbourhood plans dispersed throughout the document	+	Policy seeks to secure improvements to the social conditions of the area and incorporates policies in neighbourhood plans which enables greater community involvement.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+		+	
	J: to promote safe communities	+		+	
	K: improve health	+		+	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		+	
Changes subsequently	Policy inserted at Local Plan Strategy stage to meet requirements of NPPF.				

15 The Policies

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Do not include policy	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP2	Assessment of Effects
made to submission draft policy:					
Mitigation and maximisation	Mitigation of impacts will be delivered through the policies in the Local Plan. Policy needs to work with other policies to achieve objectives.				
Uncertainties and Risks	The policy relies on the effectiveness of the policies in the Plan to deliver sustainable development.				
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts	The effects will be throughout the Plan period.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The effects of the policy are considered to have a national wide beneficial effect on encouraging sustainable development.				

Delivering Sustainable Development

15.7   A policy direction on this issue was first incorporated within the 'Policy Directions' consultation entitled 'Sustainable Development', within a section on Climate Change. The 'Policy Directions' document was the first publication which sought to incorporate all the guiding principles for development into a single policy. The policy was informed by national requirements and by the response received form the public consultation to the 'Issues and Options' stage. The intention was that this would be an overarching policy and a guide to assessing future proposals.

15.8   The SA determined that the environmental impacts were generally positive, but identified that there was a need to strengthen the policy to protect built assets, improve lower landscape areas and achieve quality development and to consider waste. Generally the policy was found to have a positive economic impact but there was a need to to incorporate more reference to encouraging business to use sustainable means of travel. The social impacts were considered as positive as it included a bullet point 'Protecting the amenity of our residents and seeking to improve the overall quality of life', as the SA process had previously identified that protection of amenity needed to be addressed within the Core Strategy.

15.9   The 'Shaping our District' consultation document incorporated a chapter on 'Sustainable Communities' which included two core policies 'Core Policy 2: Principles for Sustainable Development' and 'Core Policy 3: Use of Energy and Resources'. Both policies incorporated a bullet point list against which all new development would be assessed for compatibility. These core policies had been informed by the deficiencies identified through the SA process and had a wider scope than previously included in the 'Policy Directions' document, with extra criteria including: protecting and enhancing local distinctiveness; using prudent use of natural resources; enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; reducing the need to travel; fostering links between the environment and the economy;

promoting community cohesion; and the avoidance of sterilising minerals. Core Policy 2 was also clearer on mitigating for the effects of climate change than previously and the policies scored high for sustainability as can be seen in the table below.

15.10   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' combined Core Policies 2 & 3 into one Core Policy 'CP3: Delivering Sustainable Development'. Whilst the format remained the same further refinements were made to the policy to clarify certain requirements and this has resulted in a more positive scoring from the SA group, as can be seen from the following table.

Table 15.2 Core Policy 3: Delivering Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP2 & CP3	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP3	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	++?;+?	CP2: Positive for built and historic assets. Positive for waste reduction.

CP3: Positive for safeguarding minerals and mitigating for the effects of climate change. | ++ | Clear and strong positive impact on all environmental effects. |
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+?;+?		++	
	C: Protect historic environment	+;+?		++	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+;++?		++	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+;++?		++	
	F: Reduce flood risk	+;+?		++	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+;0?	CP2:Positive for reducing the need to travel but could be strengthened in relation to economy.

CP3: Positive for encouraging local supply chains. | + | Positive impacts on safeguarding local jobs and thus indigenous business and encouraging business to use sustainable means of transport. |
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+?;+?		+?	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?;0		+?	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services sustainable transport to jobs and services	+;0?	CP2: Positive as it refers to reducing the need to travel and optimising choice of sustainable modes of transport, improving the overall quality of	+?	Clear and strong for positive in relation to providing affordable homes and more positive on reducing inequalities including
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?;0?		+	

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP2 & CP3	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP3	Assessment of Effects
	J: to promote safe communities	+;0	life and promoting community cohesion.	+?	safeguarding local jobs.
	K: improve health	+?;+?		+?	
	L: to enable improved community participation	+?;0	CP3 Positive for health and wellbeing from the effects of heat and protection from pollution and safeguarding amenity	?	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	The combined policy CP3 is stronger and clearer. The Policy has greater detail on factors which create and maintain sustainable communities, especially through added references to geodiversity and reducing health inequalities through safeguarding local jobs.				
Mitigation and maximisation	Seeks to minimise the impact of development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Strength of policy is recognising the range of aspects that contribute to sustainable development and identifying that other policies are needed to deliver this and maintain the local distinctiveness of Lichfield District.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Policy should not conflict with other objectives and needs to remain relevant for entire plan period. Needs other policies to be effective to retain qualities and attractiveness of the area and enable the effects of climate change to be minimised.				
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts	The effects of the policy will be evident in the short term and have greater influence as the plan period progresses, the effects should be permanent.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The effects of the policy will have beneficial cumulative impacts and synergistic impacts especially upon natural resources and improving the environment, these impacts will have positive cross boundary implications.				

15.11   The 'Shaping our District' consultation document also incorporated two development management policies within the 'Sustainable Communities' chapter; 'Policy SC1: Renewable Energy' and 'Policy SC2: Development & Sustainable Construction'.

Sustainability Standards for Development

15.12   The policy 'Development & Sustainable Construction' was first included in the Core Strategy at the 'Shaping our District' stage. This was informed by the Staffordshire County-wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study', undertaken by Camco on behalf of Staffordshire authorities in response to the requirements of Government guidance on addressing climate change through planning, as then contained in Planning Policy Statements

15 The Policies

1 & 22, and the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The study was published in September 2010, and the proposed carbon standards for new development recommended were incorporated within Policy SC2 of Shaping our District.

15.13 In the 'Local Plan: Strategy' policies SC1 & SC2 have been swapped round as it was considered that standards for development, incorporating carbon reduction targets, should come before the renewables policy, as utilising renewable energy is only one way in which carbon targets can be achieved.

15.14 Thus Policy SC2 in 'Shaping our District', which set minimum and maximum standards for all new build and retrofitted development to ensure development minimises environmental impact, has been refined and updated as set out in Local Plan:Strategy 'Policy SC1: Sustainability Standards for Development'. The assessment between these two versions of the policy are set out in the table below.

Table 15.3 Policy SC1:Sustainability Standards for Development

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District SC2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy SC1	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+?	Policy would have a clear and strong positive impact upon reducing the impacts of climate change and reducing flood risk. Positive impact upon quality design and use of resources, however there could be harm to the historic assets as well as benefits and thus greater clarity was suggested.	-?	Clear and strong environmental impact on SFO D,E and F. Potential harm to the historic assets including conservation areas but could be mitigated through guidance in SPD and other plan policies.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0		0	
	C: Protect historic environment	+/-		-?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	++		++	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+?		++	
	F: Reduce flood risk	++		++	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+/-	Mixed impact upon reducing the need to travel and potential positive for the encouragement in growth of bio-crops	0	Potential positive impact upon growth in small businesses to meet technology.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+?		+?	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	0		+?	

15 The Policies

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District SC2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy SC1	Assessment of Effects
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+/-?	Mixed impact upon improving the availability to sustainable transport for jobs and services.	0	Positive social impact as will result in better quality housing and lower energy bills addressing fuel poverty and providing good quality homes and workplaces. Potential for community participation through local groups like WFEG & possibly from Carbon Investment Fund.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	0		0	
	J: to promote safe communities	0		0	
	K: improve health	0?		+	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		?	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	Policy has been updated to utilise latest BREEAM standards and in relation to National guidance. The policy table format has been simplified & now incorporates both domestic & non-domestic targets in one table. Policy has prioritised the approach to how the required reductions in carbon emissions can be achieved. There is greater reference to the SPD on sustainable development and within the explanation to ensure that heritage assets are not harmed. Also reference made to targets within the District Council's Carbon Reduction Plan.				
Mitigation and maximisation	Policy seeks to minimise the impact of development on the environment without affecting the viability of development.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Viability in the current economic climate and the effectiveness of technologies in reducing carbon emissions may effect the deliverability of the policy.				
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts	Viability in the short term may be impacted upon by the levels of growth, however this may result in more development having to reach a higher standard in the medium and long term of the plan, having a greater permanent beneficial impact.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The policy incorporates a range of carbon targets for different types of development. A requirement for the maximum standards may undermine the viability of sites within Lichfield District but assist with the viability of sites within neighbouring authorities.				

Renewable Energy

15.15 'Issues and Options' consultation sought opinions on which types of renewable energy would be preferred in the District and gave examples. It also sought opinions as to whether all new development should be required to generate a proportion of its energy use on-site from renewable sources. These options were assessed using the methodology set out in the Scoping Report. The LSWG determined that the scoping report does not exclude any types of renewable energy, but sets objectives which development should follow, including development for renewable energy. It also identified potential areas of conflict, such as Sustainability Objective A: To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality, and

Sustainability Objective B: To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats. In relation to new developments generating energy on-site, the LSWG commented that where energy generation is economically viable in scale there should be a requirement to generate energy on-site, and there should be a strong obligation to justify why energy should not be generated on-site. It was also determined that a threshold such as that of the Merton rule should be investigated to assist in meeting the target of reduction in CO_2 emissions in Lichfield District identified in the Scoping Report and in relation to the Government target of achieving 15% of electricity produced from renewable sources by 2020.

15.16   The 'Policy Directions' document identified the need for a core policy on energy consumption and renewable energy and identified options on whether the policy should seek to achieve the minimum government targets for electricity generation through renewable sources or whether Lichfield District should set a more ambitious target and whether the requirement for renewable energy generation should vary according to the type or size of development. The SA found the policy would have positive environmental impacts and may protect the highest quality areas but would not promote lower quality areas. The LSWG also found some aspects impossible to assess, such as how renewable energy could achieve high quality development. It also determined that there would be a mixed impact on biodiversity as the policy only relates to impact on designated sites and there was a need to strengthen references to historic environment. The group also found that the policy was impossible to assess with regard to the impact upon waste and that there was a need to strengthen the policy to minimise the impact of pollution. It was considered that there would be no effects upon economic and social factors.

15.17   Following responses to the approach advocated in 'Policy Directions' a policy on renewable energy was then included in the Core Strategy at the 'Shaping our District' stage. Again this was informed by the Staffordshire County-wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study', which estimated resource potential within the study area, breaking it down to local authority level, for a variety of different technologies. The evidence determined that Lichfield appeared amongst the most capable of partner authorities of meeting its energy needs locally, primarily from biomass sources and secondly from wind energy. This evidence was incorporated within Policy SC1 of Shaping our District, and the results of the appraisal of this version of the policy is set out in the table below.

15.18   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' Policy SC2 refined the renewable energy policy to strengthen reference to the impact of such development on historic assets and to encourage biomass energy developments to be locally sourced from sustainably managed woodlands such as the National Forest, Cannock Chase and Forest of Mercia. The policy has also been amended to be less prescriptive in terms of the definition of the size of wind turbines referred to. Overall this has improved the SA scoring, as shown in the table below.

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Table 15.4 Policy SC2 : Renewable Energy. Energy Generation

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District policy SC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Policy SC2	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	++?	Potential clear and strong positive effect with regard to enhancing landscape & townscape quality. Potentially positive for promoting biodiversity as protection afforded by the policy. Policy positively worded for protecting historic environment, mitigating & adapting to the effects of climate change and using natural resources prudently. No impact on reducing flood risk as not relevant to this policy.	++	Now clear and strong positive effects on enhancing landscape & townscape quality, protecting the historic environment and mitigating & adapting to the effects of climate change. Scores remain positive for promoting biodiversity and for prudent use of natural resources and again no impact on reducing flood risk as not relevant to this policy.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+?		+	
	C: Protect historic environment	+		++	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+		++	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+		+	
	F: reduce flood risk	0		0	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	0	No impact on improving availability of sustainable transport options to jobs & services. Positive for supporting local supply chains and encouraging business to use more sustainable forms of transport by seeking to exploit the District's	0	No overall change, however policy has been strengthened to give greater support to sustainably managed local woodlands.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+		+	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+		+	

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Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District policy SC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Policy SC2	Assessment of Effects
			biomass resource and encourage new employment through new technologies, such as renewable energy.		
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	0	No impact upon social criteria.	0	Potential positive impact upon healthy lifestyles through the provision of greener energy leading to an improvement in air quality and thus health benefits.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	0		+?	
	J: to promote safe communities	0		-	
	K: improve health	0		0	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		0	
Changes Subsequently Made to Submission Draft policy:	Policy has been refined to strengthen reference to the impact of such development on historic assets and to encourage biomass energy developments to be locally sourced from sustainably managed woodlands. Policy has also added reference to impacts on existing residential amenity from biomass energy developments. With regard to wind energy the policy has also been amended to refer to large-scale wind turbines, rather than 2.5Mw, as it is the size of the machine that will have an impact on the landscape, rather than the capacity of energy generated.				
Mitigation and Maximisation	Criteria based policy which seeks to meet targets for renewable / low carbon energy, whilst minimising the impact of development on the environment.				
Uncertainties And Risks	The District is constrained by many environmental factors, including landscape, townscape and heritage assets. All of these may affect the deliverability of certain types of renewable technologies. In addition the effectiveness of technologies in reducing carbon emissions may effect the deliverability of the policy.				
Short/Medium/Long Term Impacts	Viability of biomass may be impacted upon in the short term, due to economic conditions, and phasing of developments. Biomass energy may be more viable in the longer term as the larger sites reach capacity. Short/medium/long terms impacts difficult to determine for wind energy, as maximum of 6 turbines across the District could come froward at any time.				
Cumulative And Synergistic	Wind turbines can be large structures which may have implications for landscape impacts across local authority boundaries. The policy therefore incorporates a criteria requiring the cumulative impact of wind energy proposals to be assessed.				

Sustainable Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District policy SC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Policy SC2	Assessment of Effects
impacts					

Infrastructure

15.19   As part of the Issues and Options consultation the issues raised covered a range of infrastructure needs including access to services and facilities, and the change in demographics particularly relating to the ageing population. The Scoping report identified that the need for the promotion of local community facilities is evident in many of the sustainability objectives, especially I, J and L in order to create mixed and balanced communities, promote safe communities and enable improved community participation. Strategic Objective 5 of the 'Issues and Options' Consultation specifically related this to new housing and whether it should make provision for transport, education, health, open space and social and community facilities. An assessment using a compatibility matrix showed this would have a positive effect on creating mixed and balanced communities, promoting safe communities and improving the health of the population.

15.20   The 'Policy Directions' document incorporated a preferred policy direction and sought opinions on alternative options, including the potential use of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) as a means of funding infrastructure. Following discussions with stakeholders the 'Policy Directions' consultation incorporated a core policy with a development management policy and the formulation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan to identify and deliver necessary infrastructure, services and facilities. The SA of the 'Policy Directions' found that the policy could and should deliver many environmental benefits set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), particularly in relation to Green Infrastructure, and also found there would also be economic benefits arising from the improvement of infrastructure. The SA found that the social effects needed to be strengthened.

15.21   The 'Shaping our District' policy added a development management policy IP1: Supporting and Providing our Infrastructure and IP2: Carbon Investment Fund. A SA of the policy and development management policies was undertaken and published in the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' and included in the table below.

15.22   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' has a core policy and a development management policy as the Carbon Investment Fund is now subsumed within the IDP. A list of key elements of strategic infrastructure to be delivered as priorities has been included, and the policy updated to reflect the changing guidance in relation to CIL regulations, and the NPPF. The policies are appraised in detail in the table below.

15.23   Policy IP1 is closely linked to CP4 and delivers its benefits through requiring to provide appropriate infrastructure in line with other policies in the Plan, the policy has been strengthened through minor wording changes to reflect the changes in legislation as CP4 and to ensure any replacement community facility does serve the community effected by the loss and is in an accessible and sustainable location. The scoring is largely as for the Core Policy for the environmental and economic impacts, however the social impacts differ slightly as policy IP1 does not refer to community participation in decision making.

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Table 15.5 Core Policy 4: Delivering our Infrastructure

Infrastructure	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan : Strategy CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+	Overall positive impacts upon landscape and biodiversity. No impact on historic environment, although there may be potential to broaden access to and understanding of the historic environment. Policy IP2 has potential to deliver positive impacts on mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change but are difficult to assess as they will be very site specific.	+?,+?	More positive for biodiversity and climate change with the addition of hedgerows, habitats for protected species and renewables giving greater clarity. Addition of priority list has given greater clarity to reducing flood risk through reference to water improvements.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+		+,+?	
	C: Protect historic environment	+		+,+?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+/+?		+,+	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	?		+,+	
	F: Reduce flood risk	0?		++,++	
Economic	G: Reduce trips by car	++	Positive economic impacts by making development more accessible and attractive to new investment. Potential negative impact upon providing for local retail needs as retail is not included within the definition of local infrastructure.	++,++	Clear and strong positive economic impact by making development more accessible and attractive to new investment and encouraging indigenous businesses. The inclusion of the priority schemes gives greater clarity to transport improvements.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+		++,++	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	-?		++,++	
Social	G Soc: Improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+?	Generally positive as policy encourages the safeguarding and provision of new infrastructure and facilities which may assist in reducing	++,++	More positive as the inclusion of the priority schemes gives greater clarity and the completion of the bypass which will relieve congestion on the historic core.
	I Soc: To create mixed and balances communities	+		++,++	
	J: To promote safe communities	+/-		+/-,+/-	

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Infrastructure	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan : Strategy CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects
	K: Improve health	+	anti-social behaviour and provision of health care facilities which will have a positive impact upon healthy lifestyles, policy could be strengthened as replacement facilities may not need to be replaced within the community. Policy also references partnership working in decision making. There was a mixed impact on reducing road casualties as generally more development and greater use of facilities can create potential for more areas of conflict, however opportunities to improve road safety were also identified. IP2 could have a wider social benefits but these were impossible to assess.	+,+	The widening of housing gives greater clarity and is more positive effect. Wording changes have enabled more certainty to replacement facilities being sited to serve the community affected, this has a more positive impact. Reference to cross boundary working and working with new and existing communities has improved the positive impact of the policy.
	L: To enable improved community participation	+?		++,0	
Changes Subsequently made to draft policy	Policy has been amended to add more information on the types of infrastructure which could be provided, and securing replacement facilities serve the community affected, this widening has led to greater clarity in the scoring. Inclusion of the list of priorities has provided greater clarity and will enable the policy to deliver a more sustainable plan. The updating of the policy to include CIL enables the IDP to be up to date, effective and flexible which will have greater positive impacts. The policy now includes reference to delivering cross boundary infrastructure which will deliver wider sustainability benefits.			
Mitigation and maximisation	Policy enables the consequences of development to be mitigated for and partners to identify how benefits arising from new development can be planned for and maximised.			
Uncertainties and Risks	The Infrastructure Delivery Plan contains information from outside agencies whose plans may change. Delivery is dependent upon viability of schemes which may change over time.			

Infrastructure	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan : Strategy CP4 and IP1	Assessment of Effects
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	The effects short term may be limited as they will be largely felt as the larger schemes are built and become established. Medium impacts will relieve traffic congestion in the city centre as the completion of the Lichfield Southern Bypass and other associated infrastructure is delivered.				
Cumulative And Synergistic impacts	Policy will have synergistic beneficial effects through cross boundary working especially to the delivery of infrastructure and the greater benefit of biodiversity by allowing resources to be targeted and maximised.				

Sustainable Transport

15.24   As part of the 'Issues and Options' consultation a number of questions were asked in relation to sustainable transport. Seeking opinions on whether the current policy for a park and ride at Trent Valley Railway station should be encouraged and whether there were any other appropriate locations e.g Shenstone, Blake Street, Rugeley Trent Valley. The proposal was assessed using the Sustainability Framework and concluded that measures to reduce the length of car borne trips, which park and ride schemes can do as they encourage shift in mode from car to train – would contribute to an efficient use of energy. However it could be in conflict with Sustainability Objective I which encourages new employment to meet local need and thus discourages travel as traffic, would be generated to access the rail stations.

15.25   The 'Issues and Options' consultation also asked if there was a need for more rail stations. From the evidence in the Scoping Report the LSWG were not able to offer any information on this matter.

15.26   The 'Policy Directions' consultation included a preferred policy option which focused on existing transport issues, the LTP schemes and modal shift. Other alternatives considered were a rail/bus based strategy with little or no future highways investment, this would include positive proposals for the re-opening of rail lines and new stations and new bus service provision. However due to the level of investment it was unclear whether this could be achieved. In addition a car based strategy that concentrated on securing highway improvements and better access to employment and town centres by car could be an alternative however this would not contribute to any significant degree to sustainable development objectives, including seeking to address climate change issues. The document included questions which sought any alternative options.

15.27   The SA of the 'Policy Directions' core policy was found to have a positive impact upon environmental issues. However there was a negative impact upon enhancing landscape and townscape quality as there was not enough local distinctiveness. The SA found the policy could be improved if it was linked to sustainable development policy to encourage use of SuDS and realise biodiversity benefits, positive benefits to reducing congestion and through traffic in city centre and thus improving air quality. The economic impacts were positive as there are clear and strong statements to reduce trips by car, encouraging

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sustainable travel and e-business but the policy could be improved by encouraging home working. The social impacts were generally positive as there are clear and strong statements to increase access, walking and reduce traffic impact in sensitive areas, which would have health benefits and improve safety. The policy could also be improved by linking to policy to realise the potential to reduce crime through design.

15.28   The 'Shaping our District' consultation added two development management policies (ST1 and ST2) and appraised the policies as a section, and the results of this are set out below. The 'Local Plan: Strategy' consultation retains the format but refines the wordings and has resulted in a better overall score for the policy. Changes were made in response to the Shaping our District consultation, the NPPF, more up to date statistics and the SA. Transport has a major influence upon the sustainability of development in Lichfield District, and a major focus of the Local Plan is to minimise the effects of the private car and mitigate for them. The plan policies seek to deliver a better network than exists at present and offer a wide range of accessible alternative transport modes. The table below shows the SA scoring of the 'Shaping our District' Core Policy 5 Sustainable Transport, and development management policies ST1 and ST2 compared to Core Policy 4 Sustainable Transport of the 'Local Plan: Strategy'. The SA of the development management policies ST1 and ST2 from the 'Local Plan: Strategy' follow in the table below.

Table 15.6 SA of Sustainable Transport Policies

Sustainable Transport	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP 5 including ST1 and ST2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan:Strategy CP5	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+/-	Positive environmental impacts as it seeks to reduce traffic within the historic city centre. The SA considered there are missed opportunities for enhancing wildlife connectivity, SuDs and air quality which could be improved by linkages to other policies. There will be clear and strong positive impacts on carbon reduction, arising from reducing petrol consumption and through supporting	+/-	Improvements to other policies have reduced the uncertainty of the effects on wildlife connectivity and air quality and legislative changes as well as policy changes have negated the need for reference to SuDs within this policy therefore the policy scores better for SFO D. The addition of schemes which lie within the historic core has lead to uncertainty on SFO C
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+/-		+/-	
	C: Protect historic environment	+/-		+/-?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+?		+	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+		+	
	F: Reduce flood risk	0?		0?	

Sustainable Transport	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP 5 including ST1 and ST2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan:Strategy CP5	Assessment of Effects
			alternative fuel sources.		protecting the historic environment, however other policies will protect and improve the historic environment and investment in the historic core will protect it in the long term, hence the potential mixed impact.
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	++	The objective of the policy to reduce trips by car and will have positive impacts by encouraging e-business, the growth of indigenous businesses and the growth of higher skilled economic sectors, to meet the needs of population and provide for local retail needs. Previous comments at the Policy Directions stage considered the need for the policy to encourage homeworking. This has been now incorporated into planning policy within the Economic Development and Enterprise chapter.	++	The policy has had only minor wording changes to it. However the addition of more schemes for transport improvements for rail, Lichfield city centre and employment areas has lead to a more positive economic impact.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+		++	
	I Ec: To create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+	
Social	G Soc: Improve availability of	++	Clear and strong statements to increase access,	++	The policy has scored better as by encouraging

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Sustainable Transport	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP 5 including ST1 and ST2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan:Strategy CP5	Assessment of Effects
	sustainable transport to jobs and services		walking and reduce traffic impact in sensitive areas, which will have health benefits. Linking to other policies in the built environment section could improve scoring in relation to reducing anti-social behaviour (SFO: K). Reference to working with major development to achieve travel behaviour change, has enabled a positive score with regard to community participation (SFO: L), as employees are often a group which are hard to involve in consultation.		greater use of public transport and walking and cycling. There will be greater surveillance and this could have a positive impact upon reducing anti-social behaviour, accompanied by Policy BE1. Removal from CP4 of working with employers for major development to encourage travel behaviour change has reduced the score however the widening of the scope for supporting community based transport has maintained the positive social impact.
	I Soc: To create mixed and balanced communities	++?		++	
	J: To promote safe communities	+/-		+	
	K: Improve health	+		+	
	L: To enable improved community participation	+		+	
Changes subsequently made to policy	The number of initiatives related to public transport and services which support access to employment opportunities, rail and bus related schemes has increased. Overall the sustainability of the policy has been improved. The core policy has scored poorer for SFO L as it has removed reference to travel plans, however this is now included within Policy ST1 and widening of the policy to include community based transport has retained it with a positive score.				
Mitigation and maximisation	Policy seeks to maximise alternative transport options to the private car and reduce the need to travel.				
Uncertainties and risks	The Strategic Road Network (A5 and A38) are influenced at national level. Behavioural change is very difficult to influence, especially when public transport options are so limited and have been so for long time.				
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	Will depend upon positive influences of the spatial strategy to reduce congestion in the city centre through the completion of the Southern Bypass, creation of walk/cycle networks, improvements to our bus and rail stations and city centre. Directing development to areas served by pubic transport will safeguard the attractive nature of the District, reduce isolation and direct investment to our developed areas. Continuing improvement of alternatives to private car through the reopening of train line and improved public transport services and influences on behavioural change should begin to be realised and continue to improve from the medium term of the plan period onwards.				

Sustainable Transport	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP 5 including ST1 and ST2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan:Strategy CP5	Assessment of Effects
Cumulative And Synergistic impacts	There is a danger that the net increases in development will result in increased use of the private car, however if reliance upon the private car can be reduced and thus carbon emissions and air pollutions this could begin to slow the rate of climate change. There could be greater benefits to biodiversity through the use of the new cycle/footpath networks as corridors for new biodiversity habitat and movement, increasing accessibility to the natural environment and quality of life and also reducing flood risk. Protection of the rail lines and long distance corridors for movement will have positive cross boundary benefits by reducing congestion and thus increasing investment potential within and beyond the District.				

15.29   Policy ST1: This was not scored separately within the SA of the 'Shaping our District' consultation document, but was combined within the scoring for the core policy. There have been few changes to the wording and explanation to this policy and these have included; the addition of services to bullet point 1, so that schemes to improve services and facilities for non-car based transport are now included and the policy has been updated to reflect the NPPF and more up to date statistics. In addition the reference to travel plans now makes specific mention of their requirement on employers and educational establishments. When appraised the only negative scores were found within the environmental impacts section. These were with regard to the potential impact upon the historic city centre. This is however safeguarded by other policies and the phrase 'where it can be made compatible with the transport infrastructure in the area.' A mixed impact upon trees and biodiversity was found as, whilst schemes can result in loss, there are potential benefits especially with the creation of walking and cycle networks and thus overall the environmental impact would be mitigated and would result in no loss of diversity of habitats. Due to other policies (Core Policy 3 and policies within the Natural Environment Section) there would be no loss of priority habitats and with clear and strong statements to improve air quality there would be an overall positive impact upon environmental impacts of the policy. There would be positive economic impacts and social impacts by locating development in areas which are easily accessible and widening choice of transport.

Table 15.7 Table of SA of Policy ST1 Local Plan: Strategy

Policy ST1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental +?						Economic +			Social +				
Scores	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	++?	+	0	++	+	0	++	+	0	+	+

15.30   Policy ST2: This was not scored separately within the SA at the 'Shaping our District' consultation, but was combined within the scoring for the core policy. Since then the policy wording has been changed to include provision for alternative fuels including electric charging points and has added residential amenity following pressures which have arisen locally and has also now specified the SPD where standards will be set out. The explanation has also been widened to improve the sustainability by including reference to reducing carbon emissions and also to reflect the local distinctiveness of the area by enabling community led plans to influence car parking standards locally. The policy was appraised by the LSWG and

was found to have an overall positive effect. There was some potential concern with regard to landscape and townscape quality and protection and enhancement of buildings and features of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings, however changes to the policy and reference to the SPD and Policy BE1 will enable satisfactory protection and mitigation. The addition of charging points in assisting reducing carbon emissions has enabled positive scoring for mitigating for the effects of climate change and use of natural resources. The policy has scored positively for economic impacts as whilst it restricts use of the car it recognises its importance and strengthens existing centres. The policy scores positively for social impacts especially for cycling and community participation with its reference to the facilities for cycle parking and community led plans. The policy has been changed following comments from the SA, representations to the 'Shaping our District' consultation and the publication of the Lichfield District Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan.

Table 15.8 Table of SA of Policy ST2 Local Plan: Strategy

Policy ST2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental +?						Economic ++?			Social +?				
Scores	+/-?	0	+/-	+	+	0	++	+	+?	++	+?	+	0	+

Homes for the Future

15.31   As part of the 'Issues and Options' consultation the issue of housing affordability was considered as was the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers, the young and older people. Opinions were sought on the options of where affordable housing was needed: Lichfield/Burntwood and/or the Rural areas, what proportion of new housing in the District should be built as affordable, whether this should vary between different parts of the District and whether if the evidence showed a need whether some sites should be identified solely for affordable housing. The options were assessed using the sustainability framework and it was considered that there was a need for affordable housing across the entire District. This did vary for different parts of the District, however there was insufficient evidence to establish the exact requirement and it needed to be considered alongside issues of demand, deliverability and viability.

15.32   The publication of the 'Policy Directions' document incorporated a preferred policy direction and sought opinions on alternative options. In the Homes for the Future section this resulted in 3 policies: Phasing and Trajectory, Housing Mix and Affordable Housing and Gypsy and Travellers.

15.33   The 'Policy Directions' consultation identified alternatives of having no phasing which would allow the market to determine when housing would be delivered in the District, however this was considered as not the most appropriate method to meet identified housing needs that arise during the plan period nor as the best way of delivering the required infrastructure. Another alternative was to make no strategic allocations within the strategy document however this was considered out of step with National Guidance by not enabling a 10 year supply of housing to be identified. The Preferred policy option was to incorporate a phasing policy which could assist in the implementation of the overall spatial strategy having regard to the

identified housing needs and infrastructure requirements. The trajectory is required as part of the monitoring framework and review process, including the need to release or hold back development, depending upon the circumstances. The 'Policy Directions' sought opinions on whether there were alternatives that should be considered and whether this approach was acceptable.

15.34   The SA of the 'Policy Directions' core policy showed a negative impact upon environmental issues as there was no reference to landscape or heritage protection and the policy also needed better reference to locally distinctive character, heritage, biodiversity, flood risk, climate change mitigation, infrastructure delivery, and prudent use of natural resources. There was an overall positive impact in relation to economic impacts which relates to the identified spatial strategy which seeks to reduce trips by private car and provide for improved levels of housing consistent with local needs. The SA showed a positive response with regard to social impacts but there was a need to link better to other policies to secure infrastructure, sport and recreation, transport and well being, but it was noted that the policy strongly supports delivery of affordable housing and specialist housing, other than for gypsies and travellers which is dealt with separately.

15.35   The 'Shaping our District' consultation replaced the Phasing and Trajectory policy with CP6 Housing Delivery which apportioned residential growth across the District during the plan period, within a range of strategic development locations, broad development locations and by settlement. Three development management policies were also included relating to a balanced housing market, affordable homes and gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople. The results of this are below.

15.36   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' consultation retained this format of policies but refined wordings and numbers in light of new evidence, responses to the Shaping our District consultation and the SA. The Strategic Development Locations are now called Strategic Development Allocations, Fradley has now been altered from a Broad Development Location to a Strategic Development Allocation, and North of Tamworth has been added as a new Broad Development Location. The capacity of some of the Strategic Development Allocations has been altered and the number of homes to be built in the rural settlements has increased although the % increase is the same. The policy includes reference to allow the early release of sites to maintain a rolling 5 year supply of housing (+buffer). There is also reference now to small scale development being supported where these are brought forward through community led plans, which reflects the emphasis on localism of the plan and supports SFO L: enabling improved community participation. The addition of support for the delivery of pitches to meet the needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople within the policy has widened the scope of the policy to meet the variety of needs within our communities. Overall the impact of the policy is positive and has been strengthened and will deliver more sustainable outcomes than previously proposed. The SA of the policy as compared to the Shaping our District version of the policy is below.

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Table 15.9 Core Policy 6: To ensure a sufficient supply of homes

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP6	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP6	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+/-/?	A need to cross reference to other policies within the document in order to safeguard landscape, biodiversity, historic views and avoid a grater risk of flooding. New housing will have benefits for adapting and mitigating for the effects of climate change due to new designs including opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency measures, but will have negative impacts upon reducing waste as more homes will generate more waste.	++	The policy is closely aligned with the spatial strategy and will have a clear and strong positive impact upon landscape and townscape quality as it has avoided areas of highest landscape quality, utilised areas of lowest landscape quality (brownfield land), avoided important views and conservation areas and has had regard to the locally distinctive settlement pattern of the District. The impacts upon biodiversity are mixed as some of the sites have biodiversity interest on them however this can be mitigated. The impacts upon the historic environment should be positive but will be subject to detail and consideration of other policies. The scoring for adapting and mitigating for the effects of climate change is mixed as whilst new housing will enable opportunities for renewable energy and greater energy efficiency, they will still result in an increase in energy consumption in the short term and increase the amount of waste. With regard to the prudent use of resources, as most of the homes will be in brick this will have a
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	-/?		+/-	
	C: Protect historic environment	+/?		+?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+/-/?		- -	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+/-/?		+	
	F: Reduce flood risk				
		-		+	

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Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP6	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP6	Assessment of Effects
					negative effect upon natural resources, however, reducing the need to travel will reduce the need for fuel etc. The locations identified will enable flood risk to be reduced as they use brownfield land and will deliver investment in local infrastructure.
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+/-	New development could generate more car trips however the policy locates development in places which seek to reduce trips by car and provide improved levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities and would therefore have a positive economic impact.	+	The policy is closely aligned with the spatial strategy and other policies in the plan. Whilst car trips could be generated with new development the new evidence and additional information with the SDAs, schemes in the IDP and CP5 sustainable transport have enabled a more positive economic impact.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	?/0		+?	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+/0/?		++	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+/-/?	Through the delivery of homes and affordable homes and the required provision of infrastructure there is the potential to deliver a wide range of positive social impacts. The effects of the policy on some social impacts was impossible to determine.	+	Social impacts have all been scored now and largely improved. The policy is closely aligned with the spatial strategy and other policies in the plan. New evidence and additional information with the SDAs, schemes in the IDP has resulted in more positive effects in relation to availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services across th District, not just from the SDAs. More housing will assist in meeting deficiencies for housing, services and facilities and
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+/?		++	
	J: to promote safe communities	?		-	
	K: improve health	?		+	
	L: to enable improved community participation	?		+	

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP6	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP6	Assessment of Effects
					supporting existing communities which will promote the health and well being of our communities and the district wide economy by providing homes for people consistent with local employment opportunities. The addition within the policy regarding 'small scale development supported by local communities and 'community led plans' reflects the work already being undertaken within our rural settlements and new legislation. The only negative is with regard to promoting safe communities as whilst new homes will be built to high security standards and with cycle and pedestrian routes, more homes provides more opportunities for burglary and more cars could result in a greater potential for road casualties.
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy	The numbers within the policy now reflect information from robust and up to date evidence. The addition considering the early release to deliver a rolling 5 year supply of housing land and pitches for gypsies and travellers etc has made the policy more sustainable by ensuring needs are met. The changes which facilitate development through neighbourhood planning make the policy more locally distinct and able to respond to specific local needs and the provision of SPD will assist in the delivery of high quality design. New evidence which has related household growth and economic growth has found that where levels of growth are not consistent then the sustainability of our settlements will diminish and would result in greater levels of commuting either into or out of the District for work, a job balance ratio of 85% is what the District is working towards.				
Mitigation and maximisation	Policy seeks to deliver a continual supply of the right type of housing and maximise the resources such as land available, and mitigate for the impacts of development by phasing development and delivery of appropriate infrastructure.				
Uncertainties and Risks	The market is unpredictable at present and the policy needs to be able to respond to changes in circumstances,. Provision is made to phase development to maintain a supply throughout				

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP6	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP6	Assessment of Effects
	the plan period and enable SDAs to be considered for early release if necessary. By allocating strategic sites greater certainty is provided to local communities and the development industry alike.				
Short/ Medium/ Long term impacts	The lead time into large scale development can result in the beneficial impacts taking longer to realise, phasing development will enable the impacts on the district to be minimised. The development will facilitate a number of key infrastructure improvements which will benefit the District and support the economy of the City centre and district as a whole.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The delivery of housing on green field sites could result in the permanent loss of some areas of greenfield land and the cumulative impacts of this will increase as more sites are built upon, however this should be temporary as other policies require mitigation and the habitat gains will be permanent. Developments near to the boundaries of Rugeley and Tamworth will have beneficial economic impacts and alignment to these settlements than for centres within Lichfield District.				

Housing Mix & Affordable Housing

15.37 The 'Policy Directions' consultation identified 4 alternative options which incorporated reducing thresholds or seeking contributions towards affordable housing on all sites; a blanket percentage across Lichfield District with only site specific viability tests at the point of a planning application; targets that vary within the District (as between more and less viable parts of the District, for example); no set target in the strategy but simply ad hoc targets based on viability; and set in SPD from period to period (say 6 month ones during periods of rapid change) Opinions were sought on these, however it was decided not to proceed with these options as they were either not considered to conform with national guidance, would be complex and difficult to administer, would not be supported by evidence or would not provide clarity or consistency to house builders and landowners.

15.38 The preferred policy direction sought to achieve a balanced housing market through the provision of a mix of house types, size and tenure. It proposed an upper target of 40% for affordable housing on sites of over 15 dwellings in Lichfield and Burntwood and for 5 dwellings elsewhere. The percentage requested would respond to the market at the time as part of a 'dynamic model' providing flexibility and the ability to maximise the delivery of affordable homes in the District to meet our significant locally derived affordable housing needs.The 'Policy Directions' consultation sought opinions on whether this should be the preferred policy option, should the thresholds in urban areas be reduced, and to what level, whether all housing development should make contributions to affordable housing provision in the District and if there were any other alternatives that should be considered.

15.39 The SA of the Policy Directions Housing Mix and Affordable Housing policy was considered to have an overall negative impact upon environmental issues. The SA identified negative impacts loss of gardens, trees, quality buildings, archaeology, no minimisation of flood risk as there is no cross referencing to other policies. However it did consider that affordable housing and smaller housing will have positive impact on climate change and

prudent use of resources as they use less materials to build and use less energy to heat. In addition, affordable housing has a higher minimum standard for energy efficiency. With regard to economic impact this would be mixed as there are economic impacts for providing the the right kinds of homes for those who work locally. Social impacts would be positive for provision of affordable housing and specialist housing and mixing social groups, but there was a need for more information on increasing accessibility as there could be negative impact for generating more car traffic in areas where there are more people potentially increasing road casualties.

15.40 In the 'Shaping our District' consultation this policy was split into two development management policies (H1: A balanced housing market and H2 Provision of affordable homes). The SA matrix of the Shaping our District version of these policies was not included within the Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District.

15.41 The overall impact of policy H1A has improved since the 'Shaping our District' consultation. Overall the impact of the policy is positive and has been strengthened and will deliver more sustainable outcomes than previously proposed. The SA of the policy as compared to the Shaping our District version of the policy is below.

Table 15.10 SA of Policy H1: A Balanced Housing Market.

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H1	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	0	Negative impact to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change as more houses means more waste will be produced, and the effects are unknown of the impact of this at the time.	+	The policy now scores positive for enhancing landscape and townscape policy as the reference to SPD and gives greater emphasis to design. More negative effect as more waste will be produced and the potential for utilising this for energy is currently outside the District. Also negative for prudent use of natural resources as the majority of homes will be built from brick to match the local vernacular.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	0		0	
	C: Protect historic environment	0		0	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	-?		- -	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	0		-	
	F: reduce flood risk	0		0	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	Postive economic effects as the policy will deliver housing consistent with local employment	+	More positive economic effect with the growth of e-commerce and homeworking having greater influence.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	0		+	

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Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H1	Assessment of Effects
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?	opportunities and reduce trips by car through homeworking.	+	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+	Positive social impact on delivering specialist housing and reducing health inequalities. Negative score for promoting safe communities as more persons could result in greater road casualties	+	More positive social impact with more certainty of the wording of the policy, increased evidence in relation to balance and needs for ageing population and retention of economically active. Negative score for promoting safe communities as more persons could result in greater road casualties however reference to SPD will enable positive impact upon crime sensitive design and inclusion of reference to support for neighbourhood/parish housing needs survey enables improved community participation
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+?	
	J: to promote safe communities	-		+/-?	
	K: improve health	+?		+?	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		+	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	The policy has been strengthened with stronger wording e.g. 'deliver' rather than 'assist in achieving' and the addition of up to date evidence. The new evidence supports the policy in seeking to encourage young and economically active to stay within the District, a balanced housing market is key to achieving this. Reference to persons with mental illness has widened the policy and the support for local communities to provide greater evidence of local need has improved the social impacts of the policy.				
Mitigation and Maximisation	The policy seeks to mitigate for the current imbalance in the housing market, by maximising opportunity to address local need and emerging needs during the pan period.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Provision is largely through private house building industry which can be an unpredictable market.				
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	The delivery of large scale development will have the greatest influence on redressing the imbalance and phasing of the delivery of these will be crucial. Neighbourhood plans could play valuable part in meeting local need throughout the plan period. The benefits of the policy should increase during the plan period.				
Cumulative	It is important that the wider housing needs of the area can be achieved having regard to the needs of neighbouring authorities. The joint evidence base with Tamworth and Cannock Chase				

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H1	Assessment of Effects
and Synergistic impacts	highlights the needs of south east Staffordshire which are met in part by this policy. By enabling residents to continue to live where their support networks are will improve the health of the population.				

Table 15.11 Policy H2 Provision of Affordable Homes. To deliver affordable housing

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H2	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	-?	Negative impact upon SFO A, B and C as no reference to having to fit in with existing local design/biodiversity. Negative impact to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change as more houses means more waste will be produced, and the effects are unknown of the impact of this at the time.	+	The policy now scores positive for enhancing landscape and townscape policy as other policies should mitigate for the impact upon conservation areas. Other policies will address the impact upon biodiversity and flood risk. More negative effect as more waste will be produced and the potential for utilising this for energy is outside the District. Also negative for prudent use of natural resources as the majority of homes will be built from brick to match the local vernacular.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	-		0	
	C: Protect historic environment	-		?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	-?		- -	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	0		-	
	F: reduce flood risk	0		0	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	0	Few economic effects as the policy will deliver housing consistent with local employment opportunities.	+	More positive economic effect with the growth of e-commerce and supporting new employment consistent with local needs, which will lead to a positive economic effect of reducing the need to travel.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	0		+?	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable	+	Positive social impact on delivering affordable housing	+	More positive social impact clearer wording on reflecting the

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Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H2	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H2	Assessment of Effects
	transport to jobs and services		and reducing health inequalities.		housing needs in the locality when assessing tenure, size and type. New evidence has reduced uncertainty in how to achieve a sustainable, mixed and balanced community. Reference to widening support for neighbourhood/parish housing provision enables improved community participation. Reference to other policies to deliver safe communities has resulted in am ore positive score.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+	
	J: to promote safe communities	0		+?	
	K: improve health	+?		+?	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		+	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	The policy has been amended due up to date evidence which has identified that by creating a balanced housing market and addressing our significant locally derived housing needs is key to encouraging young and economically active to stay within the District. Evidence has shown how housing and the economy are linked. Greater emphasis on addressing locally identified needs for privately delivered schemes when considering tenure, size and type and widening of policy to facilitate affordable housing on small rural exception sites has improved the social impacts of the policy.				
Mitigation and Maximisation	The policy seeks to mitigate for the current imbalance in the housing market, by maximising opportunity to address local need and emerging needs during the pan period.				
Uncertainties and Risks	As provision is largely through private house building industry a dynamic viability model will be used to ensure affordable housing is delivered in the plan period. A widening of the policy on small exception sites may have a greater environmental impact however the social impacts in redressing the affordability imbalance which exists in the rural areas and the policies safeguarding environmental issues should be sufficient to deliver social benefits without environmental cost.				
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	The delivery of large scale development will have the greatest influence on addressing affordable housing needs and the continual supply of affordable units will be crucial. Parishes could play valuable part in meeting local need throughout the plan period. The benefits of the policy should increase during the plan period.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	It is important that the wider housing needs of the area can be achieved having regard to the needs of neighbouring authorities. The joint evidence base with Tamworth and Cannock Chase highlights the needs of south east Staffordshire which are met in part by this policy. By enabling persons to live in their locality and local support network there are greater health well being benefits to those communities.				

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

15.42   The 'Issues and Options' consultation included reference to the commissioning of a Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment. The Scoping report incorporates a need to consider the needs of Gypsy and Travellers as part of creating mixed and balanced communities, which relates to SFO I.

15.43   The 'Policy Directions' identified a preferred policy incorporating areas of search and listed policy criteria. The policy directions identified alternative options as: potentially identifying specific sites for gypsy and traveller accommodation or rely on a criteria based policy. It was considered neither of these alternatives were viable, and it sought opinion on the preferred policy and if there were any alternatives that could be considered.

15.44   An SA was undertaken on the preferred policy option. The SA found the policy would have an overall positive environmental impact and should be beneficial to protecting landscape, biodiversity, historic views, green corridors, historic environment and controlled waters with no impact upon reducing flood risk. The locations identified would enable car based trips to be reduced which would have a positive economic impact. Overall there would be a positive social impacts as locations could encourage walking/ cycling to local facilities and increase accessibility to these e.g health care. It was considered to be clear and strong in meeting specialist housing needs for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople and beneficial for providing social integration with other communities.

15.45   The SA matrix of the 'Shaping our District' version of these policies was not included within the Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District, but is included within the table below.

15.46   The overall impact of Policy H3 has improved since the 'Shaping our District' consultation. Overall the impact of the policy is positive and has been strengthened and will deliver more sustainable outcomes than previously proposed. The SA of the policy as compared to the 'Shaping our District' version of the policy is below.

Table 15.12 Policy H3:Gypsies,Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. To provide a framework for the provision of sites

Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H3	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H3	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	-	Negative impact upon SFO A, B and C as no reference to having to fit in with existing local design/biodiversity. Negative impact to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change as more caravans means more waste will be produced, and the effects are	+?	
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	-		+/-	
	C: Protect historic environment	-		+?	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	-?		- -	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	0		0	

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Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H3	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H3	Assessment of Effects
	F: Reduce flood risk	0	unknown of the impact of this at the time.	+	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	Policy supports small businesses and home based business and reduces trips by car.	+?	Policy supports small businesses and home based business and reduces trips by car, although the inclusion of the A5 and A38 corridors has added uncertainty to this criteria.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	0		0	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+?	
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+		+?	The reduction in illegal sites will enable a reduction in road casualties. SFO K has improved due to sites not putting unacceptable strain on infrastructure.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+?		+?	
	J: to promote safe communities	0		+	
	K: improve health	0?		+?	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0		?	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	Policy has been expanded to include the A5 and A38 corridors which were identified in the GTAA as the main corridors of gypsy and traveller movement within Lichfield District. Policy has been expanded to include protection of flood plain. Policy has been reworded to consider size of site in relation to settlements and policy requires protection of local amenity and environment. Access requirements have been expanded to now only need to be 'reasonably' convenient				
Mitigation and Maximisation	Flexibility is incorporated in the policy approach and integration of communities will help cultural cohesion.				
Uncertainties and Risks	As no sites have been identified there is potential for the non-delivery of this policy until an 'Allocations' document is in place, which would leave gypsies etc in need. However inclusion of the policy enables early delivery of a site and greater flexibility in providing a policy framework to consider proposals on a site by site basis.				
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	Impacts will be dependent upon when the needs of the gypsy community are met and when the needs arise.				

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Homes for the Future	SA SFO	Shaping our District H3	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy H3	Assessment of Effects
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	Considerable cross boundary influences due to the transient nature of gypsies, travellers and travelling show people.				

Economic Development and Enterprise

15.47   Employment and Economic Development: As part of the 'Issues and Options' consultation a number of questions were asked in relation to Economic Development and Enterprise. These sought opinions on how to ensure there was sufficient employment land available to meet local needs when the current committed supply is equivalent of the District's strategic requirement, and opinion on whether the committed but undeveloped sites should be considered for re-allocation for alternative uses such as housing. The document also sought opinion as to whether there are any existing employment sites or industrial estates which should be protected. These questions were assessed using the Sustainability Framework which concluded that there was no specific information in the Scoping Report to address these issues. However the SA process did identify that provision of employment land was needed to support the creation of mixed and balanced communities, and as a principle, employment sites and industrial estates need to be safeguarded. It was considered that further research should be undertaken to establish current viability and long term suitability of retaining all sites. The Scoping Report supports sites for distribution and warehousing being close to main transport networks.

15.48   Additional questions were asked seeking opinion on 'Where should offices in the District be directed, if the strategic requirements of 30,000sqm cannot be met within Lichfield City Centre and suggested options of peripheral city centre locations/ outskirts of Lichfield City/ Burntwood Town Centre/ Elsewhere.' These options/locations were assessed using the SA Framework and it was found that Lichfield City Centre scored well especially with regard to accessibility and on providing a wide range of jobs, thereby fulfilling local needs. However there were some negatives with regard to impact on townscape. Burntwood town centre scored highest where this would involve redevelopment of existing employment sites rather than peripheral development near to sites with biodiversity interest. The option which was least sustainable was office development in countryside locations especially with regard to improving the availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services and in creating mixed and balanced communities. Development on the edge of Lichfield City and on the periphery of the City Parish boundary scored less well than options in Burntwood and Lichfield City Centre, but were more sustainable than countryside locations.

15.49   Further questions sought opinion on whether employment development, housing and other development should be encouraged where there are good public transport links – such as close to railway stations or key bus routes. The response from the LSWG was that this approach supports sustainability Objectives I: To create mixed and Balanced communities, H To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems, G: To improve the availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services and D: To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

15.50 The 'Policy Directions' consultation included a preferred policy option which incorporated an employment strategy of attracting high earning office and business, education and research sectors and directing this towards the town centres, and a sequential approach to those uses with other requirements. The proposed policy direction considered protection of existing employment areas and permitting their modernisation. However there may be limited opportunities to fulfil the obligations of the spatial strategy, although it does state that this should not be for office use which should be directed to the town centre.

15.51 The policy direction sought to encourage new business and survival and sought to include measures that ensure that those in the most deprived communities can access local economic opportunities and sought to develop the economy to positively address climate change. The policy also recognised the role of the rural economy and the need to protect mineral resources, sought to maintain the rural sustainable settlements by being the focus for rural employment creation, improving rural access to technology, diversification of rural employment into uses appropriate to a rural area including opportunities within the Central Rivers Projects Area. The policy also recognised the contributions made to the economy by key tourist attractions.

15.52 Alternatives considered were to direct all employment investment to the urban areas where there are the greatest opportunities for accessing public transport. It also sought opinion on any alternative options, any need for related facilities to serve existing or proposed employment sites and which employment sites need to be protected for future employment uses.

15.53 The core policy within the 'Policy Directions' document included reference to general employment land and space for new office development, rural enterprise and tourism. The SA of the 'Policy Directions' found the employment policies to have an overall positive impact on environmental, economic and social effects. The environmental effects of the policy were that there would be no effect on landscape, and there would be a beneficial effect on conservation areas, historic buildings, and access to tourism. Views, especially of Lichfield City, could be stronger on quality of build and their settings. The policy would be beneficial for green corridors Central Rivers Project and Chasewater and for habitat diversity. Opportunities for renewable energy could be improved by linking this policy to a sustainable design policy. There was also found to be a positive impact upon reducing waste through redevelopment of out date stock and its replacement with high quality offices which could reduce out commuting and assist with carbon reduction, as new build would be more energy efficient. The policy included clear and strong statements on preventing sterilisation of mineral reserves. The SA found there were no negative economic impacts arising from the policy, as it sought to reduce trips by car through encouraging jobs to match residents needs; encourage local supply chains through shared locations and encourage distribution to be close to transport networks. The policy was found to be clear and strong for encouraging research and development and new employment consistent with local needs, and was also positive for encouraging indigenous business and small business, but could be more specific to achieve balanced portfolio including 'high tech' and farm diversification in rural areas. No negative impacts arose with regard to social impacts of the policy. Due to the locations and through design, there should be an improvement in the accessibility of jobs and this would assist in reducing car traffic, especially in sensitive areas such as Lichfield's historic core. Encouraging tourism would also have beneficial social impacts through increasing the cultural / recreational offer in the District.

15.54   The 'Shaping our District' consultation included a separate policy for tourism Core Policy 9: Tourism along with Core Policy 7: Employment and Economic Development and Core Policy 8: Our Centres. The SA of the 'Shaping our District' scored the section as a whole and combined the scores of the three core policies. It is possible from the text to discern where the effects differ between the policies within the table below.

15.55   **Our Centres:** As part of the Issues and options consultation, one of the spatial objectives was to improve our town centres. The Scoping Report identified that this objective would positively contribute to the creation of mixed and balanced communities. As part of the preferred option consultation, alternative options were proposed for the consideration of somewhat larger growth of shopping for Burntwood, so that even less trade goes out of the town than would occur with the levels of growth recommended. However this growth level was considered as potentially having a detrimental impact on neighbouring centres and at the time would not have been in conformity with the RSS. Questions were also asked if there were any further options which should be considered and if the preferred policy direction was agreed with.

15.56   The SA of the 'Policy Directions' policy for Town Centres and Local and Village Centres was found to have an overall positive impact upon sustainability. With regard to environmental effects, the SA found the policy could have mixed effects on rural and city centre archaeology and heritage buildings by focusing development in these locations and this would depend upon implementation / policy linkage. The policy could be beneficial if linked to quality design, climate change and sustainable design and including a reference to scale of growth would help the villages. The economic impacts were overall found to be positive but the SA considered that the policy could be improved as it was clear and positive for meeting local retail needs and, whilst it would encourage more trips, these could be by public transport. The policy could support local supply chains for local businesses, by encouraging business to use sustainable forms of transport, encouraging employment consistent with local needs, and for encouraging small businesses by providing space for retail as part of the Strategic Development Locations (now Strategic Development Allocations). The social impact of the policy was mixed: The SA found the policy was positive as the centres are the most accessible locations by non-car transport, although this could worsen the impact of traffic in areas sensitive to traffic impact such as the Conservation Areas and residential areas. The policy could improve safety aspects if it was linked to other policies. However it was considered that the policy may lead to potential conflict as more housing in the town centre could result in more conflict with late night uses, and may increase potential for road casualties, and more opportunities for drug and alcohol abuse unless the focus shifts to family entertainment and leisure uses, once the Friarsgate scheme has been implemented.

15.57   The policy within the 'Shaping our District' document included a table of the hierarchy of centres, and updated figures for growth within Lichfield City and Burntwood, as well as reference to office growth within Burntwood town centre, and a development management policy in line with PPS4 (now superseded by the NPPF) which set thresholds for retail assessments.

15.58   The SA of the 'Shaping our District' scored the Economic Development and Enterprise section by combining the scores of the three core policies. It is possible from the text to discern where the effects differ between the policies within the table below.

15.59   The Development Management Policy E1: Retail Assessments has not changed in substance between the Shaping our District document and the 'Local Plan: Strategy' document. Its environmental impact is mitigated by other policies and it would only have indirect beneficial social impact through supporting existing centres. Its greatest benefit will be the economic effect of directing retail to the town centres and thus protecting indigenous business and small businesses that exist in the centres. It will therefore contribute positively to the sustainability of the Plan.

Table 15.13 Table of SA of Policy E1 Local Plan: Strategy

Policy E1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental 0						Economic +			Social +				
Scores	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0

15.60   **Tourism:** Within the 'Issues and Options' document tourism had previously been incorporated in the Recreation, Leisure, Culture and Tourism section. Specific questions within the 'Issues and Options' consultation sought opinions on whether the Council should aim to identify and protect key public open spaces from development and if so which ones. It also asked where new facilities are created or existing ones expanded, should they maximise the use of sustainable transport modes. Other questions posed included: what would make Chasewater a more popular visitor destination and should Drayton Manor Park be expanded to permit year round visitor accommodation?

15.61   The responses to these questions by the LSWG are detailed in the ICSSA paras 5.24 to 5.29.

15.62   In the 'Policy Directions' document as part of the preferred policy direction, tourism was included within the policy relating to General employment land and space for new office development.

15.63   The SA of 'Policy Directions' found the proposed policy to have an overall positive impact on environmental, economic and social effects. The environmental effects of the policy were that there would be no effect on landscape, and there would be a beneficial effect on conservation areas, historic buildings access to tourism. Views, especially of Lichfield City, could be stronger on quality of build and their settings. The policy would be beneficial for green corridors, Central Rivers Project and Chasewater and for habitat diversity. Renewable energy could be improved by linking this policy to a sustainable design policy. There would be a positive impact upon reducing waste through redevelopment of out date stock and its replacement with high quality offices which could reduce out commuting and new build would be more energy efficient, (more akin to the now Core Policy 7). The policy included clear and strong statements on preventing sterilisation of mineral reserves. The SA found there were no negative economic impacts arising from the policy, as it sought to reduce trips by car by encouraging jobs to match residents skills and needs; shared locations encourage local supply chains and encouraging distribution close to transport networks (more akin to the now Core Policy 7). The policy was clear and strong for encouraging research and development and new employment consistent with local needs, and was also positive for encouraging indigenous business and small business, but could be more specific

to achieve balanced portfolio including 'high tech' in rural areas, (more akin to the now Core Policy 7) and farm diversification. No negative impacts arose with regard to social impacts of the policy. Due to the locations and through design there should be an improvement in the accessibility of jobs and this would reduce car traffic, especially in sensitive areas such as historic core. Encouraging tourism would have beneficial cultural / recreational effects.

15.64   The 'Shaping our District' consultation removed reference to minerals from the policy as this was more satisfactorily dealt with in other policies. It split the policy from the employment element but retained it within the economic development and enterprise section. The policy included reference to sustainable tourism, the link between the rural economy and tourism and the need to safeguard the rural areas to ensure development is of a scale and nature appropriate to the area.

15.65   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' SA of Core Policy 9: Tourism retained the format of 'Shaping our District' but refined the wordings slightly and added further schemes to the policy. Of note is the inclusion of the Saxon Hoard following its discovery, and Lichfield District's role as part of the Mercian Trail. The findings are compared to the Shaping our District Core Policies combined scoring for Policies 7-9 in the table below.

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Table 15.14 Core Policies 7-9: Employment and Economic Development, Our Centres and Tourism

Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+/?	Policies appraised as a section. Positive environmental impacts for safeguarding locally distinctive settlement character, no impact upon landscape, mixed impact on conservation areas as this will depend upon implementation. Potential negative impact on archaeology as specific locations are unknown and City centre has known archaeological interest. However effects mixed as would have a positive impact upon continued use of listed buildings and potential for broadening access	?	The policy now sets employment creation targets and the locations have been removed from the policy and partly included within the Place Policies. No specific location has been identified for the 10 hectares serving Lichfield City and this has also added an element of uncertainty, which is reflected in an apparent lower score for SFO A, B and retention	+?	Policy is reliant on other polices in the plan to deliver	+?	Positive environmental impact upon landscape, conservation areas, improving areas of lower landscape quality (CRI), biodiversity especially green corridors, subject to implementation
	B: Promote biodiversity and geodiversity	+		+/-?		-	mitigation/ enhancement for the environment.	+?	
	C: Protect historic environment	+/-		+/-		+?	As for the 'Shaping our District' version of the policy, positive environmental impacts found for safeguarding locally	+	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+?		+/-		+/-		-	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	0		+?		+/-		+/-	
	F: Reduce flood risk	0		+		0	distinctive settlement character, no impact upon landscape, mixed impact for conservation areas as this will depend upon implementation(SFO A) Potential negative impact on archaeology	+	Positive for interpretation of the historic environment - Saxon Hoard. Whilst encouraging sustainable transport may result

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Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
			to and understanding of historic environment (mainly CP8) CP9 would have positive effects upon SFO B. Policies would have little to no effect upon mitigating for effects of climate change and the prudent use of natural resources, other than in supporting the use of existing centres and by focusing development on the most sustainable locations. The policy had previously scored positively for safeguarding mineral resources. However, this element has now been addressed in other policies.		of the same score for SFO C.

Inclusion within the policy of links between the environment and the economy, supporting a low carbon economy, redevelopment and encouraging energy efficiency and reducing the need to travel have enabled positive scoring for SFO E and F and would have shown positive scoring for SFO D. However more jobs will have a negative | | as unknown locations and importance of City centre (SFO C). However effects mixed as would have a positive impact upon continued use of listed buildings and potential for broadening access to and understanding of historic environment. Policy is negative with regard to biodiversity (SFO B)as it does not link to other policies. Redevelopment and improving traffic management are positives for SFO E. However this is off set by a negative impact | | in a prudent use of energy, more visitors will produce more waste, although more visitors should not result in a reduction in air quality. Opportunities for flood risk reduction exist within the CRI, NMA and green corridor |

Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
					impact as there will be more waste which negates the positive impact.		upon use of primary resources have enabled positive scoring for SFO E. Policy would have shown positive scoring for SFO D however more development will have a negative impact as there will be more waste which negates the positive impact, although clustering of development does provide opportunities for waste reuse.		
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	++	Clear and strong positive impacts upon economic issues and considered to be an improvement upon the Policy Directions version.	++	Clear and strong positive impacts upon economic issues and considered to	+	Even when the policy is scored separately there is a positive economic impact. The policy has clear	+?	Overall the policy will have positive economic impacts. The revised
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	++		++		+		+	

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	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
Economic Development and Enterprise	I Ec: To create mixed and balanced communities	++		++	be an improvement upon the 'Shaping our District' policy as it includes reference to relocating business within the District.	+?	and strong economic impact upon providing for local retail needs, it will support local retailers and local supply chains and provide opportunities to reduce trips by car.	+	policy will also encourage small and indigenous business.
Social	G Soc: Improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	++	Clear and strong positive impact with regard to improving sustainable transport to jobs and services. Other impacts mainly unaffected or positive due to increased opportunities for travel by sustainable means and better cross referencing. Potential for greater anti-social behaviour, adverse traffic impacts in	++	Clear and strong positive impact with regard to improving sustainable transport to jobs and services (SFO G). More positive with regard to mixed and balanced communities (SFO I) as a wider range of supporting	+	Positive social impact upon improving sustainable transport to jobs and services, although a mixed impact upon reducing traffic impact in traffic sensitive areas such as the City and town centres. Positive effect for creating mixed and balanced communities,	+?	Policy will enable greater cultural activity and by supporting existing centres will support greater transport provision and accessibility. Policy may generate additional
	I Soc: To create mixed and balanced communities	+/?		+		+?		+	
	J: To promote safe communities	+?/-?		0		0?		0	
	K: Improve health	+/-		+		+		0	
	L: To enable improved community participation	0		+		0		0	

Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Policy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
			traffic sensitive areas and negative impact upon drugs and alcohol by increasing activity in the town centres. This has resulted in a mixed impact upon improving health, however through cross referencing to other policies this can be minimised.(mainly CP8)		infrastructure identified, and greater emphasis on working with partners including community organisations. Also includes reference to catering for future requirements of resident population and expansion of the care industry related to the ageing population. Also added is greater reference to youth employment and new business formation in more deprived areas, access		especially for cultural experiences (SFO I). Policy doesn't include level of growth now for Lichfield City nor Burntwood town centre these are included within the Our Settlements section. Policy includes reference to environmental enhancements and attractive spaces and creating a balanced night time economy. Access to facilities, employment and an attractive environment influence reducing health inequalities and		trips which may be contrary to reducing road casualties, this does not show in the scoring as there may be benefits in reducing ASB with greater use of the City centre for overnight stays. Other policies will address road safety.

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Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
					to employment is a key influence on reducing health inequalities, therefore positive scores for SFO K and L		result in a positive score.		
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	**CP7:** Less location specific and an addition of 10 hectares serving Lichfield City has given greater uncertainty to the environmental impact. However inclusion of low carbon and fostering links between the environment and the economy has resulted in a positive environmental impact overall. Reference to helping business relocate within the District added. Overall the policy will have a positive economic impact. The social impacts are greatly improved with greater local distinctiveness in the policies relating to youth unemployment, growth in care industries and medical technologies sector and future requirements of the resident population and working with partners, LEP, voluntary and community organisations and enhancing the environment of workers in the District through the provision of improved services and facilities for workers. Alteration to major developed sites in the Green Belt in line with NPPF. **CP8:** Further work has been undertaken and town centre boundaries have been defined. Reference to growth in Lichfield City and Burntwood town centre has been removed to the Our Settlements section of the plan. **CP9:** Few changes, principally the inclusion of reference to the Saxon Hoard and promotion of the Mercian Trail, also Central Rivers Initiative and the Trent Valley Way. Other changes relate to the RSS and NPPF.							
Mitigation and Maximisation	**CP7:** Commuting is a major factor in contributing to carbon emissions and the reduction in the distance commuted or move to non-car based transport is a fundamental aim of the policy as well as maximising the potential of the resident population. The policy seeks to mitigate the impact of growth through redevelopment. **CP8:** Maximises existing resources – town centre, transport. Mitigates impact beyond town centres. Mitigates for detrimental impact of fluctuations in economy by making centres more multi-functional.							

Economic Development and Enterprise	SA SFO	Shaping our District Core Policies 7-9	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP7	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP8	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP9	Assessment of Effects
	CP9:Maximises existing resources – town centre, transport, tourism, hotels and safeguards their future. Mitigates impact on the rural area.								
Uncertainties and Risks	CP7: Delivery is subject to nuances of the global economy, not just the local economy in all aspects of employment from the need, the availability of broadband will be a major influence particularly in the rural areas. CP8:Large schemes influenced by economy, reliant on other policies to secure quality of design and protect historic nature of City Centre and village centres. CP9:Implementation is dependent upon the wider economy. Large scale projects such as the national and community forests. Lichfield Canal and CRI are long term projects and rely on accessing funding								
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	CP7:By supporting our employers and investment in our existing employment areas our economy will be supported from the short term onwards. Due to the amount of land within the District which currently has planning permission and is available, the timing of effects will be more greatly influence by other factors such as infrastructure (transport improvements and broadband), population growth/movements and the wider economy. CP8:Protection and widening of the functionality of our centres will support them through difficult economic times in the short term and protect their ability to expand to serve our residents needs and our economy in the medium and long term, whilst protecting the wider environment of the District. CP9:Short term impacts will support existing tourism and give certainty to new investment and bids for funding to enable larger schemes to be delivered in the medium and long term and have a beneficial permanent impact.								
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	CP7:Growth within Lichfield District is restricted in order to not undermine urban renaissance of Birmingham and the Black Country. Lichfield is part of the greater Birmingham LEP and Staffs and Stoke LEP. There will also assist in the funding bids for economic/housing growth and transport infrastructure. CP8:Supporting our centres will support the wider economy of the District and should not be to the detriment of other centres in neighbouring areas. CP9:Regional assets are key to the growth of tourism within the Region. The cumulative impacts of projects such as national and community forests and CRI has wider environmental benefits than just for Lichfield District. Synergistic benefits as the Mercian Trail is developed will benefit other authorities as well as Lichfield DC.								

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Healthy and Safe Communities

15.66   Within the 'Issues and Options' consultation the following issues were raised: should key public open spaces be protected and should new facilities maximise the use of public transport. In addition specific questions were asked with regard to Chasewater, especially what would make Chasewater a more popular destination and also about Drayton Manor Park and whether it should provide for year round use to include visitor accommodation. The LSWG advised that, as nowhere within the District had a surplus of open space, all open space should be protected, in order to create mixed and balanced communities, improve health, maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality and to protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings. New facilities should maximise sustainable transport modes to help create mixed and balanced communities and to improve the health of the population. The LSWG considered the Draft Chasewater SPD which identified a number of issues, and when the group had assessed this they had commented that there was a need for high quality build, a need to avoid inappropriate new attractions in relation to the nature conservation and to address the accessibility to the site by public transport.

15.67   The 'Policy Directions' document contained just policies relating to recreation, leisure and culture. The policy sought to protect, retain and enhance existing sports pitches, open space, play space and leisure and recreation facilities and provide new good quality facilities to meet identified need. The SA found there would be a mainly positive environmental effect, however there was a need to cross reference to the sustainable development policy and climate change policy to deliver sustainable drainage. The policy could be stronger and needed to link to natural assets so Ancient Woodlands would be safeguarded and buffered. Links to culture and recreation also needed improving. The economic impacts were small but it was considered the policy could contribute if it linked green corridors to bus stops, etc. It could also be strengthened with better links to economic development policies and sustainable transport policies. The social impacts of the policy should have positive benefits if green corridors are linked to bus stops etc, and if it supported the creation of cultural activities such as allotments. Other improvements suggested were around green corridor creation,designing out crime and the policy may need to strengthen cross referencing to address these issues.

15.68   The 'Shaping our District' document was appraised and the combined SA of the four policies showed an improvement to those previously assessed. The policies were found to have a mostly positive impact, and just SFO C was considered to have a mixed impact.

15.69   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' retained the same format as the 'Shaping our District' document, however renamed Core Policy 12 to Provision for Arts and Culture and added a development management policy HSC2: Playing Pitch and Sports Facility Standards. The changes were in response to more up to date evidence, the SA process, working closely with our partners,stakeholders and representations which have resulted in changes to the policy. Overall the combined policies have scored more positively and will result in a greater benefit to the sustainability and locally distinctiveness to the District. The results are within the table below and the results for policies HSC1 and HSC2 are below the following table.

Table 15.15 SA of Policies CP10-12: Healthy and Safe Communities

Healthy and Safe Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP10-12 inc HSC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP10	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP11	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP12	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	+	A clear and strong positive impact upon biodiversity and will have a positive impact upon landscape as encourages semi-natural greenspace (which also therefore includes the RIGs site), this could be further enhanced by linking to policies within the Built Environment chapter. A clear and strong positive impact upon air quality. Potential to enhance waste reduction through allotments. Encouraging the prudent use of resources by encouraging increased walking and cycling within	+?	The policy will have positive environmental effects. There is potential for an unknown impact upon the built and historic fabric with regard to the promotion of better insulation of buildings, this should be safeguarded for however by other policies within the Built Environment chapter.	+?	Positive environmental effects as SFO A and C safeguards the many community buildings and local character of an area. Positive for biodiversity through potential for green corridors. Overall negative for SFO D as may be opportunities for renewables but negative for waste. Positive for air quality.	+?	Positive environmental effects as recognises contribution of high quality buildings.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	++		+		+		0	
	C: Protect historic environment	+/-		+?		+?		+	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+?		+		-		0	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+		+		+		0	
	F: reduce flood risk	0?		0		0		0	

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	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP10-12 inc HSC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP10	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP11	Local Plan: Strategy CP12
Healthy and Safe Communities			the green corridors. However, a mixed impact with regard to the historic environment was identified, as no protection of historic assets is afforded by these policies and encouraging the greater use of sites of archaeological importance and historic buildings, such as Lichfield Cathedral, may lead to damage if not mitigated appropriately.				
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	No economic effects arising from these polices, with the only impact identified as positive for reducing the number of trips by	+	Greater economic effects as policy encourages provision of open space, walk and cycle ways for new commercial and	+ / New leisure centre in Lichfield City and meeting other deficiencies would enable opportunities to reduce trips by car and encourage new employment	0
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	0		+		0	+? / Positive economic benefits through encouraging tourism, which is particularly relevant to small business

Healthy and Safe Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP10-12 inc HSC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP10	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP11	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP12	
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	0	car as people will be able to access the workplace by utilising the green corridors created.	+	industrial developments. Policy also now encourages new employment consistent with local needs, and local retail needs by supporting local food cooperatives.	+?	consistent with local needs.	+	and local supply chains.
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	+?	The positive impacts identified at the Policy Directions stage, with regard to improving the availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services, have been	+	More positive impacts. Reference to walk and cycle ways now specifically included. Clear and strong positive impacts upon addressing sport and recreational needs and improving services and facilities with reference to a	+	New leisure centre or investment in leisure centres and specific inclusion within the policy of providing for a wide range of needs, abilities and especially underrepresented groups. Safeguarding and provision of facilities can reduce ASB especially if linked to other polices	+	Safeguards assets for art and culture which can encourage community participation and promote social inclusion especially as policy refers to encouraging levels of participation in under represented groups and in areas where a shortfall has
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+		+		+		+?	
	J: to promote safe communities	+?		++		+/-		+	
	K: improve health	++		++		+?		+	
	L: to enable improved	+		+		+?		+	

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Healthy and Safe Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP10-12 inc HSC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP10	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP11	Local Plan: Strategy CP12
	community participation		be mainly unaffected or positive due to increased opportunities for travel by sustainable means and better cross referencing will also assist this. As assessed at the Policy Directions stage, it was considered that there is the potential for greater anti-social behaviour, adverse traffic impacts in traffic sensitive areas and the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol by increasing activity in the town centres. Due to this these policies have been scored as having mixed impacts for these elements, and it was again considered that		broader range of the population. Clear and strong positive impact upon SFO J by targeting hot spots and including cross referencing to BE1. Policy has been improved with regard to SFO K with reference to access to healthy foods. Inclusion of reference to supporting initiatives to support participation and volunteering and food cooperatives has given a more positive scoring to SFO L.	within the Built Environment chapter, and can reduce health inequalities. Safeguarding of village halls etc enables community participation.	been identified.

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Healthy and Safe Communities	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP10-12 inc HSC1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP10	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP11	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP12
			through cross referencing to other policies the impacts may be able to be minimised.					
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:			**CP10:** Addition of no loss of facilities without replacement prior to loss, support for initiatives to address wards where poor health indicators and antisocial behaviour are identified, support for volunteering and access to healthy food, improved links to other policies to address designing out crime and anti social behaviour and creating an environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice. **CP11:**Updated evidence has enabled greater detail to be added to the policy and the policy has been widened to enable greater use of facilities such as school facilities, recognise potential offered by other infrastructure such as skate parks, allotments etc. and encourage increased participation levels in under represented groups. **CP12:** There is greater recognition of the importance of art, and new strategic developments(are these defined anywhere??) are required to incorporate public art. Reference to encouraging levels of participation in under represented groups widens the positive influence of the policy.					
Mitigation and maximisation			**CP10, CP11 and CP12:** Policies seeks to mitigate for existing issues and the impact of development on those communities and enables communities to maximise their own potential.					
Uncertainties and Risks			**CP10, CP11 and CP12:**Policies reduce the risk of loss of facilities to communities, and encourages their safeguarding. The areas where improvements are needed may not be where development ids proposed so delivery is uncertain.					
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts			**CP10, CP11 and CP12:**As deficiencies are addressed during the plan period the sustainability of the District will improve and new development will result in a greater range of local assets.					
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts			**CP10, CP11 and CP12:** Better air quality will have positive impacts beyond Lichfield District. Safeguarding our communities and improving the health and well being of residents through improving the physical environments of communities, the provision and safeguarding of sports facilities and art and cultural facilities will have beneficial impacts for our partners especially those dealing in matters relating to health, well being and community safety.					

15.70   **Policies HSC1 and HSC2:** Since the 'Shaping our District' consultation evidence has been updated and new evidence collected which has enabled standards to be included within Policy HSC1 and the creation of HSC2. HSC2 has now been split from HSC1 and relates to playing pitches and sports facilities stating their loss or displacement will be resisted where there is an identified existing and future need. Overall the policies will have positive effects in relation to environmental, economic and social influences and assist in making the District more sustainable by enabling a wide range of easily accessible open spaces which will enhance the health and well being of those who live, work and visit the District whilst protecting our natural resources.

Table 15.16 SA of Policies HSC1 and HSC2

Policies	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental +						Economic +			Social +				
HSC1	+?	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HSC2	+?	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+

Natural Assets

15.71   The 'Issues and Options' consultation raised issues as to whether there was a need to protect other areas of Lichfield District's Countryside. The LSWG considered the proposals and considered that a general statement would be preferable rather than to try and list individual assets. In addition with regard to the historic landscape character analysis there was a need for further work.

15.72   The publication of the 'Policy Directions' document incorporated a preferred policy direction and sought opinions on alternative options. For the natural assets this included a do the minimum required by the legislation, this was considered unacceptable as such an approach would not lead to an enhanced biodiversity resource for the residents of the District and there was a risk of a continued loss of habitat and species.

15.73   The SA of the preferred policy direction for the sole natural assets policy was found to have an overall positive impact upon the environmental aspects of the sustainability framework as it sought opportunities for natural assets to be protected and created as well as creating corridors of movement for species, habitat and people. However, the SA considered the policy could be strengthened to include TPOs and the benefits of ordinary street trees for urban cooling, shade, reduction in air conditioning and locally significant nature conservation sites (SBI). Also considered to be missing was opportunities for energy crops, short rotation coppicing, sustainable drainage, etc to help climate change and assist in reducing flood risk if linked to a climate change policy. There were no economic impacts or they were too tenuous and with regard to social impacts there was potential for positive enhancement if the policy resulted in making environments more attractive for sport and recreation, walking/ cycling which would generally enhance the feeling of wellbeing for residents and increase interaction and can slow traffic it was also noted that trees can create problems for CCTV.

15.74 The natural assets policy within the 'Shaping our District' document had been transformed into an overarching core policy with 7 development management policies. The Core Policy was appraised separately by the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' and is compared to the Core Policy within the 'Local Plan: Strategy' within the table below.

15.75 Within the 'Shaping our District' document the Development Management Policies NR 1-7 relate to countryside management; biodiversity, protected species and their habitat; trees, woodland and hedgerows; natural and historic landscapes; linked habitat corridors and multi-functional greenspaces; Cannock Chase SAC; and water quality and are considered separately below where they are compared to the development management policies within the 'Local Plan: Strategy' The development management polices within the 'Local Plan: Strategy' document have increased to nine and now include countryside management;development in the Green Belt; biodiversity, protected species and their habitats; trees woodland and hedgerows; natural and historic landscapes; linked habitat corridors and multi-functional greenspaces; Cannock Chase SAC; River Mease SAC; and water quality.

15.76 The additional polices are NR2: Development in relation to Green Belt inserted in response to the NPPF and NR8 :River Mease SAC have been included due to new evidence in relation to the River Mease SAC and how development in the District affects the SAC becoming available.

15.77 As the development management policies are very specific the policies were assessed together and were found to have a positive impact upon environmental impacts and enhanced the effectiveness of the overarching core policy, the scorings are shown in the table below. The economic impact is limited and is largely included within other policies such as tourism and renewable energy, the scorings have not changed within this policy. The social impacts have improved by targeting opportunities to reduce health inequalities. Overall the policy scored positively in assisting deliver sustainable development.

15.78 The development management policies scores show that they will have a positive effect upon the sustainability of the District. As expected they will principally deliver environmental benefits by protecting and enhancing landscape, biodiversity, water environment, but they do not stifle economic enterprise of existing or new business with opportunities for sport and recreation, multi-functional corridors and rural enterprise supported. Social benefits arise through cleaner air, increased accessibility and facilities in multi-functional corridors, as well as increased opportunities to enjoy open countryside and landscape visually through its protection and through increased accessibility. Increasing accessibility and by enabling community enterprise through involvement in management of the open spaces and through societies such as Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Friends of Gentleshaw Common assists the health and well being of the population .

15.79 Overall the section has been strengthened and made more explicit and locally relevant in their explanations as more evidence has been completed and in response to the changes in the national policy framework, the SA, working with our partners and in response to representations. The chapter will assist in the delivery of sustainable development.

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Table 15.17 SA of Core Policy 13: Our Natural Resources

Natural Assets	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP13	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP13	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	++?	Overall positive for environmental impacts, more positive with regard to reducing flood risk, the built and historic environment and promoting local distinctiveness.	++	The core policy is considered to have clear and strong positive impacts upon biodiversity.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	++		++	
	C: Protect historic environment	+		++	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+/?		0	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	0/+		+	
	F: Reduce flood risk	+		++	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	+	The economic impacts identified potential positive impacts arising from the creation of green corridors and reducing the need to travel. The encouragement of local supply chains from sustainable woodland management, has been added since the Policy Directions consultation and has moved these policies towards a more positive scoring.	+	No change from previous comments, more information added such as National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan.
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication system	+/?		+/?	
	I Ec: To create mixed and balanced communities	0/+		0/+	
Social	G Soc: Improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	0/+?	More positive impact than previously, particularly in relation to improved sports facilities arising from the provision of multi-functional open spaces giving opportunities for	0/+?	Addition of enhancing relationship between people and the countryside especially where there are opportunities to reduce health inequalities has

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Natural Assets	SA SFO	Saying our Dratd CP13	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP13	Assessment of Effects
	I Soc: To create mixed and balanced communities	+/0	improved health and community participation.	+	increased the positive scoring of the social impacts of the policy.
	J: To Promote safe communities	+?		0	
	K: To improve health	+		+	
	L: To enable improved community participation	+		+	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	The core policy was amended in order to consider reducing health inequalities, Green Belt, ancient woodland, veteran trees and cross boundary influences, the inclusion of an SPD on BiodiversityOff-Setting.				
Mitigation and maximisation	Policy seeks to mitigate for the impacts of development and recognises the potential within the District for enhancing the natural environment and for enhancing the well being of our residents.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Delivery will be dependent on funding for many of the schemes and the long term benefits may not be fully realised within the life of the Plan.				
Short/ Medium/Long term impacts	Protection will be evident within the short term and throughout the life of the plan, greater beneficial effects will be delivered through development of strategic sites and wider initiatives from the medium and long term of the Plan and potentially beyond this time frame.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The safeguarding and delivery of cross boundary habitats and large scale landscape restoration projects and the investment within them during the Plan period will have positive influences and cumulatively will assist in contributing to combating the effects of climate change at a wider than District scale.				

Table 15.18 SA of Policies NR1-9

Policies	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental +						Economic +			Social +				
NR1	+?	++	+/-?	+	+	+	0	+?	+?	0	+?	0	+?	+
NR2	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+

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Policies	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
NR3	++	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0
NR4	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
NR5	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
NR6	++	++	++	0	+?	++	+?	0	0	+?	+	0	+?	0
NR7	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+?	0
NR8	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
NR9	0?	+?	0?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0

Built Environment

15.80   The 'Issues and Options' Consultation sought opinions on issues such as 'How can the District Council encourage the re-use of historic buildings?' The consultation and scoping report identified that there was a need to maintain and enhance landscape quality and protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of cultural and historic value and their settings. It also identified that there was potential conflict with types of renewable energy and maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape quality, and in aiming to identify and protect key public open spaces.

15.81   The 'Policy Directions' document incorporated a preferred policy direction and sought opinions on alternative options. For the built environment this included a more passive approach which set out criteria against which proposals for changes to the built environment would be considered; or a more pro-active policy which would give rise to implementation and financial considerations within existing communities. The SA found the policy was clear and strong for conservation areas, however there was a need to strengthen the policy with regard to areas of highest landscape quality and views, link better to climate change policies and reusing buildings, incorporate cross reference to biodiversity and the policy could be improved with regard to accessibility and education. There was very little influence of the policy on the economic effects, however the social impacts were that the policy can positively influence health through civic spaces and linkages, there was a need to strengthen reference to safety, although the policy did recognises partnership working and was overall considered to contribute positively to sustainable development.

15.82   The 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' considered the Core Policy with the development management policy on high quality development Policy BE1.

15.83   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' has retained the same format as the 'Shaping our District' document with a Core Policy and a development management policy. Both policies have been amended in light of the new NPPF, comments from the SA, representations and working with our partners. The core policy is appraised below and considered against the Core Policy from the 'Shaping our District' and the development management policy BE1, hence some scorings are not consistent.

15.84   The development management policy BE1 has been appraised separately and is scored in a separate table below. The scoring shows that the policy will have a positive effect upon the sustainability of the District. The policy will deliver environmental benefits by permitting development which will have a positive impact upon the landscape,townscape, natural environment and historic assets of the District ensuring a high build quality. The policy seeks to encourage positive economic impacts through reducing the need to travel and by requiring high quality development will support tourism and the attractiveness of our centres especially Lichfield City Centre. The social benefits include supporting the latest designing gout crime principles and requiring development to have a positive impact upon public safety, health and reducing inequality. Changes arose following the NPPF, representations and working with our partners which has led to a strengthening of the policy.

Table 15.19 SA of Core Policy 14 Built and Historic Environment

| Built and Historic Environment	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP14 and BE1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP14	Assessment of Effects
Environmental	A: Enhance landscape and townscape quality	++	Positive environmental impact. Clear and strong for SFO A and C, potential for improvement on education.	++	Addition of support for improving understanding of heritage assets has enabled more positive scoring as has additional of sustainable reuse of and repair of listed buildings. Policy no longer scored with BE1 so negative for enabling opportunities for renewable energy and prudent use of energy as historic environment opportunities are more restricted and has added greater detail on the benefits of tree planting.
	B: Promote Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+		+	
	C: Protect historic environment	++?		++	
	D: Mitigate and adapt to climate change	+		-?	
	E: Prudent use of natural resources	+?		+	
	F: reduce flood risk	+/?		+	
Economic	G Ec: Reduce trips by car	++	Clear and strong statements on improving the availability of transport to	++	Policy retains linkages to jobs and services. Repair of buildings will encourage small business and
	H: Encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems	+/0		+?	

15 The Policies

Built and Historic Environment	SA SFO	Shaping our District CP14 and BE1	Assessment of Effects	Local Plan: Strategy CP14	Assessment of Effects
	I Ec: to create mixed and balanced communities	0/+	jobs and services through linkages.	+?	employment consistent with local needs.
Social	G Soc: improve availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services	++	Clear and strong reference to promoting safe communities and access through linkages, addressing health inequalities by improving the built environment.	++	Policy is now scored separately from BE1 so has a lower scoring for promoting safe communities. Policy includes reference to environmental improvement schemes assisting in the health and well being of the community and reducing health inequalities enabling a more positive scoring for SFO K.
	I Soc: to create mixed and balanced communities	+		+	
	J: to promote safe communities	++		+?	
	K: improve health	+		++	
	L: to enable improved community participation	0/+		0	
Changes subsequently made to submission draft policy:	A greater evidence base has enabled more detail to be added to the policy and explanation. The NPPF has resulted in amendments to the policy as well as recognition of the role the built fabric has upon health and well being. A SPD on the Histroic Environment is included.				
Mitigation and maximisation	The policy seeks to protect and enhance our historic assets and guide development to consider the built environment as an area for social interaction with not just buildings but the natural environment as well and the role this has in creating attractive areas whilst addressing the needs for climate change and ensuring it remains vital and viable in the future.				
Uncertainties and Risks	Lack of investment in historic buildings can result in buildings being at risk.				
Short / Medium/ Long term impacts	The impact of the policy will become more apparent later in the plan period as more development and retrofitting takes place and the environmental improvements to the areas of poorer quality are completed.				
Cumulative and Synergistic impacts	The policy will be most effective when used in combination with other plan policies, and other plan policies will rely on this policy to safeguard and enhance of historic landscape which extends beyond the boundaries of Lichfield District.				

Table 15.20 SA of Policy BE1

Policy BE1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
Effects	Environmental ++						Economic			Social				
Scores	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	+?	+?	++?	+	+	+	0

15.85   The cumulative effects of all Core Strategy policies combined are essentially taken account of by the scores for 'Local Plan: Strategy' Policy CP1, which sets out the spatial strategy for the District, taking all of the policies into account in its delivery. No further matrix of scores is therefore included here, but table 13.2 should be referred to.

15 The Policies

Our Settlements
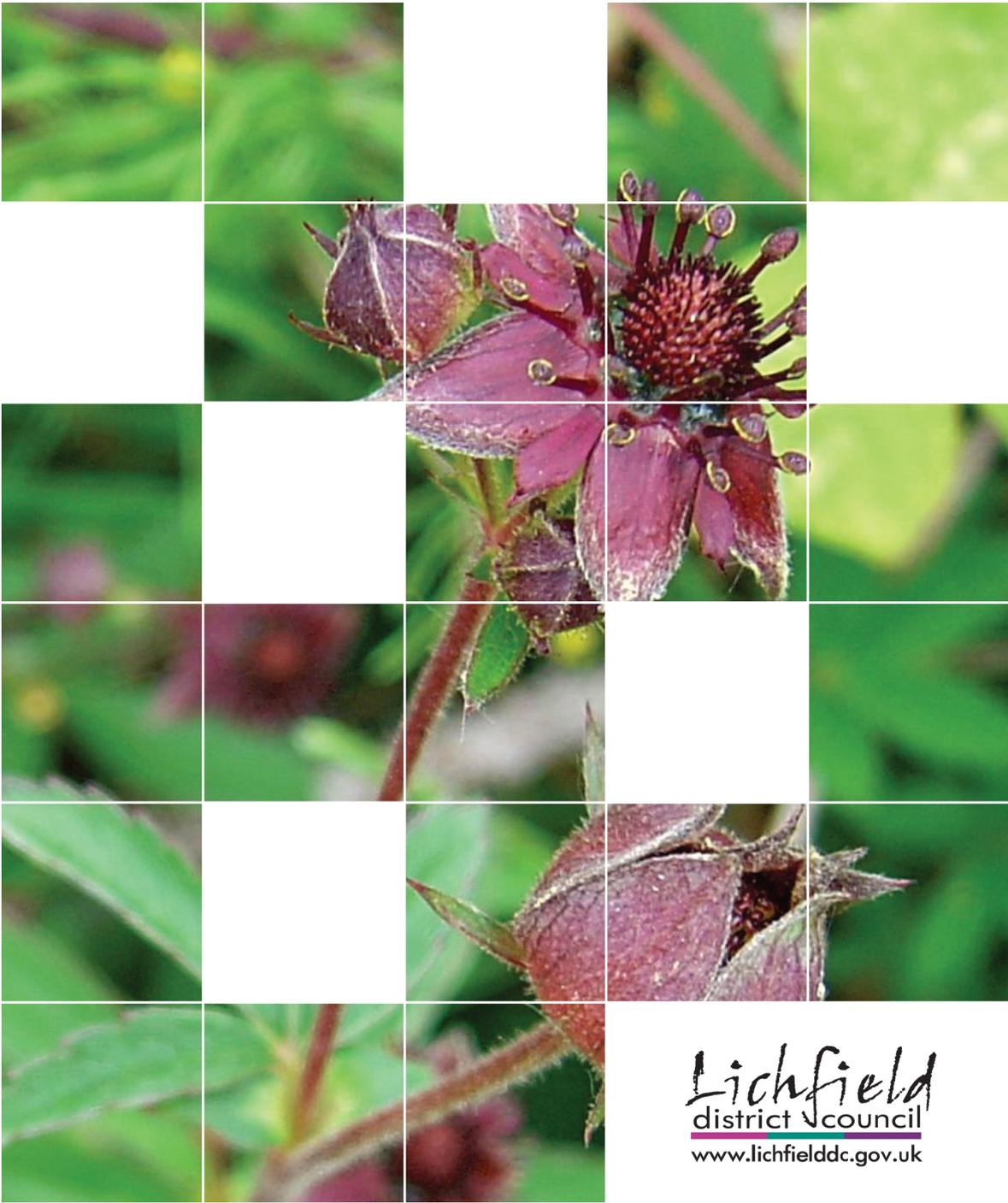
Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

16 Lichfield City (inc. Streethay)

16.1   Through consultation on the 'Issues' document, published in August 2007, issues facing Lichfield City were identified as:

- Protection of the character of Lichfield City from large scale development pressure;
- Lichfield southern bypass remains incomplete;
- Lichfield City is a popular destination for day visitors but there is a desire to encourage longer stays;
- Lichfield City's role as a strategic centre in terms of services, facilities, retail and employment; transport movement and accessibility.

16.2   Following on from this, these issues were published in the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' document and questions were asked to gauge whether these were the main issues, what others needed to be addressed. The 'Issues and Options' document also included a draft vision for Lichfield District in 2026 at paragraphs 8.5 to 8.14. This included specific reference to Lichfield City in the following way:

- 'Existing employment allocations at Fradley, Lichfield and Burntwood will be largely developed to provide a range of new jobs, with new office jobs being created principally in Lichfield.'

- 'Existing poorer quality residential environments in Burntwood, Lichfield, Fazeley and Armitage with Handsacre will have been improved to provide sustainable, safe and vibrant local communities'.

- 'Both Lichfield and Burntwood will have improved urban public transport networks. Lichfield Southern Bypass will have been completed and there will be an improved access to rail services including park and ride facilities on the Cross- City line'.

- 'Lichfield City will be a place which treasures its rich historic, cultural and architectural heritage, while embracing visionary new landmark developments serving all of our residents. The parks forming the green heart of the City will be improved providing a venue for play, leisure events and activities. Lichfield will be the strategic focus for a wide range of services, shopping, cultural and leisure activities which will be accessible by the improvement in quality and quantity of sustainable routes into the City. Lichfield City Centre will be vibrant day and night, with increased City Centre living and an improved pedestrian environment. All of these factors will help Lichfield be an important regional tourist destination with the facilities to support increase in tourism.'

16.3   The portrait of the District set out in 'Issues & Options' identified Lichfield City as one of the main urban areas within Lichfield District, which was also identified as having local pockets of severe deprivation. Issues identified within this document were informed by research and via feedback on those set out in the 'Issues' consultation document. At a District-wide level the 'Issues and Options' document identified that public transport was focused on Lichfield and Burntwood, although internal bus services do not reach all parts of the urban areas, and that there was potential to improve rail facilities, particularly on the cross city line. In addition demand for affordable housing in Lichfield City was identified, and

a need for a wider range of jobs in Lichfield to reduce commuting. Also identified was the need to protect the historic core of Lichfield City and the need to improve access to open space and links to the countryside, as well as improving the quality of open spaces, sports and play facilities and giving better access to indoor sports facilities.

16.4 In addition the 'Issues and Options' document also included Strategic Objectives, with Strategic Objective 3 being 'To focus residential, employment and town centre facilities into high quality developments within the most sustainable locations whilst protecting the quality and character of existing residential environments'. Other relevant Strategic Objectives included 8 - reduce the need to travel; 9 - to improve our town centres to provide better local opportunities for shopping, leisure, culture and improved accessibility, by providing a wider range of facilities within Lichfield City and through creation of an enlarged town centre at Burntwood and objective 14 was to protect the District's natural and built environmental assets from loss or damage by development and the effects of traffic, and secure enhancements in their conservation and management, having particular regard to the historic environment of Lichfield City, the conservation areas and the wide ranging landscape character of the District.

16.5 The 'Issues and Options' document considered the spatial distribution of housing across Lichfield District to 2026 and looked at variety of different levels of growth for Lichfield City. Spatial Option 1 (Town focused development) apportioned 50% of the District's housing growth to Lichfield City, Option 2 (Town and key rural village focused development) 40%, Option 3 (Dispersed development) 30% and Option 4 (New Settlement) 20%.

16.6 The 'Issues & Options' document also considered how Lichfield City would be affected by these options, with each of the option for growth identifying Lichfield City as a Strategic Centre where major retail developments, large scale leisure, offices and other uses to attract large numbers of people should be focused. In 2007 Core Strategies need to be in conformity with Regional Spatial Strategies, and the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Preferred Option suggested a target of 30,000 sq. metres of new office development should be provided within Lichfield City Centre. The 'Issues & Options' document also noted that significant change would take place within the City Centre by 2026, which would include a substantial mixed-use development at Brimingham Road (now known as 'Friarsgate'). In considering levels of housing growth within the city of between 20-50% across the four spatial options, the document recognised that the development of brownfield sites within the existing built-up area would be a priority for all options, but that Options 1 & 2 would necessitate some greenfield extensions on the edge of the City and that urban extensions to meet employment requirements may also be necessary. Spatial Options 3 & 4 were identified as reducing new housing levels within Lichfield City, containing housing within the existing urban area. It was recognised that in Spatial Option 4 a new settlement would be expected to incorporate a range of services and facilities to meet its needs, and that these might be located within Lichfield City under other options, thus having the potential to relieve some pressure on the City through this option. However, many leisure, cultural and business needs would still be provided by Lichfield City.

16.7 The SA considered each of the four spatial options published in the 'Issues and Options ' document and the findings are set out in the ICSSA paras 5.31-5.44

16.8   In addition the ICSSA published an SA of potential directions of housing growth around settlements following the submission of potential housing sites through the SHLAA process. Specific boundaries and sites were not identified and sites were often amalgamated to form a direction of growth/broad location. The findings of this work were published in the ICSSA and are in Section 6, with the conclusions set out in Section 7. The document was published for consultation alongside the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document in December 2008.

16.9   The 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document identified a preferred spatial option for Lichfield City and identified key proposals as:

- Lichfield's role as a strategic centre will be promoted and strengthened
- Around 4,000 additional dwellings will be accommodated between 2006-2026 (with 2,500 required on new sites)
- Development of sustainable urban neighbourhoods on the edge of Lichfield City - including 850 dwellings to the East of the City around Streethay and 1650 dwellings to south Lichfield, to possibly include local retail facilities, leisure & recreation provision, open space & green corridors, education & community uses
- Affordable and specialist housing to be distributed throughout preferred locations for growth
- Retention / redevelopment /modernisation of employment areas as appropriate
- City centre development to accommodate offices and around 25,000sqm gross of comparison goods shopping to 2021 (majority within Friarsgate development)
- Other office locations around Trent Valley Station area & incorporated within south Lichfield sustainable urban neighbourhood
- Improvements to Lichfield Trent Valley station
- Completion of Lichfield Southern Bypass
- Potential for renewable energy schemes

16.10   The findings of the SA were included within the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document at para 8.20 indicating that future development around Lichfield is sustainable, due to its accessibility and wide range of services and facilities. With regard to the SA of the directions of growth around Lichfield City the appraisal concluded that the direction to the south of Lichfield would give the greatest number of benefits and the least number of negative impacts, for all directions assessed across the District. Land to the east of Lichfield (around Streethay) scored well in relation to providing opportunities to reduce trips by car to jobs and services, and was relatively sustainable, recognising that careful mitigation may be required in relation to archaeological assets associated with the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

16.11   Other options for growth around Lichfield City considered during the Core Strategy process and appraised by the LSWG included a direction to the North-east of Lichfield and to the west. Development to the north-east of the City would breach the ridge, meaning that any development beyond this would cause significant harm to the setting of the City and be detrimental to the quality of the landscape. This option therefore scored poorly in relation to environmental effects, but its good access to jobs, services, sport and recreation facilities & being well served by public transport meant that it scored better for economic and social effects, but still lower overall than the two preferred directions of growth. Although development to the west of Lichfield was found to have some positive impacts in terms of

16 Lichfield City (inc. Streethay)

accessibility, it was also found to be potentially the most damaging in terms of its impact upon the historic landscape, and on the views and skyline of this historic city. The potential for strong negative impacts were also found upon priority habitats and protected species and overall the SA found this to be the least favoured direction of growth around Lichfield City.

16.12   The 'Policy Directions' consultation in April 2009 included a revised preferred spatial strategy. For Lichfield City, still considered to be the most sustainable settlement in the District, urban extensions were proposed to the south of Lichfield (1,650 dwellings) and to the east, around Streethay (850 dwellings). As a response to the consultation on the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document, the Policy Directions document stated that further consideration would be given to whether the proportions of housing growth in the urban extensions should be amended to reduce the scale of growth to the south of the city. 'Policy Directions' acknowledged the limitations of Lichfield City Centre, due to the historic core, of accommodating 30,000m^2 of office development and therefore indicated that a further 15,000m^2 offices should be located elsewhere within the City, possibly including redevelopment of existing employment land around Trent Valley station and a limited area associated with the southern urban housing extension.

16.13   In addition, the policy directions within the document sought opinions on proposals affecting Lichfield City such as:

- Lichfield Southern bypass;
- Lichfield Trent Valley rail station improvements;
- Improvements to the cross city line and a park and ride facility;
- Protection of future rail reopening opportunities by safeguarding the Walsall-Lichfield rail line;
- Improvements to the A38;
- Protecting existing jobs and encouraging high wage opportunities in growth sectors of business, education and research;
- Supporting tourism in Lichfield City;
- Limiting the retail floorspace growth of Lichfield City Centre to 35,000sqm gross (including Friarsgate); and
- Improving the physical quality of Lichfield City centre.

16.14   The 'Core Strategy: Shaping our District', published in November 2010, included reference to Lichfield City within 'Core Policy 1: The Spatial Strategy'. This apportioned 41% of the District's housing growth to 2026 in and around Lichfield City, but scaled back the amount of housing growth to the south of the City, following consultation feedback on 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' and 'Policy Directions'. Thus the revised strategy apportioned 59% of the Lichfield allocation to within the urban area and 41% through the development pf sustainable urban extensions to the south of the city (approx. 550 dwellings) and to the east, around Streethay (approx. 850 dwellings). The SA of this element of Core Policy 1 was published in the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' as part of the overall SA of Core Policy 1, and alongside the SA of the other policies.

16.15   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' has again revised the spatial strategy following consultation and further evidence; in particular evidence in relation to housing in the form of the Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study & SHMA Update (May 2012) and economic evidence in the form of the Employment Land Review (February 2012). The 'Local Plan: Strategy' now includes a vision and place policies for the settlements across the District, with policies on environment, services and facilities, housing and economy.

16.16   The spatial strategy now allocates 32% of the District's housing growth to 2028 to Lichfield City - 2,775 of the 8,700 dwellings for the District as a whole. Of this figure around 57% of this is located within the urban area (either completed or as windfalls), with the remaining 43% to be delivered through two urban extensions. These Strategic Development Allocations (SDAs) will be located to the south of the city for around 450 dwellings and to the east, around Streethay, for approximately 750 dwellings. Specific place polices for East of Lichfield (Streethay) and South Lichfield are set out in the plan which detail the requirements for each site, together with Concept Statements for each of these SDAs, setting out the concept rationale, key design principles, infrastructure required and proposed phasing. For the South Lichfield SDA the housing trajectory indicates a build period of 5 years, with completion in 2020, and for East of Lichfield (Streethay) a build period of 8 years, later in the plan period between 2019 and 2027.

16.17   In terms of the economy Lichfield City is to remain as a strategic centre, and the policy seeks to improve the range of shopping, leisure, business, cultural, education and tourist facilities. Whilst office development is still encouraged within the city centre, up to 30,000m^2, the policy recognises the limited capacity due to heritage constraints, and sets out a sequential approach to office site selection. The policy also supports up to 36,000m^2 of retail development - of which 31,000m^2 will be for comparison goods, with a further 5,000m^2 outside the town centre boundary specifically for comparison bulky goods.

16.18   Further housing and economic development in Lichfield City is to be supported by a range of infrastructure. As well as the completion of the Southern Bypass and improvements to Trent Valley Station (with particular focus on increased parking provision) first highlighted in the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document of December 2008, 'Policy Lichfield 2: Lichfield Services and Facilities' now includes reference to the provision of a new leisure centre/improved leisure facilities, improvements to open space and playing pitch provision, as well as improvements to arts and cultural facilities.

16.19   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' through 'Policy Lichfield 1: Environment' has also strengthened the protection afforded to the built historic environment of the city, as well as to the natural environment and landscape surrounding the city.

16.20   The LSWG has appraised the spatial strategy as it relates to Lichfield City as a whole, and the table below indicates the scores given.

Table 16.1 SA of Lichfield City (inc. Streethay)

Lichfield City (incl. Streethay)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L
	Environmental+?						Economic++			Social++?				

16 Lichfield City (inc. Streethay)

Lichfield City (incl. Streethay)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L
	+?	++	+/-?	+	-	0	+	++	++	+?	++?	+	+?	+

Environmental: Positive effect upon utilising redundant sites and reducing areas of lower landscape quality, however does involve the loss of greenfield land, but highest quality is safeguarded and can mitigate for the impact on views. Friarsgate will have a positive impact upon the Conservation area and involve no loss of high quality buildings.

Clear and strong positive effect upon biodiversity as includes protection of the linear park and enhancement to the network of green space including links to open countryside and the SDAs include requirements for protection of local areas and habitats of biological interest, landscaping and green infrastructure provision, with specific reference to hedgerows, tree canopy, a landscape buffer and Lichfield Canal within the South Lichfield SDA.

There is a mixed impact upon the historic environment as archaeology and listed buildings are affected by the SDAs. There is also uncertainty as to the impact of focusing development within the historic core. However by retaining the focus on Lichfield City as a strategic centre this will ensure continued investment in the historic environment, and with policies in the plan which seek its protection and enhancement, the effects will be mitigated.

The SDAs will be required to be built to high energy efficiency standards through other policies and consideration given to the use of renewable energy technologies. However development within Lichfield City will result in a negative impact upon waste, as more development will inevitably result in more waste.

There will be an overall negative impact upon primary resources as the proposals will result in brick being used for houses, and there will need to be mitigation for any decline in air quality through the increased visitor numbers to the City centre. There is no impact upon known mineral deposits and policies will ensure protection of controlled waters and the efficient use of water.

Flooding is considered in the level 2 SWMP and issues can be addressed where opportunities arise. The SDAs also incorporate SuDs to mitigate for the loss of greenfield land as well as and flood mitigation measures where appropriate.

Economic: Policies include improvements to Trent Valley Station and improvements to cycle routes and pedestrian links which will provide opportunities to reduce trips by car.

Good accessibility to the A38 and improvements to the transport network, including completion of the Southern bypass, will assist in encouraging sustainable distribution and communication systems.

Lichfield City is the focus for many indigenous businesses and is an attractive location for research and development. The employment policy encourages delivery of offices within the City centre and appropriate housing to attract and retain entrepreneurs and local business including the many retailers in the City centre and neighbourhood centres.

Social: Lichfield City offers the widest range of services and facilities and is the most accessible major settlement within Lichfield District. The policies require the SDA's to provide public transport to within 350m of each new dwelling, smarter travel choices, and pedestrian and cycle networks throughout the site linking services, facilities within the site and beyond, which will also assist in reducing traffic in sensitive areas such as Lichfield City centre and residential neighbourhoods.

The polices will assist in the creation of mixed and balanced communities and look to redress any imbalances through the provision of a range of house types and increased range of facilities. This will include the delivery of a new leisure centre or improved leisure facilities, allotments and

Lichfield City (incl. Streethay)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L
	improving the quality, quantity and accessibility of open space, supporting arts and cultural facilities and requiring the SDAs to incorporate public art. Provision of improved pedestrian and cycle links, including the Lichfield Canal, will improve transport provision and accessibility. Any increase in traffic could effect road safety, however this should be mitigated by other policies within the Plan. Provision of more open space and leisure opportunities will assist in improving the health of the population and reducing health inequalities and can provide diversion from burglary and anti-social behaviour, and along with the provision of community space will enable improved community participation.														

16.21   The SA demonstrates that the policies relating to Lichfield City will have a positive economic and social impact. Through mitigation proposed, and in conjunction with other policies, there will also be an overall positive impact upon the landscape, townscape and historic environment, and a clear and strong positive effect upon biodiversity.

16 Lichfield City (inc. Streethay)

17 Burntwood

17 Burntwood

17.1   In August 2007 a consultation on 'Issues' was undertaken. This identified the following issues facing Burntwood:

• Need for facilities to complement planned improvements to the town centre

• Not enough local jobs for local people

• Are we making the most of Chasewater?

17.2   These issues were further tested through the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' document which provided an opportunity to confirm these issues and identify further issues which needed to be addressed or explored further. The 'Issues and Options' document included a draft vision for Lichfield District in 2026 which included specific reference to Burntwood in the following way:

• Existing employment allocations at Burntwood will be largely developed to provide a range of new jobs
• Existing poorer quality residential environments in Burntwood will have been improved to provide sustainable, safe and vibrant local communities.
• Burntwood will have improved urban public transport networks.
• Burntwood will be a more sustainable and self contained settlement with a range of services and an improved town centre to meet local needs for shopping, community services and facilities. The town will be promoted as an area of increased and more diverse economic activity, to include new retail, employment, recreational, health and educational resources, further assisting in the regeneration of the area and helping to meet the needs of the resident population of the town. It will be a focus for investment, including external funding and, where available, the Council's capital programme, which will concentrate on projects to improve the town's infrastructure and environmental quality. Burntwood will benefit from improved local public and sustainable transport links focused on the town centre and improved access to other urban areas. Chasewater will be of increased tourism importance and a place for local people to access the countryside and enjoy its biodiversity. It will lead on alternative renewable energy and green technologies.

17.3   The portrait of the District contained within the 'Issues and Options' document identified Burntwood as one of the two main urban areas in Lichfield District with pockets of severe deprivation, having two super output areas ranked within the top 30% most deprived in England of local authorities in 2004. In the year 2000 parts of Burntwood were in the top 20% most deprived wards for education, skills, training, poor health and low incomes. At a District-wide level the 'Issues and Options' identified that public transport was focused on Burntwood, although internal bus services do not reach all parts of the urban area. In addition there was a particular need for affordable housing and a need to increase the availability of public transport. In terms of employment it was recognised that the number of jobs in Burntwood needed to be increased to assist in reducing high levels of out commuting. Also

identified was the need to improve access to green and open spaces, and links to the countryside, as well a need to improve the quality of outdoor sports and play facilities and to secure improved access to indoor sports facilities.

17.4   The 'Issues and Options' document considered the spatial distribution of housing across Lichfield District to 2026 and looked at variety of different levels of growth for Burntwood. Spatial Option 1 (Town focused development) and Option 2 (Town and key rural village focused development) apportioned 20% of the District's housing growth to Burntwood, Option 3 (Dispersed development) apportioned 15% and Option 4 only apportioned (New Settlement) 10%.

17.5   The 'Issues and Options' document also considered how Burntwood would be affected by the options. The overall strategy was similar for all four options with an emphasis on creating facilities and infrastructure to meet the local needs of the town and eliminating existing deficiencies in infrastructure and facilities. Burntwood would maintain its role as a complementary settlement to Lichfield City with an improved range of facilities and jobs to make it more self contained. Provision of an enlarged town centre with a broad range of facilities would assist in meeting local needs. Burntwood would assist in meeting future housing needs, but because of the urban capacity this is expected to be more limited. The document identified that there may a need for some greenfield development for housing on the edge of the town in highly accessible areas if Options 1 or 2 (relating to the apportionment of 20% of the District's housing) were chosen. Growth would need to be directed away from more sensitive areas on the periphery of the town, in particular SSSI and AONB at Gentleshaw Common, although the strategy should promote accessibility to areas of the countryside and improvements to walking and cycling. It recognised that partnership working would be needed to tackle some of the issues facing Burntwood, including issues of health deprivation and environmental enhancement. Under spatial Option 4 the population of the town would be likely to remain static or experience a slight overall decline.

17.6   The SA considered each of the four options published in the 'Issues and Options' document and the findings are set out in the ICSSA paras 5.31-5.44.

17.7   In addition, the ICSSA published an SA of potential directions of housing growth around settlements following the submission of potential housing sites through the SHLAA process. Specific boundaries and sites were not identified and sites were often amalgamated to form a direction of growth/broad location. The findings of this work were published in the ICSSA and are in Section 6, with the conclusions set out in Section 7. This document was published for consultation alongside the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document in December 2008.

17.8   The 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' consultation document identified a preferred spatial option for Burntwood and identified the following key proposals:

- A Focus on developing the town centre to meet local needs;

- Around 1,025 additional dwellings to be accommodated between 2006-2026 (with approximately 750 to be delivered within directions of growth and the remaining homes to be accommodated as part of a mixed use development in the town centre or through redevelopment elsewhere in the urban area);

17 Burntwood

- Development of two sustainable urban neighbourhoods with 250 dwellings to the south of Burntwood and 500 dwellings to the south east of Burntwood (both within the Parish of Hammerwich). These sustainable urban neighbourhoods could possibly include leisure and recreation provision, open space, green corridors and community uses;

- Town centre development to comprise around 17,000m^2 of gross retail floorspace to 2021 (of which around 10,000m^2 within the approved Brendewood scheme and around 3,000m^2 as an extension to Morrisons supermarket);

- Improvements to public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure;

- Improvements to the quantity an quality of open spaces;

- Retention of existing employment areas with potential for redevelopment and modernisation of some;

- Potential for renewables;

- Continuing improvements to the quality of the heathland SSSI through their management, including heathland restoration and recreation; and

- Further improvements to facilities and attractions at Chasewater Country Park.

17.9   The findings of the SA were included in the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document indicating that all directions of growth around Burntwood would have a positive impact upon the provision of affordable housing. However, of the three considered directions of growth around Burntwood, the direction to the south and to the north both scored as many negative impacts as positive impacts. However the direction of growth to the south adjoining the settlement would have the least number of negative impacts and was considered to have a positive impact upon providing increased opportunities and facilities for walking and cycling to jobs and services; providing affordable housing for local people in need of a home and improving choice of transport mode as it has easier access to existing bus/cycle routes. Negative impacts were identified in relation to protecting locally distinctive character due to the potential coalescence with the conurbation, thus any development in this direction should be limited.

17.10   Other options of growth were appraised around Burntwood and with regard to growth in a north easterly direction to the settlement, positive results were comparable to those for the south-easterly direction of growth. It was noted that greater negative impacts were identified in relation to the effect on priority habitats and also the potential to reduce flood risk. In addition, negatives were also scored in relation to the ability to provide opportunities to reduce trips by car; provide access to new development for those without a car and reducing the overall impact of traffic sensitive areas, due to poor bus penetration at present. The directions of growth to the south-east of Burntwood, towards and incorporating Hammerwich, showed a negative impact with potential impacts being similar to other directions. For this direction of growth significant negatives identified were in relation to priority habitats, the potential to reduce flood risk and in relation to the locally distinctive character, especially with regard to Hammerwich village. This direction also scored negatively

in relation to providing increased opportunities for walking/cycling and improving transport provision and accessibility; due partly to the narrow carriageway through Hammerwich village, which restricts bus access. The SA process also identified that cumulative development to the east and south of Burntwood along with development to the west of Lichfield is likely to result in congestion at Pipehill road junction (even after its scheduled improvements, which at the time were due shortly and which have now been completed).

17.11   The 'Policy Directions' consultation in April 2009 included a revised spatial strategy. For Burntwood this resulted in a lesser role in accommodating new growth, with further work to identify where new development can be delivered on brownfield land and redevelopment sites to avoid the need for additional expansion of the town limits into Green Belt locations. It was still considered necessary for Burntwood to accommodate a fair proportion of the required housing for the District, taking account of existing facilities and potential to create an expanded town centre, including upto a further 5,000m^2 of office space.

17.12   In addition the document sought opinions on proposals affecting Burntwood such as:

- Protecting existing jobs and encouraging high wage opportunities in growth sectors of business, education and research;
- Supporting tourism at Chasewater;
- Limiting the appropriate floorspace to the committed LCP scheme, the Morrison's extension and the additional floorspace capacity identified by 2021 on the Olaf Johnson site. Which amounted to 16,000m^2 gross of which 13,000m^2 would be in comparison goods;
- Improving the physical environment of Burntwood;
- Managing our nationally important heathland in a sustainable way and contributing to the management and protection of Cannock Chase AONB;

17.13   The 'Core Strategy: Shaping our District' published in November 2010 included reference to Burntwood in 'Core Policy1: The Spatial Strategy'. This apportioned 13% of the District's housing growth to 2026 to Burntwood and removed the Green Belt sites previously identified following consultation feedback. The strategy instead identified a sustainable urban extension to the East of Burntwood Bypass for approx 425 dwellings on a brownfield site, within the existing settlement limits. In addition, the potential for limited housing development in the Green Belt to the south of Chasewater (at Highfields Farm) was identified. Other aspects of Core Policy 1 were the delivery of employment through implementation of existing commitments and redevelopment and a limit of 16,000m^2 gross retail floorspace, (of which 13,000m^2 should be comparison) and up to 5,000m^2 of office floorspace. These town centre uses were to meet local needs and town centre regeneration measures. Finally there was support for the promotion of Chasewater as a local and regional tourist and recreational facility.

17.14   The SA of Core Policy 1 was published in the 'Sustainabiity Appraisal: Shaping our District' along with the sustainability appraisal of the policies. An addendum to this SA was published in January 2011 which considered the impact of potential housing development at Chasewater (Highfields Farm). This impact was negative in terms of the promotion of biodiversity and geodiversity, coalescence and archaeology. In terms of positives, these

related to mitigating and adapting for the effects of climate change. With regards to meeting local housing needs, there were concerns that, due to the location, this site would not be best placed to meet needs arising within Burntwood.

17.15   The 'Local Plan: Strategy' has again revised the spatial strategy following consultation and further evidence. The evidence in relation to housing in the form of the Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Survey and SHMA update (May 2012) and economic evidence in the form of the Employment Land Review (February 2012) are key. The 'Local Plan: Strategy' now includes a vision and place policies for each main settlements across the District, with policies on environment, services and facilities, economy and housing. This provides a much clearer spatial strategy for Burntwood.

17.16   The spatial strategy now allocates 15% of the District's housing growth to 2028 to Burntwood. This equates to 1,275 of the 8,700 dwellings for the District as a whole. Of this figure, 375 dwellings would be delivered in a Strategic Development Allocation (SDA) to the East of Burntwood Bypass. A specific policy sets out the detailed requirements for this site and a concept plan sets out the concept rationale, key design principles, infrastructure required and proposed phasing. Mitigation for the effects upon habitat is particularly relevant and through further detailed consideration, it was found to be achievable without the site becoming unviable. This site is currently allocated for employment within the adopted Local Plan and locally is known as Zone 5 of the Burntwood Business Park.

17.17   Burntwood's town centre proposals have also been revised and policy seeks to encourage new retail development up to 14,000m^2 gross of which 13,000m^2 will be comparison goods together with up to 5,000m^2 gross office floorspace. The role and function of the Mount Road Industrial Estate will be considered through the Local Plan: Allocations document, but has been removed from the portfolio of employment land within Lichfield District. Development within Burntwood would need to consider the impact upon Cannock Chase AONB and SAC, and it is stated that Green Belt boundaries need regularising to take account of the housing development that has taken place in recent years at the former hospital at St Matthews Hospital, however the precise boundaries to be determined through the subsequent Local Plan: Allocations document.

17.18   The LSWG has appraised the spatial strategy as it relates to Burntwood as a whole, and the scores given are set out in the table below:

Table 17.1 SA of Burntwood : Our Settlements

Burntwood	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L
	Environmental+?						Economic+			Social++?				
	++?	+	+?	+	+	0	+	+	+?	++	+	+	+?	+
	Environmental: Overall a potential positive impact upon environmental effects. Clear and strong positive impact upon landscape and townscape quality, with the encouragement of sites for redevelopment, policy is reliant on other policies in the Plan to ensure quality of development is delivered. Positive impact upon biodiversity, policy requires development to mitigate for impacts upon the wealth of ecological diversity naming the Cannock Chase AONB, SAC and Chasewater Country Park specifically. And also the protection and enhancement of local areas of recreational value														

Burntwood	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L

and habitats of biological interest. Development of land to the east of Burntwood Bypass will involve some loss of habitat however adequate mitigation and compensation is can be delivered without effecting the viability of the scheme.

No listed buildings or known archaeological sites will be affected and there is potentially a positive impact through provision of interpretation material with regard to St Anne's Church arising from the development East of Burntwood Bypass.

Development will be required to be built to high energy efficiency standards by other policies and consideration of renewable energy technologies, however development in Burntwood will result in a negative impact upon waste as more development will result in more waste.

There will be a mixed impact upon resources as whilst a reduction in the need to travel will improve air quality and redevelopment of the town centre and other areas within the employment portfolio will enable opportunities to reduce contaminates and protect controlled waters. There will be a negative impact upon resources as development is likely to utilise brick etc and further evidence is required with regard to any mineral deposits under the site, although no objections to this site have been received previously with regard to mineral deposits.

Development will have no impact upon reducing flood risk.

Economic: There will be an overall positive effect upon the economic effects. The policies include improvements to the transport network including the provision of a new bus terminus, and the modernisation of the employment land portfolio and the encouragement within the enlarged town centre for retail and office development to help meet local needs and encourage new employment consistent with local needs. There may be an impact on the future of the Mount Road Industrial Estate, however other polices in the Plan look to safeguard local employment and allow for inward investment and redevelopment. The area has excellent links via the M6 Toll to the national highway network for distribution services.

Social: There will be an overall clear and strong positive impact upon social effects although there is an unknown with regard to the effect of the policies upon reducing drug and alcohol abuse, as with the Plan as a whole. The policies include improvements to walking and cycling links and encourage wider sustainable travel by sustainable travel. The SDA will deliver a range of housing and open space sport and recreational facilities, including allotments along with supporting other improvements to open space and playing pitch provision which will assist in meeting known deficiencies. Investment in the town centre will encourage cultural activity which are further supported in Policy Burntwood 2 and will deliver an more sustainable mixed and balanced community. By investment in services and facilities and infrastructure and safeguarding existing there will be improvements in the health of the population, by supporting healthy lifestyles especially through the provision of a new health centre and a reduction in health inequalities. Safeguarding of existing community facilities will enable the continued high number of local clubs to operate and enable enhanced community participation.

17.19   The SA demonstrate that the policies relating to Burntwood will have a positive economic and social impact. Through mitigation proposed and in conjunction with other policies there will also be a positive impact upon environment. The Local Plan will have a positive impact upon the sustainability of this settlement and contribute to the sustainable development of the District.

18 North of Tamworth

18.1   Development options to the North of Tamworth were first included as part of the 'Issues and Options' consultation in 2007. This document considered providing a strategic housing site in this location as part of the Core Strategy range of housing sites. An SA was undertaken of the option and the findings published in the Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (ICSSA). In summary the findings were that there would be a negative impact upon retaining distinctive settlement character and a negative impact upon the Wigginton Conservation area to the North. Accessibility was also an issue as there would be a negative impact upon Fountains Junction and approaches to Tamworth town centre, particularly via Gungate. In addition it was considered that the site would meet more of the housing needs arising from Tamworth than within Lichfield District.

18.2   Further evidence in the form of the 'Tamworth Future Development and Infrastructure Study', published in 2009, was commissioned jointly by Lichfield District Council, Tamworth Borough Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council to examine how the scale of housing development identified within the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy could be most effectively accommodated, with a particular focus on Tamworth, considering the infrastructure requirements arising from housing and employment growth. The study assessed a range of sites in and around Tamworth, including areas within Lichfield District and North Warwickshire and identified that the best performing site fell within North Warwickshire, followed by land around Fazeley. Sites to the north of the Tamworth Urban Area generally performed less well by comparison, particularly against highways capacity and impact criteria. The poorest performing option was that to the south of the urban area (comprising of land west of Tamworth Road and land South of Hockley). The weaker performance of this option was largely due to its relatively low scores against environmental protection and deliverability considerations. The study scoring reflects the information and evidence available at the time.

18.3   The proposed abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies under the Localism Act of 2011 has meant that authorities will no longer have to adhere to regional housing figures. More Local evidence since 2009 including the Housing Needs Study and SHMA update has shown that there are complex migration patterns across both Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough that are both heavily influenced by in-migration from the conurbation, particularly Birmingham. There are also parts of the rural south and east of Lichfield District which look to Tamworth for services and facilities and administrative boundaries should not be considered as restrictive to meeting these needs.

18.4   Tamworth Borough Council have published their Local Plan, which includes a Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood in the Anker Valley (Policy SP6) which incorporates 1,150 homes with associated infrastructure including footpath links, improvements in public transport and road improvements to the town centre. This is essentially the only strategic housing site within Tamworth Borough as the administrative area is severely constrained by physical parameters, such as flood plain, and by policy designations such as Green Belt. The Tamworth Local Plan: Pre-submission document has been published for a 6 week consultation period between 8th June and 27th July 2012.

18.5   The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has introduced a Duty to Co-operate on public bodies regarding planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are

properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. The NPPF regards this joint working as enabling local planing authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas, possibly due to lack of physical capacity. To comply with this duty Lichfield District Council has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the delivery of housing to meet Tamworth's needs. This MoU has been signed by Tamworth Borough Council, Lichfield District Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council and allows for the Local Plans of these three authorities to be aligned and consistent on the matter of housing.

18.6   The MoU agrees a broad objective for Lichfield District to deliver 500 homes to assist in meeting the needs arising from within Tamworth's borough boundary. It also agrees that the delivery of these 500 new homes will not commence until 2021, or until the necessary linkages have been delivered within Tamworth, whichever represents the later date. In addition a clause is also included agreeing that Lichfield District Council will be the sole collecting authority for the New Homes Bonus and Section 106/CIL monies resulting from delivering these homes within its administrative boundary.

18.7   In the light of these changed circumstances and additional evidence further appraisal of options for the location of new homes to the North of Tamworth in Lichfield District was therefore undertaken by the LSWG. Appraisal of options included a combination of sites to bring forward 1,000 homes in Lichfield District, with 500 to help address housing needs in Tamworth Borough, and 500 to help address housing needs in Lichfield District. A map showing six options appraised is included at Appendix Dand in summary are:

A.   Land at Arkall Farm (1,000 dwellings)
B.   Land at Arkall Farm (1,000 dwellings) & Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (1,150 dwellings)
C.   Land to the North of Browns Lane & land west of Main Road, Wigginton (1,000 dwellings)
D.   Land to the North of Browns Lane & land west of Main Road, Wigginton (1,000 dwellings) & Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (1,150 dwellings)
E.   Land at Arkall Farm (750 dwellings) & land to the North of Browns Lane (250 dwellings)
F.   Land at Arkall Farm (750 dwellings) & land to the North of Browns Lane (250 dwellings) & Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood (1,150 dwellings)

18.8   The following table shows the revised scoring. The totals show the most sustainable options are options B and F, where development within Lichfield District is accompanied by development of the Anker Valley, as the scorings also show that development within Lichfield District without development of the Anker Valley score as the least sustainable. In addition, the group considered that the delivery of the Anker Valley prior to the development of land within Lichfield District would deliver the most sustainable option.

18.9   Due to the close proximity of the sites there are similarities between them. For example SFO D (To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change) found that for all options new development will generate more waste, but that there may be potential for opportunities for renewable energy arising due to the scale of the development. In addition all sites will use greenfield land and within their design use water efficiently, improve air quality as there is less need to use the private car, and incorporate crime sensitive design principles.

18.10   Similar environmental impacts determined were that there is unknown impact upon archaeology and that impact upon listed buildings should be able to be mitigated; there would be no impact upon access to heritage; there would be no impact upon reducing flood risk as sustainable drainage will be incorporated within any scheme and the sites are not within a flood plain. All these sites will have limited economic impacts as no employment is proposed within them, however existing employment areas are in close proximity to the sites and development will encourage indigenous business by improving levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities. Similar social impacts found were that all sites would improve the range of housing available including affordable housing due to the scale of development, and all sites will address the sport and recreational needs of the new communities. However, no details have been included with regard to community participation, such as the provision of a community hub, although community centre provision has been identified by Tamworth within their Anker Valley SUN.

18.11   There are also similarities between the sites when scored with the Anker Valley SUN, relating mostly to economic impacts as the Anker Valley site is in close proximity to employment and retail provision and would also improve transport provision and accessibility. Social impacts have also scored positively for options combined with the Anker Valley site, as this development proposes the incorporation of community facilities. In addition the scale of development will deliver the range of housing required to meet local needs, provide affordable and specialist accommodation and the increased accessibility will encourage healthy lifestyles.

18.12   There are considerable differences between the sites and some important considerations are detailed in the accompanying text. In summary, the differences relate primarily to environmental effects and social effects. The environmental effects within Lichfield District mainly relate to their impact upon Wigginton, as it is considered that whilst different sites have different impacts upon biodiversity, these can be mitigated through the implementation of the policies within the Local Plan. It is recognised that there may be some impact upon coal deposits and further consultation will be necessary. The economic impacts relate to accessibility and Option C which lies to the west of Main Road would have a negative influence upon accessibility by bus for existing residents as it would require a re-routing of an existing service. Other options score better when combined with the Anker Valley SUN. Accessibility is a key influence on the scoring on the social effects as well. The accessibility and connectivity to services and facilities improves when the sites within Lichfield District are combined with the Anker Valley SUN, as this facilitates access to local services and facilities within the Anker Valley SUN and to wider employment, services and facilities within Tamworth town centre. It also enables improvements to the Fountains Junction/Gungate corridor. Options A, C and E have the poorest connectivity to Tamworth which would result in a negative impact upon social effects, such as access to services, facilities and cultural activities. This, in turn, could result in a negative impact upon health especially for the elderly, healthy lifestyles and potentially a rise in anti-social behaviour.

Table 18.1 Sustainability Appraisal of Tamworth Options

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
A	-	+?	+/-?	-?	+?	0	+/-?	+	+	+/-?	+	-?	- -?	?	0

18 North of Tamworth

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
	Environmental: Negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape and locally distinctive character. Potential to positively increase the number and diversity of habitats, as areas do contain some areas of priority habitat - poor semi-improved grassland and hedgerows - mitigation is considered possible. The area has previous coal workings including deep working between 50-1200m. **Economic:** Mixed impact upon reducing trips by car as no information on how bus services would increase & the service at present is infrequent. Sites are relatively isolated & not well connected to enable safe walking routes. **Social:** Will improve access for those without access to a car, but unknown impact on traffic sensitive areas such as Fountains junction and would have a positive impact upon improving transport choice. Development is isolated and there are no nearby and accessible health care facilities for the elderly, which would have an overall negative impact on the health of the population.														
B	-	+/-	+/-?	-?	+?	+/-	++	+	+	++?	++?	+/-?	+?	+?	9
	Environmental: Mixed impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape, locally distinctive character and preserving/ enhancing the Amington Conservation Area- mitigation is considered possible. The effect upon biodiversity is as for option A above, however there are greater potential for harm to the watercourse, but opportunities for strategic green infrastructure linkages. Mixed impact upon heritage as development will be in closer proximity to Amington hall which is Grade II Listed, but this offers greater opportunity for broadening access to, and understanding of, heritage assets. The area has previous coal workings, including deep working between 50-1200m. **Economic:** Clear and strong positive effect in reducing trips by car with the improvement of the Amington link and improved access to the rail station and town centre. **Social:** Clear and strong for improving services particularly transport and encouraging cultural activity, due to increased accessibility to the town centre and river. Potential to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote healthy lifestyles if facilities are delivered, including a new leisure centre elsewhere in Tamworth. Scale of development would result in enough demand for a new doctors practice which therefore gives a positive score for improving health inequalities and standards of healthcare.														
C	- -	+?	+/-?	-?	+?	0	+/-	+	+	+?	+	-?	- -?	?	0
	Environmental: Clear and strong negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape, on protecting diverse & locally distinctive settlement character and on preserving / enhancing the Wigginton Conservation Area due to the coalescence of Wigginton and Tamworth.														

18 North of Tamworth

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
	Potential to positively increase the number and diversity of habitats, as this area does contain some areas of priority habitat - poor semi-improved grassland and hedgerows - mitigation is considered possible.														

No impact upon minerals.

Economic: Positive for providing opportunities for reducing trips by car, as sites along Browns Lane have a half hourly service. However there would be a negative impact from the site west of Main Road, Wigginton as the bus service would need rerouting to access this development.

Social: Positive for providing increasing opportunities for walking and cycling as Browns Lane is traffic calmed, although access for those without access to a car is not good from land west of Main Road, Wigginton (cf economic section). Traffic would still use Fountains junction and an assessment of the impact on this traffic sensitive area will be required. No impact upon transport choice. Existing services are unlikely to be able to cope with growth, leading to a negative impact upon health, especially for the elderly.

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
D	- -	+/-?	+/-?	-?	+?	+/-	+	+	+	++?	++?	-?	+/-?	+?	5

Environmental: Clear and strong negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape, on protecting diverse & locally distinctive settlement character and on preserving / enhancing the Wigginton Conservation Area due to the coalescence of Wigginton and Tamworth.

The effect upon biodiversity is the same as for Option C above, however there is greater potential for harm to the watercourse and opportunities for strategic green infrastructure links (although not considered as good as Option B).

No impact upon minerals.

Economic: Positive for providing opportunities for reducing trips by car, as a half hourly bus service would need to be provided.

Social: Positive for providing increasing opportunities for walking and cycling as Browns Lane is traffic calmed, although access for those without access to a car is not good from land west of Main Road, Wigginton (cf economic section). Traffic would still use Fountains junction and an assessment of the impact on this traffic sensitive area will be required. Clear and strong for improving services particularly transport, however as the two locations are separate there is likely to be a mixed impact upon anti-social behaviour and upon health service provision, although the development on the Anker Valley will have a clear and strong positive influence on healthy lifestyles due to its increased accessibility to natural open space, community facilities, employment and the town centre.

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
E	-	+?	+/-?	-?	+?	0	+?	+	+	+?	+?	-?	- -?	?	2

Environmental: Negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape and mixed impact upon Wigginton Conservation Area and locally distinctive character.

Potential to positively increase the number and diversity of habitats, there are no priority habitats and the hedgerows should be able to be retained.

No impact upon minerals.

Tamworth options	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
	Economic: Potentially positive for reducing the number of trips by private car as part of site has access to an existing half hourly service and no information on how services. Service at present is infrequent along Ashby Road and the Arkall Farm site is not well connected to enable safe walking routes. **Social:** Will improve access for those without access to a car, but unknown impact on traffic sensitive areas such as Fountains junction and an assessment on the impact on this traffic sensitive area will be required. Will have a positive impact upon improving transport choice. Development is partly isolated and accessibility to health care facilities for the elderly would be more difficult. Existing facilities are unlikely to cope with housing growth in these locations, which would have an overall negative impact on the health of the population.															
F	-	+/-?	+/-?	-?	+?	+/-	++	+	+	++?	++?	+/-?	+?	+?	9
	Environmental: Negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape and mixed impact upon Wigginton Conservation Area and on protecting diverse and locally distinctive settlement character. Potential to positively increase the number and diversity of biodiversity habitats. However there is greater potential for harm to the watercourse, but opportunities for strategic green infrastructure links and the hedgerows should be able to be retained. Mixed impact upon heritage as development will be in closer proximity to Grade II Listed Amington Hall , but this offers greater opportunity for broadening access to, and understanding of, heritage assets. No impact upon minerals. **Economic:** Clear and strong positive in reducing trips by car with the improvement of the Amington link and access to the rail station and town centre. **Social:** Clear and strong for improving services particularly transport and encouraging cultural activity with the increased accessibility to the town centre and river. Potential to reduce anti-social behaviour and promote healthy lifestyles if are facilities delivered, including a new leisure centre and were well linked. Scale of development would result in enough demand for a new doctors practice, however access to health provision on land to the north of Browns Lane may be more restricted. Clear and strong positive impact on promoting healthy lifestyles if facilities delivered including new leisure centre and access to natural open space result in an overall positive impact on improving health.															

18.13   Informed by the results of the SA process the Broad Development Location within the 'Local Plan: Strategy' has included the most sustainable options set out above. The Local Plan 'Policy North of Tamworth' has included criteria for development in this area, such as proximity to bus stops; requirements for open space, sport and recreation; pedestrian and cycle routes linking to green infrastructure; services and facilities beyond the site's boundaries; new biodiversity habitats; and the delivery of a range of housing. The policy also includes a requirement that no development shall be commenced until essential infrastructure within Tamworth Borough has been delivered.

18.14   The 'Local Plan:Strategy' has included the most sustainable option for development in this location and development will contribute to the sustainability of Tamworth Borough and Lichfield District.

18 North of Tamworth

19 East of Rugeley

19.1   Development to the east of Rugeley was first considered as part of the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' consultation (December 2007). Of the four spatial development options 'Option 1: Town focused development' was the only option to include potential development relating to settlements outside the District through urban extensions in Lichfield District. This option apportioned 10% of Lichfield District's housing to accommodate growth for Rugeley, and although was not site specific, indicated a potential area of land adjacent to Cannock Chase District's boundary in the vicinity of Rugeley Power Station. The SA considered this as part of Option 1, against the other three options and the findings of the SA were published in the ICSSA.

19.2   The ICSSA was published alongside the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document (December 2008) and in addition included appraisals of various directions of growth around the District's main settlements. East of Rugeley was appraised as a direction of growth within the ICSSA (the findings are set out in Appendix i of the ICSSA). No details were included as to the scale of growth or boundaries so the SA highlights potential areas of benefit and conflict. In summary the findings were that development to the East of Rugeley showed a positive impact for providing opportunities for reducing trips by car and improving transport provision, and would thus provide increased opportunities/ facilities for walking and cycling providing access to new developments for those without access to a car and reducing the overall impact of traffic sensitive areas. It would have a mixed impact upon priority habitats and a negative impact upon the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area and a clear and strong negative impact upon locally distinctive settlement character. This is because there would be the potential for coalescence between Rugeley and Armitage with Handsacre. In addition it was considered that development here would meet more of the housing needs, including affordable housing needs, arising from Cannock Chase District than from within Lichfield District.

19.3   However, no defined site boundary was given and from the comments contained within the ICSSA the implication is that the scale appraised at this time was significantly larger than the areas included within either the 'Preferred Options' or subsequent documents.

19.4   Taking this forward the 'Preferred Options' document (December 2008) included redevelopment of parts of former Lea Hall Colliery lying within Lichfield District to the east of Rugeley, which had previously been part of the Rugeley Eastern Redevelopment Zone in the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan. At this time permission had been granted for 680 dwellings, but development had not commenced. The SHLAA identified further potential options in the same general location that could provide for longer-term development needs related to Rugeley, to provide around a further 380 dwellings, together with local shopping and community facilities. At para 11.9 the 'Preferred Options' document reported the findings of the SA as a location of strategic scale which performed well against the strategic objectives.

19.5   Thus the preferred spatial strategy set out in 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' identified 1,000 new dwellings to be built at Rugeley in total, representing 12.5% of Lichfield District's overall housing figure of 8,350. This comprised the 680 dwellings with permission

in the Rugeley Eastern Redevelopment Zone, which would contribute to meeting the needs of Rugeley, with the remaining 320 from land at the Borrow Pit site and former British Waterways land, to meet medium to longer term housing needs.

19.6   Within the Core Strategy 'Policy Directions' document the preferred spatial strategy continued with the proposal for 1,000 dwellings on brownfield land at Rugeley Power Station within Armitage with Handsacre Parish.

19.7   Within the 'Shaping our District' document the proposed housing provision at Rugeley had increased to 1,150 dwellings centred on brownfield land to the East of Rugeley, within a Strategic Development Location (SDL). This was to consolidate the proposals for a mixed-used development which had the benefit of outline planning permission and an approved masterplan, with 700 dwellings coming from the former Power Station site and an additional 450 dwellings as before. This 450 represented 5% of Lichfield District's housing growth.

19.8   Evidence since this time, including the Housing Needs Study and SHMA update, has shown that there are complex migration patterns across both Lichfield District and Cannock Chase Borough that are both heavily influenced by in-migration from the conurbation. There are also parts of the rural north and west of Lichfield District which look to Rugeley for services and facilities and administrative boundaries should not be considered as restrictive to meeting these needs.

19.9   The Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has introduced a duty to co-operate on public bodies regarding planning issues that cross administrative boundaries, to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. The NPPF regards this joint working as enabling local planing authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas. To comply with this duty Lichfield District Council has agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) relating to the delivery of future housing requirement in south-east Staffordshire, together with Cannock Chase Council and Tamworth Borough Council.

19.10   The MoU agrees a broad objective to deliver an identified housing requirement of 19,800 new houses between 2006 and 2028 within south-east Staffordshire in the three authority areas as follows:

- Cannock Chase District 5,300

- Lichfield District 8,700 (between 2008 and 2028)

- Tamworth Borough Council 4,500.

19.11   Of the 8,700 figure for Lichfield District from 2008-2028, 500 are to help for the needs arising within Tamworth and 500 to help provide for the needs arising in Rugeley.In addition a clause is also included agreeing that Lichfield District Council will be the sole collecting authority for the New Homes Bonus and Section 106/CIL monies resulting from delivering these homes within its administrative boundary.

19 East of Rugeley

19 East of Rugeley

19.12   In the light of the above circumstances the 'Local Plan: Strategy' continues with a strategic housing allocation to the East of Rugeley, within Armitage with Handsacre Parish. The spatial strategy apportions 12% of the District's housing growth (1,125 dwellings) focused to the East of Rugeley on brownfield land. This is identified within a Strategic Development Allocation (SDA). The LSWG has appraised the SDA and the overall impact is positive, demonstrating that the location is a sustainable option for delivering future housing development. The findings are set out in the table below:

Table 19.1

Rugeley	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
	Environmental +						Economic +			Social +					
	+?	+	0	+/-	+?	+	+	0	0	+	+?	+?	+?	+	10

Environmental: Positive impacts upon maintaining an attractive and diverse landscape , protecting areas of highest landscape quality, improving areas of lower landscape quality and achieving high quality and sustainable design as site is brownfield land. No impact now on locally distinctive character as the site does not coalesce with Armitage and Handsacre and any impact upon the Conservation area can be mitigated.

Positive for biodiversity especially for the creation of green corridors.

No impact upon heritage assets.

Mixed impact for mitigating for the effects on climate change as whilst the scale of development will enable positive impacts upon the prudent use of energy and opportunities for renewables, but all new development will generate waste.

As the site is a brownfield site there are positive impacts upon protecting controlled waters and reducing flood risk through its reclamation. Policies within the plan will require the development to use water efficiently, however there will be a negative impact upon using resources prudently as the dwellings will primarily be built from brick.

Economic: Positive impact upon reducing trips by car as Rugeley is a sustainable settlement with a range of employment, retail and recreational facilities, and new population will support the existing economy in Rugeley. No impacts on encouraging sustainable distribution and communication systems and on encouraging different types of new businesses as residential development proposed.

Social: Positive impact upon reducing trips by car as Rugeley has a range of facilities and services, including sport and recreation facilities, a theatre and is accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. There will be a positive impact in providing affordable homes for those in need and specialist housing due to the scale of the development proposed.

There will be a positive impact upon the health of the community and safety as through the provision of design policies, open space and community buildings supporting healthy lifestyles, reducing ASB and health inequalities and enabling community engagement.

20 Rural

20.1   Through consultation on the 'Issues' document, published in August 2007, issues facing the rural areas of the District were identified as:

- Declining number of rural key services and facilities, including shops, post offices, doctors, village halls and public houses.
- Many areas are not well served by public transport providing poor access to services and facilities.
- Affordable rural housing supply does not meet demand.
- Role of rural settlements in contributing towards strategic requirements.

20.2   Following on from this, these issues were published in the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' document and questions were asked to gauge whether these were the main issues and what others needed to be addressed. The 'Issues and Options' document also included a draft vision for Lichfield District in 2026. This included specific reference to the rural areas in the following way:

- The rural areas of the District will contain prosperous rural village centres which are a focal point for local people to access facilities, services and for meeting local housing needs. They will be part of a working and tranquil countryside which remains unmistakably part of Staffordshire and where the character of the landscape is enhanced.
- An enhanced community transport network will enable easier access to key rural services and the towns, with a particular emphasis on connecting the clusters of smaller rural settlements in the east and the north of the District.
- The countryside will be more accessible as a recreational and biodiversity resource through a better connected footpath network and a greater level of informal rural recreation opportunities, particularly in the tame and Trent Valleys through the Central Rivers Initiative, and by enhancing our canal network that connects urban and rural communities to the countryside. There will be enhanced protection of and controlled access to the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, that retains its landscape quality but also its tranquillity.

20.3   The portrait of the District set out in 'Issues & Options' identified the District as having a large rural area, particularly to the north and east with many villages of significant character and several high quality, contrasting rural landscapes, with Green Belt covering over half the District - mainly between the West Coast Mainline and the edge of the West Midlands Conurbation.

20.4   In addition the 'Issues and Options' document also included Strategic Objectives, with Strategic Objective 10 being to protect the quality of the countryside and the villages it contains from inappropriate development whilst still allowing identified development needs arising in these areas to be met. Other relevant Strategic Objectives included 8 - to reduce the need to travel, 11 - ensuring that rural settlements contain an adequate or improved range of services and facilities to meet the needs of their areas and 12 - to reduce the relative isolation of rural areas through improvements to public transport facilities and rural services. Other objectives included protecting the District's natural and built environmental assets from loss or damage by development, improving biodiversity resources and increase the attraction of Lichfield District as tourist destination.

20 Rural

20.5 The 'Issues and Options' document considered the spatial distribution of housing across Lichfield District to 2026 and looked at variety of different levels of growth for the rural areas. Spatial Option 1 (Town focused development) apportioned 0% of the District's housing growth to the rural areas, Option 2 (Town and key rural village focused development) 40%, Option 3 (Dispersed development) 55% and Option 4 (New Settlement) 10%.

20.6 The 'Issues & Options' document also considered how the rural areas would be affected by these options, with options 1, 2 and 4 affording only limited development in villages for affordable housing only, but with Option 2 concentrating development in the rural areas to larger key settlements with a range of services and facilities. Option 3 gave a greater focus on local and village services and facilities, to support their retention, help tackle pockets of deprivation in rural wards by decreasing barriers to housing, jobs and services and assist in meeting rural housing needs with provision closer to where need arises.

20.7 The SA considered each of the four spatial options published in the 'Issues and Options ' document and the findings are set out in the ICSSA in Section 6, with the conclusions set out in Section 7. The document was published for consultation alongside the 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document in December 2008. The findings of the SA were also included within the 'Core Strategy Preferred Options' document at para 10.34 indicating that the Option 2 approach would tend towards greater car use, and may impact on the historic environment as most of the Key Rural Settlements have Conservation Areas. The SA also determined that Option 3 would have an even greater impact on increased car usage, as sustainable transport facilities are poorer in the smaller villages and that the scale of growth may adversely harm the character of these settlements. This was therefore found to be the least sustainable option.

20.8 The 'Core Strategy: Preferred Options' document identified a preferred spatial option for the rural villages and identified key proposals as:

- Maintaining the rural character of the District and to enable the countryside to function as a successful part of the agricultural economy whilst providing increased opportunities for countryside access and appropriate attractions;
- Providing homes and jobs, related in scale to access to services and facilities, particularly public transport;
- Amending the settlement hierarchy to include Fradley as a key rural settlement, based on the findings of the Rural Settlements Sustainability Study and allocated a significant scale of development focused on brownfield land at the former airfield ;
- 20% of housing growth, 1,400 new dwellings, principally in the Key Rural Settlements (Armitage with Handsacre, Alrewas, Fazeley, Fradley, Little Aston, Shenstone and Whittington), depending on individual constraints and further evidence;
- 400 apportioned to Fazeley to contribute to the Tamworth housing market, and considered as part of Cross-boundary issues;
- support for rural employment;
- Other smaller villages to meet identified local needs only for housing, whilst enhancing community facilities and services and supporting small-scale new employment;
- Further development generally inappropriate in the open countryside, unless for essential local needs and rural activities.

20.9 The 'Policy Directions' consultation in April 2009 included a revised preferred spatial strategy. For the rural areas this set out that new rural housing would be concentrated within identified Key Rural Settlements; Alrewas, Armitage with Handscare, Fazeley, Fradley, Little Aston, Shenstone and Whiitington, with further work to be undertaken to assess the growth potential in each. 1,000 new dwellings were apportioned to Fradley, utilising brownfield land, with further work to be carried out to determine appropriate level of growth for Fradley. Fazeley was identified as having a role on meeting Tamworth's housing needs, but that any final decision on this issue would await the outcome of a further study on Tamworth. The smaller villages would only accommodate local housing needs, mainly within existing settlement limits.

20.10 The 'Shaping our District' document, published in November 2010, included reference to the rural areas within 'Core Policy 1: The Spatial Strategy'. This apportioned 32% of the District's housing growth to 2026 to the rural areas, with 12% to Fradley, 15% to the other Key Rural Settlements and 5% to the other rural villages. The SA of this element of Core Policy 1 was published in the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' as part of the overall SA of Core Policy 1, alongside the SA of the other policies.

20.11 The 'Local Plan: Strategy' has again revised the spatial strategy following consultation and further evidence; in particular evidence in relation to housing in the form of the Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study & SHMA Update (May 2012) and economic evidence in the form of the Employment Land Review (February 2012). Other recent evidence of relevance to the rural areas has included the Playing Pitch Strategy 2012.

20.12 In relation the rural areas significant work has been undertaken since 'Shaping our District' with the Key Rural Settlements via the Rural Planning Project and for Fradley via a specific Fradley Rural Masterplanning project. This work has enabled identification of whether these villages can accommodate growth, and to a certain extent to what scale, and has enabled more on local distinctiveness to be included in the Plan, taking into account the views of those communities and local representative groups.

20.13 The 'Local Plan: Strategy' now includes a vision and place policies for the settlements across the District, including the Key Rural Settlements, with policies on environment, services and facilities, housing and economy for each. Overall the 'Local Plan: Strategy' includes reference to the rural areas within 'Core Policy 1: The Spatial Strategy' and now apportions 28% of the District's housing growth to 2028 to the rural areas, with 12% to Fradley, 12% to the other Key Rural Settlements (now excluding Little Aston) and 6% to the other rural villages.

Findings

20.14 The SA of this section of the 'Local Plan: Strategy' found that all the Key Rural Settlements are strong communities with a reasonable range of facilities and services and act as focus for rural hinterland, particularly for services such as schools, doctors, and chemists. However, it has also highlighted that significant differences are bourne out by their characteristics.

20 Rural

20.15   Fradley for example would benefit from more development to continue the delivery of an improved range of services and facilities and improve the connectivity between Fradley Village and the area of the former RAF airfield housing which has now been redeveloped (Fradley South). In contrast Armitage with Handsacre and Fazeley are affected by their close proximity to Rugeley and Tamworth, and also have issues relating to improving community cohesion.

20.16   Alrewas has a sensitive historic core and generally high quality environment, set within a valued landscape which contains areas of floodplain, but also has opportunities relating to National Memorial Arboretum (NMA), and the Central Rivers Initiative (CRI). Shenstone and Whittington are also significantly influenced by their high quality built environments and Conservation Areas and commercial factors such as their existing employment areas, Defence Military Services and St Giles Hospice. Fazeley is also affected by the significant economic effect of Drayton Manor Park and Drayton Manor Business Park.

20.17   Whilst development in the villages does not reflect the most sustainable option and does not add greatly to the overall sustainability of the District, improvements to their individual sustainability and self-sufficiency in relation to supporting the quality of life of our residents is important, especially as many of the villages have high proportions of older persons who are significantly affected by mobility and accessibility issues. Opportunities exist to support the continued survival of these villages which are important for their own population and the hinterland which surrounds them. However further work is required to establish specific sites which can best direct development to achieve the most suitable and sustainable solution for these villages, and this SA shows the scale of growth identified for each settlement can be achieved but will require further detailed consideration through the Local Plan: Allocations document or potentially through a community led plan, such as Neighbourhood Plans.

Table 20.1 SA of the Rural Settlements

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
				Environmental				Economic				Social			
Rural Areas	+?	?	?	-	?	?	+/-	?	+?	?	+/-	+?	+?	+	4
	Environmental: Overall a largely unknown environmental effect upon the villages. Many of the issues are site specific and impact would only be able to be determined once a site has been identified. There would be a negative impact upon mitigating for the effects of climate change as development will result in more waste and due to the limited scale of development and limited employment land available opportunities for and the viability for renewables may be lower, Due to the more limited sustainable transport available and more limited range of services and facilities a greater likelihood of use of the private car is also likely and as most of the villages have conservation areas within them it is likely new development will be required in traditional materials such as brick. **Economic:** Overall a potential positive impact upon economic effects. The policy supports rural employment and diversification, home working and tourism where these conform with the Core Policies of the Plan and new technology. Limited development within the villages also supports existing business such as the key rural centres.														

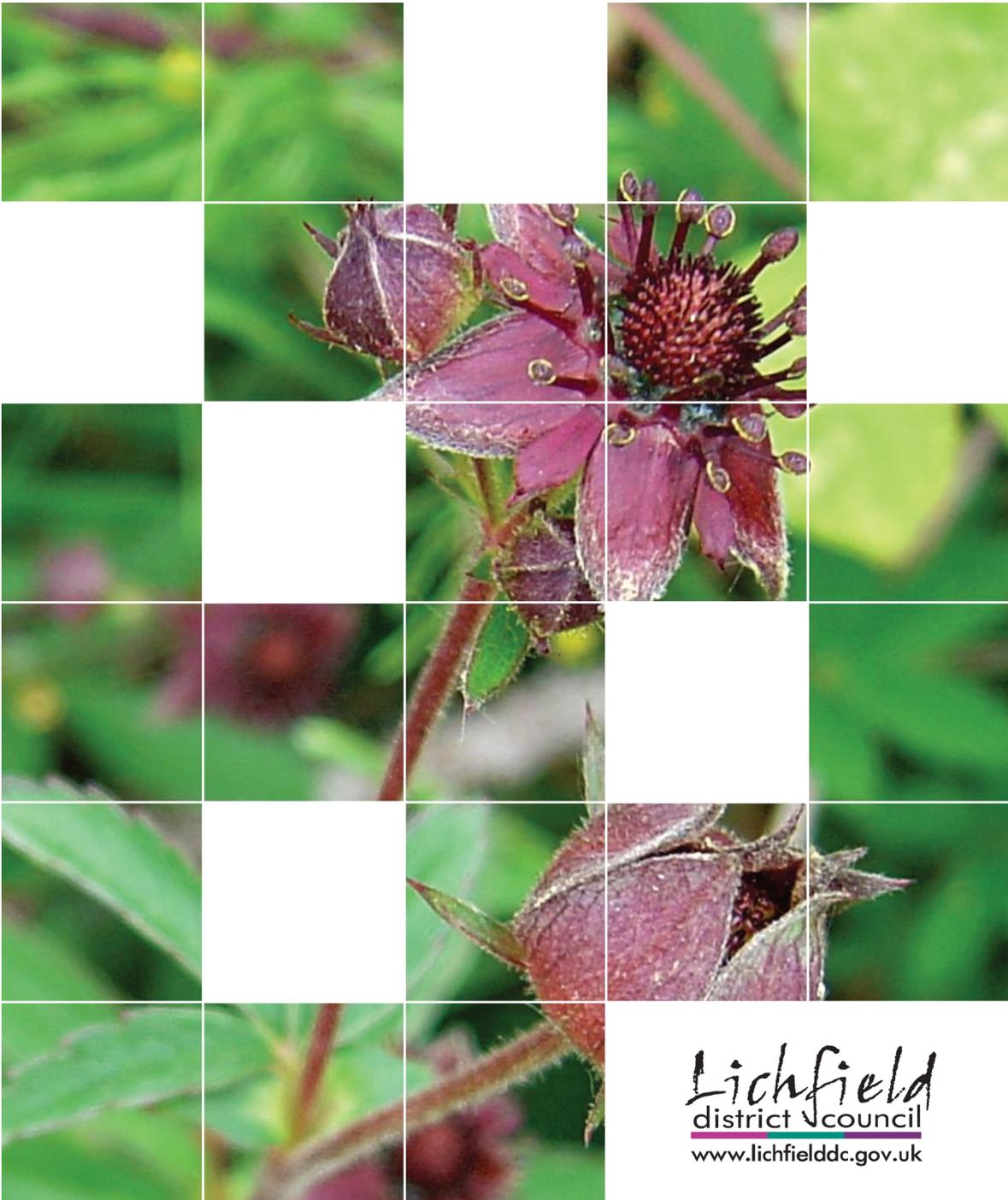| Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
	Social: Overall a positive impact upon social effects. Policy supports retention of and improvements to social, community and environmental infrastructure where these address the needs of the village, are sustainably located and do not conflict with other policies in the Local Plan, this will assist particularly in improving the healthy lifestyles of the population. The provision of new housing will only be for local needs and could assist in the delivery of infrastructure where there is a deficiency and if this has been identified through a community led plan this will improve community participation.															
Fradley	+/-?	+?	+/-?	+	+?	+	+/+/-	+	+	+/+/-	+	+	+	+	10
	Environmental: Overall a positive impact upon environmental issues, however there is a degree of uncertainty as the impact will be dependent upon the detail which is beyond the scope of policy. Mixed impact upon maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape quality as parts of the sites identified for development are of high historic landscape value and other elements are brownfield and of lower landscape quality, positive for aiding coalescence of settlement to facilitate locally distinctive character. Potential positive effect upon biodiversity through the provision of high quality green infrastructure and green corridor adjacent to the Canal. Mixed impact upon protecting and enhancing buildings of historic significance as a scheduled ancient monument is affected by development and there are locally significant pillboxes which remain, however any impact should be able to mitigated. Positive impact upon mitigating for the effects of climate change as whilst there will be an increase in the amount of waste, as more development produces more waste, the scale of development and policies require prudent use of energy and opportunities for renewable energy to be considered subject to viability. Positive impact on for air quality, especially within the existing residential areas as there will be a reduction in the amount of HGV movements as part of housing site has been reallocated from employment land, the policies include improvements to local and strategic highway network and an alternative vehicular route to Turnbull Road through Fradley. Positive improvement to controlled waters as Curborough Brook is poor water quality at present and improvements are required to facilitate waste water treatment to serve development in this area, which will improve the water quality overall, mitigation is feasible and viable. Part of the SDA lies within a mineral consultation zone and whilst this could have a negative impact upon the prudent use of resources, mitigation is possible. The development will result in the use of resources for construction e.g the houses are likely to be built in brick. Water efficiency will be enhanced through implementation of other policies within the Plan. As the site is adjacent to a large employment area there may be potential for encouraging alternative methods of waste reuse and recovery. Work through improvements to the Curborough Brook will lead to reduction in flood risk. **Economic:** Overall positive impact upon economic factors. There will be a mixed to positive opportunity to reduce trips by car, the area has a relatively frequent bus service and had a degree of local self containment with the increasing number of facilities available, bus service and proximity to Lichfield but does not have the wide range of facilities of Lichfield City and Burntwood and would thus not score as highly as these settlements. The accessibility to the A38 encourages sustainable distribution and warehousing. The scale and range of employment in this location provides local clustering and is positive in encouraging local economy, especially with reference to small units and															

20 Rural

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
	incubator units, the provision of range of housing type nearby will encourage more sustainable working/living patterns. Development of further housing in this location will support the new and establishing local centre, which serves both the local residential and employment needs for local shops and includes a gym. **Social:** Overall positive impact upon social factors. There will be a positive impact upon providing increased opportunities for walking and cycling to jobs and services. A mixed response to reducing trips by car, providing access to new developments for those without a car and for reducing the impact on traffic sensitive areas as the area has a relatively frequent bus service and has a degree of local self containment with the increasing number of facilities available and proximity to Lichfield but does not have the wide range of facilities of Lichfield City and Burntwood and would thus not score as highly as these settlements. The A38 is traffic sensitive. Specific policies in the Fradley Key Rural Settlements policy seek to deliver the range of housing specifically for Fradley so will have a clear and strong positive influence upon the sustainability of the settlement. The scale of development will enable existing deficiencies for play to be met and policies seek to deliver a new community hall and doctors which will improve health care and prevent health inequalities in this developing community and facilitate a more cohesive community. Improved frequency of bus services and additional provision of cycle and pedestrian routes which provide safe and convenient accessibility between facilities will support healthy lifestyles.															
Alrewas	+?	+?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	?	+/-	+	+?	-?	+?	+/-?	+?	+?	7
	Environment: generally a potential positive or mixed impact upon environmental factors. Positive impact upon prioritising use of infill sites, before land on the edge of the settlement, impacts are impossible to assess as they are not site specific and will be considered through Land Allocations, however a scale of development given has been considered and as it would be subject to policies in the Local Plan and any impact would be able to be mitigated in a suitable location and the detailed design of a scheme, however the LSWG noted that the larger the scheme the greater the likely impact upon the Alrewas Conservation Area and this would be more difficult to mitigate. Positive for the impacts upon green corridors through the emphasis on the Trent and Mersey canal, Central Rivers Initiative and NMA which is part of the National Forest. Unknown on other impacts as it will depend on the location of new development. Mixed impact upon historic environment, the high quality design and significance of the Conservation Areas are recognised in policy and any impact should be able to be mitigated for. The limited scale of the development proposed will limit the opportunities for renewable energy, however any development will be required to be built to policies within the Local Plan and use energy and water efficiently, although it is acknowledged new development will result in more waste and use of primary resources such as brick. Alrewas does have areas of floodplain and further work would be required through the Land Allocations document to identify if reduction of flood risk is opportune. **Economic:** Overall a potential positive impact upon economic factors.															

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
	There is likely to be a mixed impact upon improving the availability of sustainable transport to jobs and services as there are limited opportunities to improve pedestrian access to the historic core of the village and this is a traffic sensitive area as it has narrow streets, however the size of the village enables easy access to services and facilities for those without access to a car. The policies will encourage indigenous business and growth of tourism, and enable improved levels of housing consistent with local needs. **Social:** The safeguarding, enhancement and improved range of facilities which will address existing deficiencies and improved range of housing to meet locally identified needs while safeguarding the character of the village and its community cohesion will have positive impacts upon social factors.														
Armitage with Handsacre	+	+?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+	+	+?	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	+?	+?	10
	Environment: Overall a potential positive or mixed impact upon environmental factors. Policy supports enhancement of the Canal conservation area and generally the physical environment of the area, and prioritises infill although loss of greenfield reduces positive impact. Potential benefit to biodiversity through enhancement of the canal and other areas of open space. Unknown impact upon the historic environment however any impact should be able to be mitigated for, there are known archaeological deposits in the area. The limited scale of the development proposed will limit the opportunities for renewable energy, however any development will be required to be built to policies within the Local Plan and use energy and water efficiently, although it is acknowledged new development will result in more waste and use of primary resources such as brick. Positive impact upon reducing flood risk as policies specifically refer to addressing local flooding issues. **Economic:** Policy supports new and existing business and settlement has a reasonable public transport service. **Social:** The safeguarding, enhancement and improved range of facilities which will address existing deficiencies and improved range of housing to meet locally identified needs while safeguarding the character of the village and promoting community cohesion will have positive impacts upon social factors.														
Fazeley	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	+/-?	?	+	+	+?	+?	+?	+?	+/-?	?	9
	Environment: Overall a potential positive or mixed impact upon environmental factors. Policy prioritises infill development and reuse of existing buildings and brownfield land over greenfield or Green Belt sites and seeks to protect the distinct character of Fazeley, Deer Park, Bonehill and Mile Oak through coalescence. Policy supports improvement of the Conservation Area. The impact however is cautious as until final locations are known there is uncertainty as to the impact.														

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
	Potential positive impact upon biodiversity, through improvements to the Canal and green infrastructure. There are existing underused historic buildings and by prioritising development of these this will assist in protecting and enhancing the historic environment. The limited scale of the development proposed and as it will involve reuse of historic buildings will limit the opportunities for renewable energy, however any development will be required to be accord to policies within the Local Plan and use energy and water efficiently, although it is acknowledged new development will result in more waste and use of primary resources such as brick, although it is acknowledged that this will involve recycling of buildings/ materials. The settlement is at risk of flooding and there may be potential to reduce flood risk through development, further work will be required as part of the Local Plan:Allocations. **Economic:** Overall positive impact upon economic factors. Policy supports initiatives to improve accessibility to nearby centres of employment, specifically Tamworth and refers to potential benefits of Wilnecote Regeneration Corridor. Policy supports the local rural centre and new business, which enhance the local economic sustainability and improve tourism. **Social:** Overall a positive social upon social factors. Policy seeks to improve accessibility for pedestrian and cyclists and specifically mentions accessibility to training and skills initiatives, projects which contribute towards health, especially for the elderly, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, achieving a more balanced housing market and improvements to equipped play and sports pitches. The improved range of services, facilities and improved physical environment will achieve a reduction in health inequalities and have appositive impact upon social factors.															
Shenstone	+?	+?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	+	+	+?	+	+?	+/-	+?	+?	9
	Environmental: Overall a potential positive or mixed impact upon environmental factors. Policy prioritises infill and re-use of brownfield land, it recognises the importance of protecting the Conservation Area, however until the locations of new housing development are identified it is impossible to assess the impact upon landscape as there are areas of high historic landscape value close to the village. This work will form part of the Local Plan:Allocations document. No specific mention to biodiversity within policies, other policies within the Local Plan will protect and mitigate for any likely impact arising from the scale of development identified, potential benefit through provision of additional green space. Unknown impact upon the historic environment however any impact should be able to be mitigated for, parkland exists close to the village. The limited scale of the development proposed will limit the opportunities for renewable energy, however any development will be required to be built to policies within the Local Plan and use energy and water efficiently, although it is acknowledged new development will result in more waste and use of primary resources such as brick. Shenstone does have areas of floodplain and further work would be required through the Land Allocations document to identify if reduction of flood risk is opportune. **Economic:** Overall positive impact upon economic factors.															

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total

Shenstone is an accessible location, and policy to encourage provision of more parking at the rail station, improved, walking and cycle routes will encourage employers to use more sustainable means of transport. Reference to the importance of local employment is recognised and supports small, micro and indigenous business which exists on the industrial estate and in the local rural centre, although uncertainty as to the future of the Birchbrook Industrial Estate and Shenstone Business Park is being considered through the Local Plan:Allocations document.

Social: The safeguarding, enhancement and improved range of facilities which will address existing deficiencies and improved range of housing to meet locally identified needs while safeguarding the character of the village and its community cohesion will have positive impacts upon social factors. Shenstone is an area which is suffering from high rates of burglary at present and measures which address this should be considered in the Local Plan:Allocations document or a community led plan.

Rural	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	G	I	J	K	L	Total
Whittington	+?	?	+?	+/-?	+/-?	+?	+	+	+	+/-?	+?	+/-?	0?	?	7

Environmental: Overall a potential positive impact upon environmental factors. policies seek improvement of the Conservation Are and physical environment. It prioritises infill although loss of greenfield and Green Belt is identified and reduces the positive impact.

No specific mention to biodiversity within policies, other policies within the Local Plan will protect and mitigate for any likely impact arising from the scale of development identified.

Unknown impact upon the historic environment however any impact should be able to be mitigated for and support for the Key rural centre will support the continued use of historic buildings which exist here.

The limited scale of the development proposed will limit the opportunities for renewable energy, however any development will be required to be built to policies within the Local Plan and use energy and water efficiently, although it is acknowledged new development will result in more waste and use of primary resources such as brick.

Whittington does have areas which are prone to flooding and further work would be required through the Land Allocations document to identify if reduction of flood risk is opportune. Policy supports measures to address localised flooding

Economic: Overall positive impact upon economic factors.

Whittington is an accessible location, policies support the local rural centre and indigenous business and recognition exists within the explanation of the importance of St Giles Hospice and Defence Medical Services.

Social: Whittington has an historic centre with narrow streets and policy incorporates support for measures to improve traffic safety. The safeguarding, enhancement and improved range of facilities which will address existing deficiencies and improved range of housing to meet locally identified needs while safeguarding the character of the village and its community cohesion will have positive impacts upon social factors.

Monitoring

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk

21 Monitoring Framework

21.1 Monitoring is essential in terms of assessing the sustainability impacts of the Local Plan and ensuring that issues have been properly taken account of, implemented, and adverse impacts mitigated for where these occur. It helps to ensure that any problems which arise during implementation, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and future predictions made more accurately. It is also important that a baseline is provided as the 'starting point' for monitoring as this provides the context against which such impacts can be compared.

21.2 Where possible, baseline information should relate to the situation before the plan period begins, i.e. before 2008. However in some instances this may not be possible - for example if certain pieces of evidence have been produced after this date.

21.3 Monitoring of impacts is carried out through the Annual Monitoring Review (AMR). Many of the indicators used have been monitored for a number of years and continue to be so due to their local relevance. New indicators will be added where the Sustainability Appraisal has show a gap, or otherwise the AMR will be cross referenced to other sources of information.

Table 21.1 Monitoring Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
A. To maintain and enhance landscape and townscape quality	Will it promote and maintain an attractive and diverse landscape? Will it protect areas of highest landscape quality? Will it improve areas of lower landscape quality? Will it preserve and enhance conservation areas including their settings? Will it achieve high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm sensitive to the locality?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available • AONB information • National Forest • Forest of Mercia • Historic Landscape Character Assessment • Conservation area information • Planning for Landscape Change (Staffordshire County Council SPD 2001) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity assessment (2007)	• Improve the condition of nationally important sites such as SSSIs and SACs • Protect locally important sites such as local wildlife sites, local geological sites and biodiversity alert sites from loss of area • Continue to contribute to the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan and protecting European and nationally protected species • Protect and enhance the Cannock Chase AONB • Contribute to the implementation of the National Forest Strategy • Contribute to the implementation of the Forest of Mercia Plan • Contribute to the strategy for the area between Cannock Chase and Sutton Park

21 Monitoring Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
	Does it value and protect diverse and locally distinctive settlement and townscape character? Does it safeguard historic views and valuable skylines of settlements.	• Lichfield District Hedgerow Survey (2008) • Historic Environment Character Assessment (2009) • Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (ongoing) • Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2009-14 • Evidence Base report and Visitor Mitigation Strategy for Cannock Chase SAC (April 2010) • Lichfield Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping • West Midlands Farmsteads and Landscapes Project (2010) • Open Space Assessments (most recent is 2012) • 7 of 21 Conservation Area Appraisals have been completed (2011) • Currently 3 buildings on the Buildings at Risk Survey (2011)	• To promote the Central Rivers Initiative • Environmental Improvement Schemes completed • Tree Preservation • Conservation Area improvement schemes. • Conservation area Appraisals -all to be completed by 2014. • To reduce the number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk survey • Building for Life assessments • Planning proposals that protect and enhance historic view lines and vistas • Extent and use of detailed characterisation studies informing development proposals • Improvements in the quality of the townscape, e.g. Delivery of street / public realm audits, improvement works, de-cluttering works both in urban and rural areas • Ensuring good high quality design.
B. To promote biodiversity and geodiversity through protection, enhancement and management of species and habitats.	What effect will there be on priority habitats? What effect will there be on national and local sites, including veteran trees? What effect will there be on green corridors / water courses / will it reduce/eliminate fragmentation / wildlife connectivity? Will it improve the number and diversity of sites and habitats of nature conservation value in the District?	In 2007 (scoping report) there were: • 6 SSSIs • 1 SAC • 212.7ha of Lowland Heathland • 33.9ha Wet Grassland (floodplain grazing marsh) • 346.2ha Rich Flower Grassland • 1 RIGS site (This includes information gathered from Local Area Agreements which were in force at the time) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence:	• Improve the condition of nationally important sites such as SSSIs and SACs • Protect locally important sites such as local wildlife sites, local geological sites and biodiversity alert sites from loss of area • Continue to contribute to the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan and protecting European and nationally protected species • Protect and enhance the Cannock Chase AONB • Contribute to the implementation of the National Forest Strategy

21 Monitoring Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
	What affect will there be on the RIGS site?	• Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment (2007) • Lichfield District Hedgerow Survey (2008) • Ecological assessment for Lichfield District (2009) • Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (ongoing) • Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2009-14 • Evidence Base report and Visitor Mitigation Strategy for Cannock Chase SAC (April 2010) • Lichfield Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping • River Severn and Humber River Basin Management Plans(2009) • River Mease Nutrient Management Plan and Water Quality Management Plan (2011) • River Mease Restoration Plan 2012 • Open Space Assessments (most recent is 2012)	• To contribute to the implementation of the Forest of Mercia Plan • Contribute to the strategy for the area between Cannock Chase and Sutton Park • Promote the Central Rivers Initiative • Environmental Improvement Schemes completed (eg Amount of priority habitat created / recreated: Lowland Heathland, Wet Grassland; Rich Flower Grassland) • Number of Local Nature Reserves • Number and type of internationally / nationally designated sites) • Number of Species relevant to the District which have achieved SBAP targets eg Otter and Snipe • Tree Preservation, veteran trees, ancient woodland. • Water quality
C. To protect and enhance buildings, features and areas of archaeological, cultural and historic value and their settings.	Will it safeguard sites of archaeological importance (scheduled or unscheduled) and their settings? Will it preserve and enhance buildings and structures and their settings which contribute to the District's heritage? Will it improve and broaden access to, and understanding of,	In 2007 (scoping report) there were: • 15 Scheduled Ancient Monuments • 750 Listed Buildings • 23 Conservation areas • 6 Buildings at Risk • 438 hectares of parkland (1995 figure) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Conservation Area Appraisals and Management plans, 7 of 21 Conservation Area	• Conservation Area improvement schemes - all to be completed by 2014 • Conservation area Appraisals • Conservation Area Management plans • Reduce the number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk survey • Number of sites subject to development where archaeology is preserved in situ compared with those scientifically recorded

21 Monitoring Framework

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
	local heritage, historic sites, areas and buildings?	Appraisals have been completed (2011) • Strategic Landscape and Biodiversity Assessment 2007 • Historic Environment Character Assessment (2009) • Greens and Open Spaces Strategy 2009 • Open Space Assessments (most recent is 2012) • Currently 3 buildings on the Buildings at Risk Survey (2011)	• Number of listed buildings • number of buildings of historic or architectural interest brought back into active use • Number of historic and archaeological sites, features and areas with improved management • Number of historic assets providing greater understanding, enjoyment and access • Number or % or area of historic buildings, sites and areas and their settings (both designated and non designated) damaged • Lichfield District Tourism initiatives relating to heritage, historic sites, areas and buildings
D. To mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.	Will it encourage prudent and efficient use of energy? Does it enable opportunities for renewable energy? Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal? -	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • DEFRA experimental CO_2 statistics (Local Area Agreement) 10.41 tonnes per capita (2006) • 46% of all municipal waste recycled in 2005 / 6 More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Staffordshire County - wide renewable / low carbon energy study (2010) • Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan (2011/12 - 2012/13) • Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent draft Joint Waste Core strategy (2010)	• Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan • Achievement of sustainability standards for development • Waste targets including recycling targets • Increase in the % of municipal waste recycled • Reduction in the % of municipal waste landfilled

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
E. To encourage prudent use of natural resources.	Will it improve air quality? Will it protect controlled waters? Will it use water efficiently and with care? Will it encourage greater use of alternatives to primary resources? Will it prevent sterilisation of mineral resources? Will it encourage a move towards alternative methods of waste re-use and recovery e.g. energy?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • River quality generally good (EA) • 46% of all municipal waste recycled in Lichfield District in 2005/6 More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Local Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessments including Air Quality management Area • Southern Staffordshire Outline Water Cycle Study (2010) • Southern Staffordshire Surface Water Management Plan Phase 1 (2010) • River Severn and Humber River Basin Management Plans(2009) • River Mease Nutrient Management Plan and Water Quality Management Plan (2011) • Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent draft Joint Waste Core strategy (2010) • Staffordshire County Council Minerals Local Plan 1994 - 2006 and emerging Minerals Core Strategy • Staffordshire County - wide renewable / low carbon energy study (2010) • Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan (2011/12 - 2012/13) • Environment Agency data suggests that many of the District's watercourses are suffering from low water quality which must not deteriorate under the Water Framework Directive.	• Local Air Quality Updating and screening Assessment including Air Quality management Area • Indicator for water quality - to improve water quality at water courses within the District in line with the Water Framework Directive • Indicators relating to sand and gravel and crushed rock • Waste targets including recycling targets • Increase in the % of municipal waste recycled • Reduction in the % of municipal waste landfilled

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Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
F. To reduce flood risk.	Will there be an opportunity for flood risk reduction?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • 2 applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice in 2005/6 More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 • Southern Staffordshire Outline Water Cycle Study (2010) • Southern Staffordshire Surface Water Management Plan Phase 1 (2010) • River Severn and Humber River Basin Management Plans(2009) • There have been 0 planning permissions granted contrary to EA advice since 2007 (2011)	• Number and types of flooding incidents • Number of residential units granted permission contrary to an EA objection - target is to grant 0 permissions contrary to Environment Agency advice.
G. To improve availability of sustainable transport options to jobs and services.	Will it provide opportunities to reduce trips by car? Will it provide increased opportunities/facilities for walking and cycling? Will it provide access to new developments for those without access to a car? Will it reduce the overall impact of traffic sensitive areas?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • 4910 million vehicle kilometres on the local road network in 2005/6 in Staffordshire • In 2005 / 6 between 48.1% to 63.13% new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, school, employment, sports facilities and a major health centre. • At 2004 / 5 65% of the population of Lichfield and 94% of the population of Burntwood urban areas within 350 metres of a bus stop with a minimum service provision of every 30 minutes to a major centre. By 2007 / 8	• Traffic levels (million vehicle kilometres) on the local road network • Improve access to bus and rail services • Access to increased opportunities for walking and cycling • Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan • Local Air Quality Updating and screening Assessment including Air Quality management Area

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		this had increased to 69% (Lichfield) and 95% (Burntwood) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: ● Phase 1 Transport Assessment (2008) ● Transport appraisals of the Preferred Options for Lichfield City and for Burntwood (2009) ● Local Transport Plan 3 (2010) ● Lichfield District Integrated Transport strategy 2011 - 2028 ● Accession Study 2008 ● A strategy for the A5 2011-2026 ● Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan (2011/12 - 2012/13) ● Local Air Quality Updating and screening Assessment including Air Quality Management Area	
H. To encourage sustainable distribution and communication systems.	Will it encourage an increase in the provision and use of e-business? Will it encourage local supply chains? Will it encourage business to use more sustainable forms of transport (e.g. Travel Plans)? Will it encourage distribution and warehousing to be close to main transport networks?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information referred to accessibility to Broadband as being an issue. More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: ● Tamworth and Lichfield Economic Strategy (2011) ● Local Enterprise Partnerships ● Local Transport Plan 3 (2010) ● Lichfield District Integrated Transport study 2011 - 2028 ● Accession Study 2008 ● A strategy for the A5 2011-2026 ● Lichfield Strategic Partnership Carbon Reduction Plan (2011/12 - 2012/13)	● Infrastructure improvements to broadband network ● Workplace travel plans ● Planning permissions for warehousing and distribution located close to main transport networks ● Businesses located close to (and accessible to) sustainable transport networks ● Additional monitoring through the Local Enterprise Partnership and Business and Economic Partnership (Tamworth and Lichfield)

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| Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		• General employment land - a Market Assessment (2008) • The Offices Market - a Market Assessment (2008) • Employment Land Review 2012	
I. To create mixed and balanced communities.	Will it encourage higher skilled economic sectors in the District (e.g. R&D, high technology)? Will it encourage new employment that is consistent with local needs? Will it encourage the growth of indigenous businesses? Will it encourage micro and small businesses? Will it provide for affordable housing for local people in need of a home? Will it provide housing that meets the needs of the young, elderly, those on limited incomes including within the rural areas and those with special accommodation requirements such as Gypsies and Travellers and disabled people? Will it improve levels of housing consistent with local employment opportunities? Will it encourage home-based businesses?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • 44.3% of VAT Registrations per 10,000 population in 2005/6 • 21.6% of working age population with NVQ Level 4 and above in Staffordshire • 67.8% of working age population with NVQ Level 2 and above • 78% in 2005/6 success rate for further education • 25% of homes affordable on qualifying sites • 1400 businesses registered in 2006/7 with Think Local • 73% of children and young people in Staffordshire with good access to high quality leisure, cultural and sport experiences • 35.2% having access to a range of quality sports facilities of whole population More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Tamworth and Lichfield Economic Strategy (2011)	• Number of new / high value business locating in the District • Number of new businesses located in accessible locations close to public transport routes • Number of VAT registrations per 1,000 populations • Number of successful planning applications for business expansion • Number of successful planning applications for micro and small businesses • Increase numbers of businesses registered with Think Local in Lichfield District • Improved job balance ratio - target of job balance ration of 85% • Reduction in commuting levels • Employment rate • Mean household income attained in Targeted Wards • Increase % of Working Age Population with NVQ Level 4 and above, NVQ 3 and 2 • Number of leavers achieving a skills for life qualification Entry Level 3 and above • Success rates for further education • Success rate for Work Based Learning (WBL)

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
	Will it improve service provision for the young, elderly and disabled, in particular transport? Will it address the sport and recreational needs of children and under represented groups like girls/women, the disabled, the elderly? Will it provide for local retail needs? Will it encourage cultural activity? Will it improve transport provision and accessibility? Will it improve choice of transport mode?	• Local Enterprise Partnerships • General employment land - a Market Assessment (2008) • The Offices Market - a Market Assessment (2008) • Employment Land Review 2012 • Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2007-8 • Rural Housing Needs Survey 2008 • Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA Update 2012 • Affordable Housing Viability Assessment 2009 • Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2008 • Playing Pitch Assessment 2006 • Playing Pitch Strategy 2012 • Play Strategy 2007 • Rural settlement Sustainability Study 2008 and 2011 • South Staffs PCT Staying Healthy Strategy and Action Plan 2008 • Staffordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Health and Wellbeing profile for Lichfield District Council 2010 • Open Space Assessment 2012 (and 2008) • Facilities Planning Model: Strategic Assessment of need for sports halls and swimming in Lichfield 2010	• % of 18-59 year olds attending Higher Education Institutions • Delivery of new homes • A more balanced housing market • Affordable home delivery / % of new housing that is affordable • Home adaptations • New gypsy and traveller pitches delivered • Numbers of unauthorised gypsy and traveller caravans • Numbers of people working from home / home based businesses • Improvements in relation to accessibility to public transport including % of population within 350m of a bus stop with a minimum service provision of 30 minutes • Improvements in relation to walking and cycling routes • Accession analysis - target of 90% of completions per year on large developments. • Accessibility of green space • Percentage of residents satisfied with parks and open space, sports and leisure facilities • Proportion of children and young people with good access to high quality leisure, cultural and sport experiences • Improvements to the range of, and accessibility to sport and recreation facilities which address the needs of under represented groups • % of new retail floorspace development in centres and on the edge of centres - no development outside of

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Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		• Rural Masterplanning project for the Key Rural Settlements 2011 • Evidence on Retail Matters 2009, Supplementary Report on Need 2010 and updated evidence on retail matters 2011 • Local Transport Plan 3 (2010) • Lichfield District Integrated Transport strategy 2011 - 2028 • Accession Study 2008 • Current job balance ration of 83% (2001 Census) compared to 85% target and 88.1% for the West Midlands • Most developments achieved approximately 90% accessibility to most service areas apart from hospitals (2011)	centres without justification. • Initiatives to improve to local (neighbourhood) centres • Retention rates of retail and leisure expenditure • Initiatives delivered which improve access to cultural activity • Increase from 35.2% the % of the population within 20 mins travel time of a range of 3 different sports facilities one of which is quality assured (Active People Survey)
J. To promote safe communities, reduce crime and fear of crime.	Will it encourage crime-sensitive design? Will it target, reduce and sustain a reduction of burglary? Will it reduce the likelihood of violence and antisocial behaviour? Will it help to ensure safe journeys and reduce road casualties?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • 4050 recorded crimes in Lichfield District in 2003/4 • Between 1994-8 the annual average number of people killed and seriously injured was 451 people. • Between 1994-8 the annual average number of children killed or seriously injured was 49 children . • Between 1994-8 there were on average 4240 people slightly injured in road traffic collisions(Source Staffs LTP exc. urban area of Newcastle) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence:	• Number of successful planning applications where designing out crime has been an integral part of the process • Initiatives implemented to reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour • Rates of recorded crime including violent crime, environmental crime and antisocial behaviour and information on hot spots • Reduce the number of road related deaths and serious injuries

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		• Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership Strategic Assessments (annual) • Number of road related deaths and serious injuries has decreased by 57.9% compared to the 1004/98 baseline.	
K. To improve the health of the population.	Will it improve the standard of healthcare, particularly for the elderly? Will it support healthy lifestyles? Will it help to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol? Will it help to reduce health inequalities?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • Difference of 2.8 in 2002-4 in Staffordshire between the most and least deprived super output areas in Staffordshire (most deprived quintile 7.7 per 1000 and least deprived is 4.9 per 1000) • 22.4% of adults in Lichfield who participate in at least 30mins exercise at least 3 days a week More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • South Staffs PCT Staying Healthy Strategy and Action Plan 2008 • Staffordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Health and Wellbeing profile for Lichfield District Council 2010 • Playing Pitch Assessment 2006 • Playing Pitch Strategy 2012 • Play Strategy 2007 • Open Space Assessment 2012 (and 2008) • Facilities Planning Model: Strategic Assessment of need for sports halls and swimming in Lichfield 2010	• Reduction in health inequalities between population of most deprived super output areas and least deprived areas by narrowing the gap in all age, all cause mortality (age standardised rate per 1,000) • Number of adults aged 18-64 with physical disabilities helped to live at home, per 1,000 population • Life expectancy • Increase the level of physical activity from 22.4% of the population taking 3x30mins of moderate exercise a week (Active Peoples Survey) • Improvements in relation to walking and cycling routes • Accession analysis - target of 90% of completions per year on large developments. • Accessibility of green space including play, amenity space, green corridors, allotments • Increase the percentage of residents satisfied with parks and open space, sports and leisure facilities

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Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		• Local Transport Plan 3 (2010) • Lichfield District Integrated Transport strategy 2011 - 2028 • Accession Study 2008 • Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership Strategic Assessments (annual) • Most developments achieved approximately 90% accessibility to most service areas apart from hospitals (2011)	• Proportion of children and young people with good access to high quality leisure, cultural and sport experiences • Improvements to the range of, and accessibility to sport and recreation facilities which address the needs of under represented groups • Initiatives implemented to reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour • Rates of recorded crime including violent crime, and antisocial behaviour and information on hot spots • Levels of substance misuse
L. To enable improved community participation.	Will it empower all sections of the community to participate in decision-making and the impacts of those decisions? Will it improve community capacity to enable engagement in community enterprise? Is there a framework for engagement with communities, including novel approaches to reach particular groups/sectors?	In 2007 (scoping report) the following baseline information was available: • Number of individuals and organisations on LDF database at April 2007 (2091) More recent information against which impacts can be monitored is available from the following evidence: • Feeling the Difference Survey (2011) • Number of individuals on the Development Plans database at July 2012 (8008) • In excess of 18000 representations to the 'Shaping our District' consultation (2010 / 11) • Numbers attending 'rural masterplanning' and other	• % people feeling they can influence decision making in their area • Numbers attending community engagement events / participating in initiatives • Numbers responding to consultations • Numbers of plans prepared by communities (Neighbourhood & Parish Plans) • Numbers participating in community enterprise • Statement of Community Involvement

Sustainability Objective	Detailed Criteria	Baseline	Targets or Indicators
		planning workshops and events (2010 / 11) • One Neighbourhood Planning front runner (2012)	

21 Monitoring Framework

Appendices

Lichfield
district council
www.lichfielddc.gov.uk
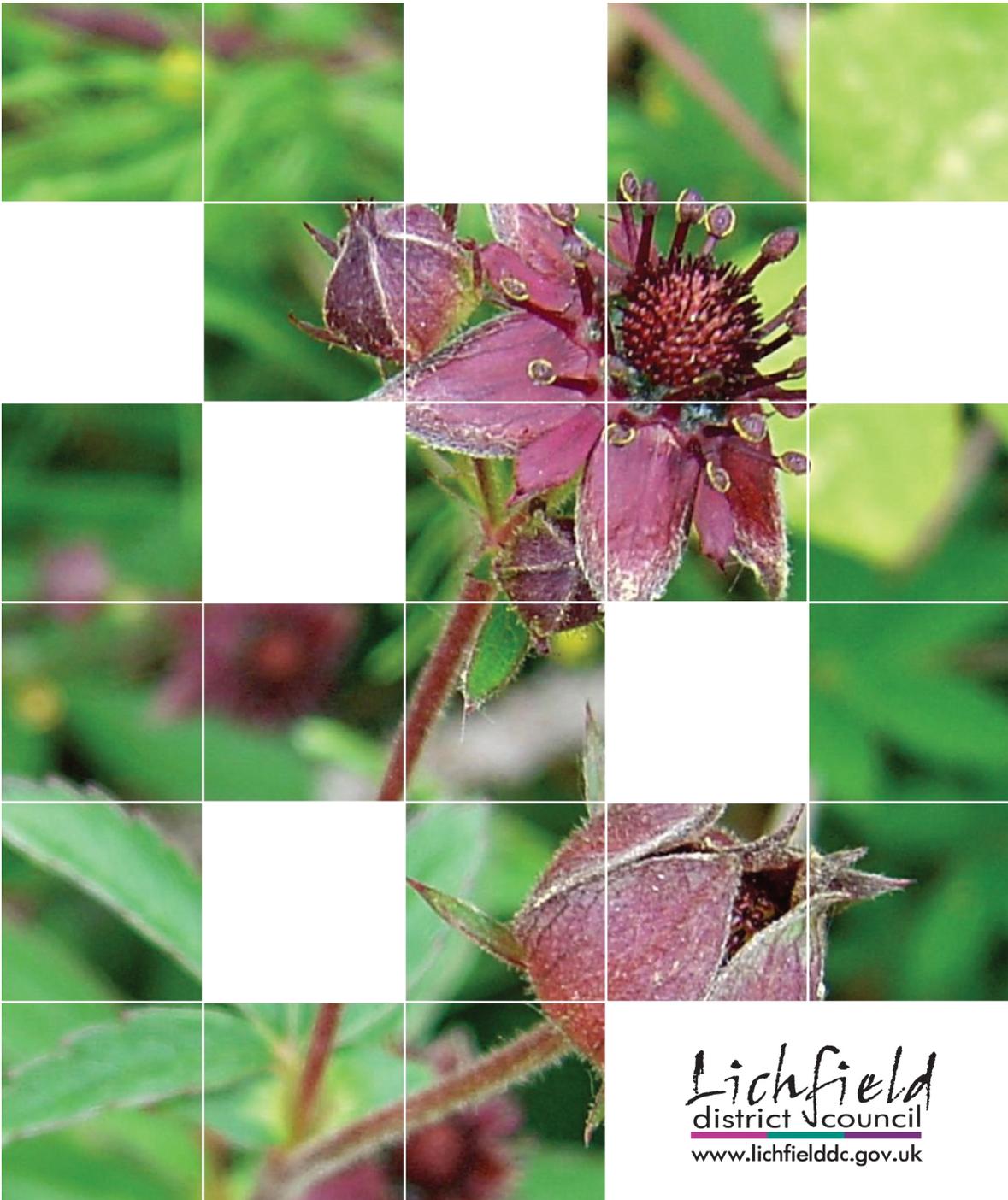
Appendix A Spatial Options Matrix

Table A.1 Sustainability Appraisal of Alternative Options

Spatial options /alternatives	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L	Total
Local Plan Spatial Strategy	++	++	+?	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	++	+?	+?	+?	18
Shaping our District Spatial Strategy	+/-?	+	+/-?	+/-?	+?	0	+	+	+?	+	+?	+/-?	+?	?	8
Fradley West	-- to +/-	--	--?	+	--?	0/+	+/-	+?	++?	-?	++	--to +/-	+/-?	-?	-1 to -6
South of Canal at Fradley (Fradley park remaining & Fradley West propsals combined)	-- to +/-?	--	-- to +/-?	+	--?	0/+	+/-	+?	+/-?	+/-?	++	+?	+?	?	-2 to 3
New Village NE Lichfield for 2,000 dwellings	--	--	--?	+/-?	-?	0	?	0	+?	+/-?	+?	+/-?	-?	-?	-7
New Village NE Lichfield for 4,000 dwellings	--	--	--?	+/-?	-?	0	?	0	+?	+/-?	-?	?	-?	-?	-9
JVH Villages	--	--	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	+/-?	-	-	+/-?	-?	?	-?	+/-	-11
Meg Lane, Burntwood for 700 dwellings	--	--?	-?	-?	-?	+/-?	-	0	+	-	++	+?	?	+	-4

Appendix B Policy Matrix

Appendix B Policy Matrix

Table B.1 Summary Matrix of Policies

Policies	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
CP1	++	++	+?	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+?	+?	+?
CP2	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
CP3	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+?	+?	+?	+	+?	+?	?
CP4	+?	+	+	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+/-	+	++
CP5	+/-	+/-	+/-?	+	+	0?	++	++	+	++	++	+	+	+
CP6	++	+/-	+?	- -	+	+	+	+?	++	+	++	-	+	+
CP7	?	+/-?	+/-	+/-	+?	+	++	++	++	++	+	0	+	+
CP8	+?	-	+?	+/-	+/-	0	+	+	+?	+	+?	0?	+	0
CP9	+?	+?	+	-	+/-	+	+?	+	+	+?	+	0	0	0
CP10	+?	+	+?	+	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	++	++	+
CP11	+?	+	+?	-	+	0	+	0	+?	+	+	+/-	+?	+?
CP12	+?	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	+	+	+?	+	+	+
CP13	++	++	++	0	+	++	+	+/?	0/+	0/+?	+	0	+	+
CP14	++	+	++	-?	+	+	++	+?	+?	++	+	+?	++	0
SC1	-?	0	-?	++	++	++	0	+?	+?	0	0	0	+	?
SC2	++	+	++	++	+	0	0	+	+	0	+?	-	0	0
IP1	+?	+?	+?	+	+	++	++	++	++	++	++	+/-	+	0
ST1	+/-?	+/-?	+/-?	++?	+	0	++	+	0	++	+	0	+	+
ST2	+/-?	0	+/-	+	+	0	++	+	+?	++	+?	+	0	+
H1	+	0	0	- -	-	0	+	+	+	+	+?	+/-?	+?	+
H2	+	0	?	- -	-	0	+	+?	+	+	+	+?	+?	+
H3	+?	+/-	+?	- -	0	+	+?	0	+?	+?	+?	+	+?	?
E1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0	0
HSC1	+?	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
HSC2	+?	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+	+
NR1	+?	++	+/-?	+	+	+	0	+?	+?	0	+?	0	+?	+

Policies	A	B	C	D	E	F	G Ec	H	I Ec	G Soc	I Soc	J	K	L
NR2	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	+	+
NR3	++	++	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+?	0	0	0
NR4	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
NR5	++	++	++	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
NR6	++	++	++	0	+?	++	+?	0	0	+?	+	0	+?	0
NR7	+	++	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+?	0
NR8	+	++	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
NR9	0?	+?	0?	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	0
BE1	++	++	++	+	+	0	+	+?	+?	++?	+	+	+	0

Appendix B Policy Matrix

Appendix C Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix C Summary of Consultation Responses

Draft Scoping Report SEA

Table C.1 General Comments

Consultee Details	Summary
Planning Officer Derbyshire Gypsy Liaison Group	Suggest amendments to SA Objectives and questions.
Conservation Adviser Natural England	Subject to comments made on Appendices, consider proposed Sustainability Objectives should provide an effective template against which to assess the principles and policies of the Core Strategy.
AONB Office Manager Cannock Chase AONB Unit	Importance of AONB well acknowledged within overall scoping exercise.
Planner English Heritage	Overall, the Scoping Report provides a clear explanation of the appraisal process, the work carried out to date and planned future work.
Carillion-Trine	Draft document fails to recognise the extent of new development that may be required to be catered for.
Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency	Findings of your SFRA should be included in the evidence base used to measure the sustainability of your LDF.

Table C.2 Chapter 1

	Consultee Details	Summary
Table 1.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	P30 - should include reference to PPS1 requirement to increase physical activity
Table 1.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	P45 - Choosing Health - Reference should be made to Physical Activity Action Plan
Table 1.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	P67 - Sign up for Sport to be reviewed in 2007/08
Table 1.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	P72 - Should refer to valid documents and those under consultation
Table 1.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	P73 - Should remove reference to NPFA standards
Table 1.1	Conservation Adviser Natural England	Suggests additions and amendments
Table 1.1	AONB Office Manager Cannock Chase AONB Unit	Information regarding Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan requires some expansion.

Table C.3 Chapter 2

	Consultee Details	Summary
Table 2.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective A - should include clearer measure or urban townscapes

	Consultee Details	Summary
Table 2.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective G - should include access to sports facilities 30 minutes travel time does not relate to recent CPA KPI
Table 2.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective I - indicators should refer to other disadvantaged groups Baseline figure of 73% does not correspond to CPA KPI
Table 2.1	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective K - Welcome inclusion of physical activity indicator

Table C.4 Chapter 3

	Consultee Details	Summary
3	Planner English Heritage	Useful to include a written summary of main findings of this stage as part of the main body of the report
3	Planner English Heritage	Welcome summary description in terms of its social, economic and environmental characteristics in conjunction with Appendix 2. However, summary and scope of baseline data on historic environment resource of District should be strengthened.
3	Planner English Heritage	Paras 3.24-3.32 - Key issues less clearly analysed in the environment section. Recommend this section should also seek to identify opportunities as well as problems.
3.1	Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency	Believe list of relevant plans, programmes and policies are all relevant but would see further points included.
3.3	Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency	Support the SA/SEA Baseline Trends and Indicators.
3.4	Planner English Heritage	Welcome commitment to keep under review the data sources during subsequent stages of the appraisal.
3.6	Planner English Heritage	Welcome recognition of gaps in baseline data.
3.22	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Should also refer to healthy lifestyles and physical activity to improve health
3.24	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Refer to role open space has in providing a quality environment
Table 3.1	Planner English Heritage	Suggest additions to Table 3.1 Add European Landscape Convention
Table 3.2	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	"Choosing Health - Choosing Activity Action Plan" should be included within Table 3.2 - Social
Table 3.2	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	PPG17 should be referred to in Environment section

	Consultee Details	Summary
Table 3.2	Planner English Heritage	Suggestion additions to Table 3.2 Add Heritage Protection White Paper, The Historic Environment - A Force for Our Future and additions to various PPS
Table 3.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Note that 'Sign up for Sport' document to be reviewed 2007/08
Table 3.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Regional Health Strategy should be included in Health section
Table 3.3	Planner English Heritage	Suggest additions to Table 3.3 The main policy themes of the Regional Spatial Strategy should also be included and West Midlands Green Infrastructure Prospectus
Table 3.4	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	All documents regarding open space, playing pitches and indoor sport referred to in table are out of date. Up to date position needs to be reflected.
Table 3.4	Planner English Heritage	Suggest additions to Table 3.4 such as Parish Plans, Town and Village design statements

Table C.5 Chapter 4

	Consultee Details	Summary
4	Planner English Heritage	Welcome in general terms the use of a multi-disciplinary working group to inform the development of the framework.
4.2	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Concern at lack of leisure interest in Stakeholder Groups
4.6	Planning Liaison Officer Environment Agency	Mainly support Sustainability Objectives but wish to make further comments.
Table 4.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective A, Criteria 5 - All development should be to a high standard, not just housing.
Table 4.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective D should include criteria about protecting open space and tree cover.
Table 4.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective G - Should include opportunities for walking and cycling
Table 4.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective I Criteria 43 - should refer to other disadvantaged groups. CPA-KPI could be used.
Table 4.3	Senior Planning Manager Sport England	Objective K - physical activity should be a target/indicator.
Table 4.3	Planner English Heritage	Comments and suggested targets and indicators for Objective A
Table 4.3	Planner English Heritage	Comments and suggested targets and indicators for Objective C

Table C.6 Chapter 5

	Consultee Details	Summary
5	Planner English Heritage	Reiterate the importance of closely involving the conservation and archaeological staff of the District and County Council throughout the assessment process.

Table C.7 Appendix 2

	Consultee Details	Summary
Appendix 2	Conservation Adviser Natural England	Advise that section includes an assessment of how the District compares with the Government-endorsed English Nature standards for accessible natural greenspace.

Interim Core Strategy SA

Table C.8 Chapter 1

	Consultee Details	Summary
1.6	Bromford Living	Look to more green travel solutions & educational provision

Table C.9 Chapter 4

	Consultee Details	Summary
4.3	Mrs Turnbull	We don't need anymore houses around our rural villages.

Table C.10 Chapter 5

	Consultee Details	Summary
5.1	Councillor Derek Love	A mix of all those types of renewable energy production. More research needs to be carried out.
5.1	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	As a generality biomass, solar panels (including photo-electric), geo-thermal and hydro-electric are favoured. Wind turbines are not favoured as being uneconomic, sporadic in supply and damaging to the rural environment as identified in 5.6. Conserving energy rather than generating energy is the course to be pursued, in CPRE's view.
5.2	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	CPRE favours office development in the centre of Burntwood and at edge-of-centre in Lichfield. We suggest that neighbourhood centres should be favoured for minor office development on public transport routes. These would add life and viability to such centres, and mitigate journey-to-work congestion at major town centre locations.
5.4	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Objective 1. What degree of mitigation of harm? Should the "offset not be estimated? Is not "conservation" of energy more productive than "generation"? Objective 2. Does the District Council agree with the WMRSS? Do they not have reservations about the figures from their own knowledge of the locality? Is there no feedback to Region? Objective 3. Should definition be given of a) what makes a sustainable

Appendix C Summary of Consultation Responses

	Consultee Details	Summary
		locality, and b) what constitutes high quality? Objective 6. Have the needs of local people been identified? Objective 7. Is "working towards" a satisfactory policy? Objective 8. Does this not exclude other forms of coping with the problem, i.e. by car sharing or other private arrangements? Are there not many other illustrations needed, such as increased housing densities, which facilitate sustainability? Objective 9. Whilst improving town centres is an admirable objective, does this objective not exclude the provision of such facilities elsewhere in more sustainable locations?
5.11	Councillor Derek Love	Use what ever means possible to exert pressure on developers to install renewable energy devices.
5.11	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	CPRE agrees to Q11, subject to the caveats in 5.1.
5.12	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	CPRE supports this aim with a view to making each settlement self-supporting to the maximum possible extent within the limits of its size.
5.13	Councillor Derek Love	Cycle routes are often an afterthought and are made to compete with motor vehicles. Wherever there is a rail link it must be fully utilised.
5.13	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	All development of whatever size, existing and proposed, should be progressively adapted to sustainable patterns of transport, new development should incorporate such a pattern from its inception. Such policies should be all-embracing, including measures to reduce transport, including work-at-home; and creating home neighbourhoods which are pedestrian/cycle-friendly and traffic speed-restricted.
5.14	Councillor Derek Love	At Alrewas and Fradley, if made sustainable through new development and a new passenger rail link. Lichfield Trent Valley could even be used for people from outside Lichfield who wish to shop in Lichfield.
5.14	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Park and Ride facilities are of mixed value, often tending to encourage private vehicle use for part of commuters' journeys rather than public transport for the full journey. Each proposal should be carefully analysed as to the journey patterns that it induces.
5.15	Councillor Derek Love	The key villages, especially including Fradley
5.15	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Affordable housing and its achievement should be considered the first priority of housing policy for all settlements with a range of infrastructure facilities supportive of the occupants of such housing. CPRE would point out the sustainability difficulties for such housing out of economic reach of social/welfare/employment etc facilities
5.16	Councillor Derek Love	40% would be ideal, but may not be achievable.
5.16	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Agree
5.17	Councillor Derek Love	Mixed development is better.

	Consultee Details	Summary
5.17	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Urgent need for sites for affordable housing only, restrict size of site but should include a range of housing types and ownerships and good design.
5.18	Councillor Derek Love	Maybe at Streethay and Fradley.
5.18	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	This is a major sustainability issue if employment land is to be made available locally in order to limit outward commuting. CPRE favours patterns of site ownership which allows employment land to be released in accordance with demand. Consideration should be given to short-term interim uses pending final employment land use.
5.21	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Development should only be encouraged in locations with these facilities.
5.22	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Train stations should only be located within major population centres. Additional stations can reduce speed, rail capacity and frequency of service in lesser locations.
5.23	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	By the skillful understanding and imaginative suggestion of planning conservation staff.
5.24	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Support
5.25	Planning Assistant The Theatres Trust	Encouraging these facilities in town centres will help deliver sustainable development by promoting economic growth, improving accessibility and offering genuine choice for consumers through high density and mixed-use development that recognises the importance of high quality design, but sustainable neighbourhoods should include social facilities to ensure the population have the capacity to reap the health and social benefits which accrue from participation in regular cultural activities.
5.25	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Higher housing densities can help housing sustainability and economic viability of public bus transportation and should make maximum advantage of integrated open space systems to avoid "town cramming".
5.26	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Chasewater is visually a dreary place. Its increased attractiveness is only likely to be achieved through an imaginative and exciting landscape plan. We suggest an open design competition with "increased attractiveness" as its principal criterion.
5.27	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	Proposal should give positive benefits in terms of the visual attractions of Drayton Manor Park, especially as regards its setting in the landscape
5.3	The Secretary Campaign to Protect Rural England-Staffordshire Branch	CPRE feels that inadequate attention has been paid in the proposals to the consolidation and enhancement of Lichfield's open countryside attractiveness. Major tree planting in all its varied forms and hedgerow

Appendix C Summary of Consultation Responses

	Consultee Details	Summary
		renewal is desirable in large areas of the District, and will be especially important if large urban encroachments are to be contemplated. The Planning Authority's attitude to this aspect of its heritage is not made clear.
5.32	Carillion-Trine	We note that Option 1 was assessed to provide the best solution in transport terms and for affordable housing provision: two key objectives. We note that in certain cases where SSSI designations apply, this Option scored poorly: this can readily be overcome by directing growth away from areas. We also note that traffic safety was also assessed to be negative; this also can be readily mitigated for.
5.33	Carillion-Trine	We note that Option 2 is considered to also raise issues of traffic generation linked with dispersed development to village settlements and also impact on village conservation areas. This points to a concentration of development on larger settlements, which can both promote sustainable travel and not raise heritage issues. This points to greater development at Burntwood.
5.34	Carillion-Trine	In respect of Option 3, we note that this is assessed negatively due to increased car use but will help to protect Lichfield centre. This again points to more development at Burntwood.
5.35	Carillion-Trine	Option 4 is assessed negatively due to a new settlement's dependence on other centres for services and hence increased need to travel. This again points to development of Burntwood, which importantly we consider is ruled in as a good sustainable opportunity by each of the scenarios considered.

Table C.11 Chapter 6

	Consultee Details	Summary
6.8	Carillion-Trine	The comparative, weighing up of options clearly points to the benefit of concentrated development at Lichfield City (subject to impact on the historic core) and Burntwood. We do not consider that this has been followed through to the Preferred Option Core Strategy which proposes dispersed growth. More substantial development can be directed to Burntwood.
6.16	Carillion-Trine	No account taken of detailed assessments already provided for this site flood risk, ecology and biodiversity enhancement and this is not reflected in the matrix score
6.18	Carillion-Trine	No account taken of detailed assessments already provided for this site flood risk, ecology and biodiversity enhancement and this is not refelected in the matrix score. A review of matrix should be undertaken considering the benefits of development of a new mixed neighbourhood in this area.
6.22	Planning Matters Correspondent Rugeley Landor Society	From the above we firmly believe that in Appendix Table i.1: Objective C should be - ve (probably - - ve), Objective B should be wholly - ve, Objective G should be - ve, Objective K should be - ve.

	Consultee Details	Summary
6.22	Planning Matters Correspondent Rugeley Landor Society	It is important that the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, as a member of the LSWG, determining sustainability issues (Para. 3.1), should have disclosed an interest in this site and not taken part in its sustainability appraisal.
6.24	Curborough Consortium (RPS)	The transport issues of the Curborough New Settlement option recognise the potential benefits to transport this supports the selection of a Core Strategy built on the inclusion of the Fradley New Settlement
6.25	Chairman Alrewas Conservation Group	Alrewas cannot sustain any more growth
6.26	Chairman Alrewas Conservation Group	More housing in villages such as Alrewas would have a negative impact.

Table C.12 Chapter 7

	Consultee Details	Summary
7.3	Planning Assistant The Theatres Trust	Cultural, leisure and tourism facilities that are likely to attract large numbers of visitors should in the first instance be clustered within your main centre with good accessibility to the public transport network. However, it would be appropriate for the smaller settlements to provide entertainment, leisure and cultural facilities of an appropriate scale and kind to serve their role and catchments through multi functional community centres for example.

Table C.13 Appendix

	Consultee Details	Summary
Table i.1	Mr & Mrs Mears	14 South Burntwood The statement 'Clear and strong negative impact upon locally distinctive settlement character' is false and misleading. The South Burntwood location sits behind the rear boundaries of a ribbon of existing housing that fronts onto Highfields Road and Paviours Road. This development does not have a distinctive character that needs to be preserved. If anything new development constructed to round off this area will be considered against the framework of development control core policies that are designed to minimise the potential for unacceptable harm and will require high standards of design and construction The statement 'Potentially negative impact upon priority habitats' is false and misleading. Proposals which have adequate mitigation or offer opportunities for enhancement should be allowed. Development control core policies should minimise the potential for unacceptable harm and should require adequate mitigation where necessary. The site is located with a Recreation Zone.

Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District

Table C.14 General Comments

| Consultee Details	Summary
Planner English Heritage	No further comments beyond the transparent use of the results of the Historic Environment Character Assessment to inform the assessment process and decision-making.

Table C.15 Chapter 2

	Consultee Details	Summary
2.6	Mrs Kathryn Woodward	Disagree as businesses don't employ local people and more commercial properties won't help the situation.

Table C.16 Chapter 3

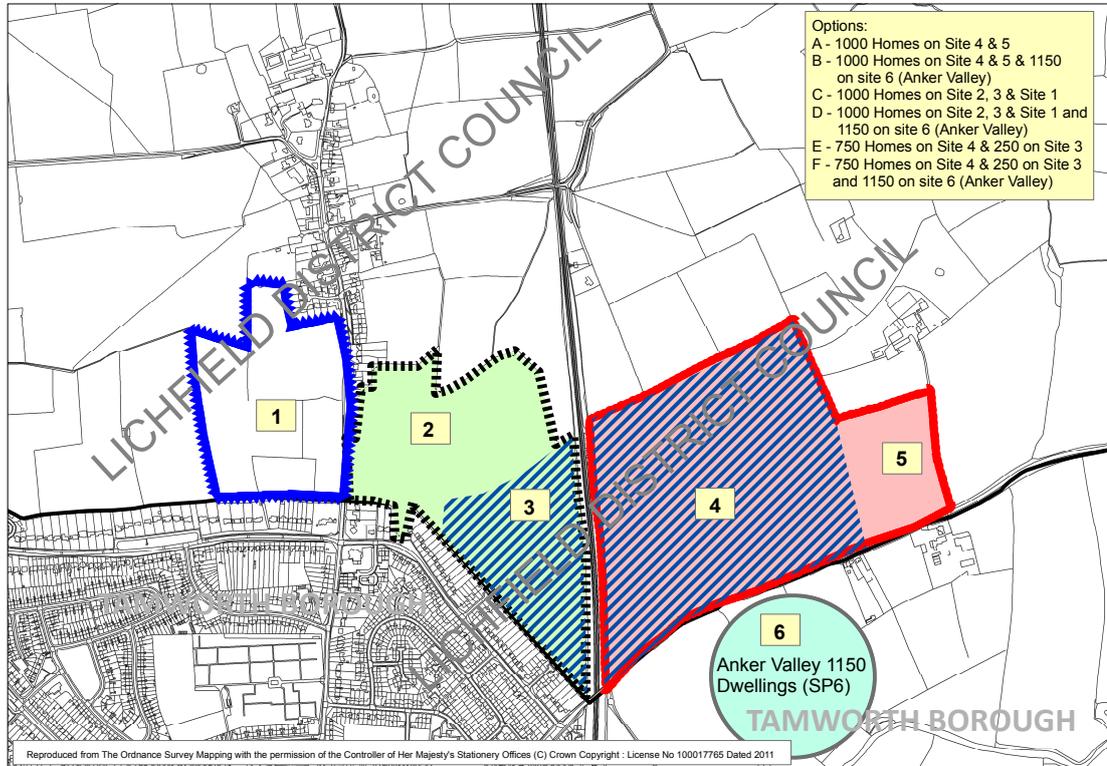|	Consultee Details	Summary
3	Mrs Kathryn Woodward	Agree - taxi rank is needed in centre of Lichfield
3	Senior Planning Policy Officer North Warwickshire Borough Council	It is unclear as to how or whether the 'Sustainability Appraisal: Shaping our District' document has assessed the likely impact of development in North Warwickshire and this should be amended to cover this issue before including a reference in the Core strategy Policy and/or reasoned justification.
3	Fradley West Consortium	The Fradley West Consortium proposal should be included as an alternative in the SA.
3.8	Mrs Kathryn Woodward	Agree - no evidence that trips by car will be reduced, and the opposite would be true.
3.14	Mrs Kathryn Woodward	Disagree as very hard to find parking space at peak times.

Appendix D Maps

Map D.1 Alternative Options Map
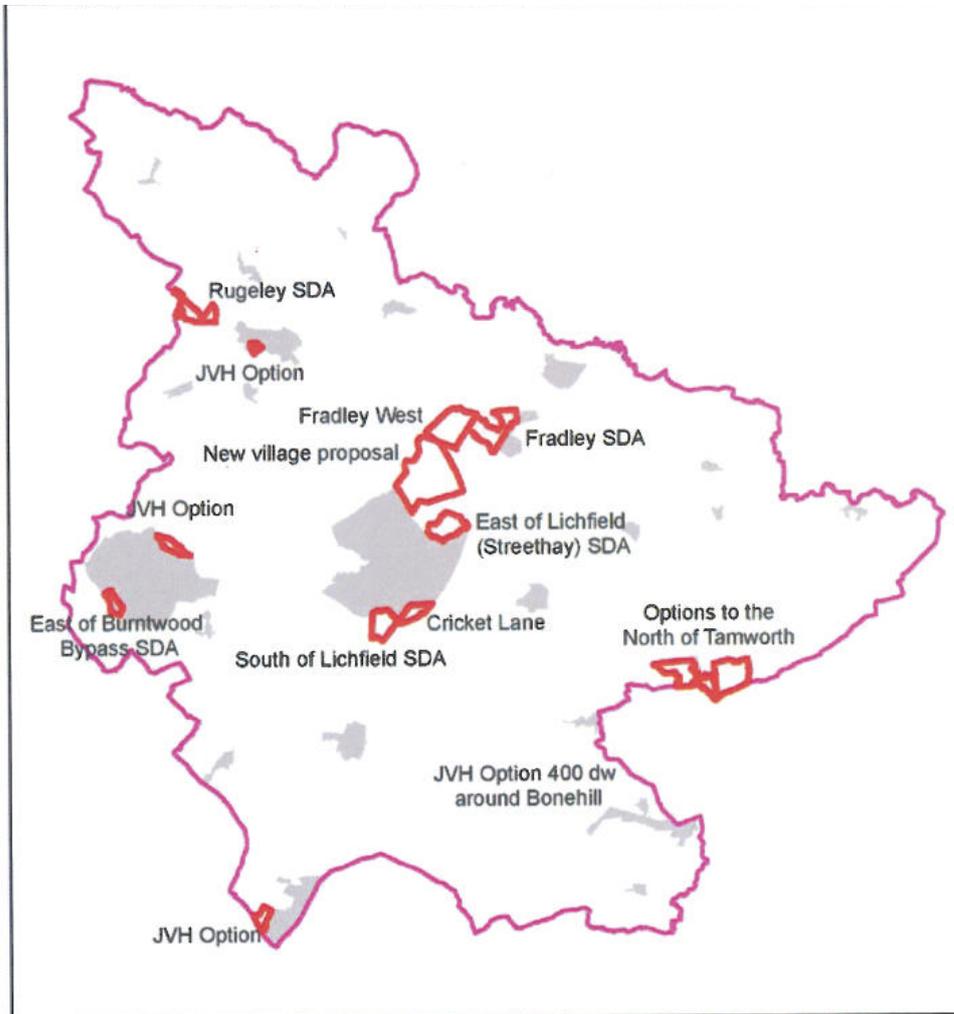
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Appendix D Maps

Appendix D Maps

Map D.2 North of Tamworth Options

Options:
A - 1000 Homes on Site 4 & 5
B - 1000 Homes on Site 4 & 5 & 1150
      on site 6 (Anker Valley)
C - 1000 Homes on Site 2, 3 & Site 1
D - 1000 Homes on Site 2, 3 & Site 1 and
      1150 on site 6 (Anker Valley)
E - 750 Homes on Site 4 & 250 on Site 3
F - 750 Homes on Site 4 & 250 on Site 3
      and 1150 on site 6 (Anker Valley)

Anker Valley 1150
Dwellings (SP6)

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Glossary

Affordable Housing		Affordable housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable housing should: • Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices • Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.
Amenity Greenspace		Areas such as parks or recreational fields which can be used by all people either through visual amenity and/or for informal sport and leisure.
Annual Monitoring Report	AMR	A report submitted to Government by local planning authorities or regional planning bodies assessing Local Development Framework progress and policy effectiveness.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	AONB	A statutory National Landscape designation to provide special protection to defined areas of natural beauty. These are designated by Natural England.
Broad Development Location	BDL	A broad development location is a broad area of search, within which, allocations for development will be considered through the Local Plan Allocations document.
Biodiversity		The whole variety of life encompassing all genetics, species and ecosystem variations. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.
Biodiversity Enhancement Area	BEA	An area that comprises important concentrations of biodiversity which are to be improved.
Biomass		The biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from agriculture (including plant and animal substances), forestry and related industries.
Broad Development Location		A broad development location is a broad area of search, within which, allocations for development will be considered through the Allocations of Land and Site Development Policies DPD.
Brownfield Development or Sites **(Previously Developed Land)**		Site available for re-use which has been previously developed, and is either abandoned or underused. The definition covers the curtilage of the development. Planning Policy's Note 3 "Housing" has a detailed definition.
Central Rivers Initiative		A partnership approach to managing the River Trent and River Tame in the region between Tamworth and Burton upon Trent.
Climate Change		Long term change in weather patterns and increased global temperature, which is likely to be caused by an increase in Carbon emissions.
Combined Heat and Power	CHP	The use of waste heat from power generation to provide heating for a building or a neighbourhood.
Conservation Area		Areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character, appearance or setting of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Glossary

Core Strategy		A Development Plan Document setting out the spatial vision and objectives and strategy of the planning framework for an area, having regard to the Community Strategy (see also DPDs).
Civic Spaces		An extension of the community or public institutions which form the spaces between buildings, such as market squares.
Developer Contributions		Monetary contributions which may be made by a developer as part of a legal agreement (S106 or CIL)when a planning permission is granted. Monies are used to provide local facilities and all types of infrastructure.
Development		Development is defined under the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as "the carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operation in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any building or other land."
Development Management		The management or 'control' planning system which requires planning permission to be obtained, and in line with policy, before development can take place.
Development Plan		A document setting out the Local Planning Authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority's area. It includes Unitary, Structure, and Local Plans prepared under transitional arrangements and Development Plan Documents prepared under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act of 2004.
Development Plan Document	DPD	DPDs are Local Development Documents that have development plan status. Once adopted, development control decisions must be made in accordance with them unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The DPDs which local planning authorities must prepare, include the core strategy, site-specific allocations of land and, where needed, area action plans. There will also be a proposals map, which illustrates the spatial extent of policies that must be prepared and maintained to accompany all DPDs. All DPDs must be subject to rigorous procedures of community involvement, consultation and independent examination, and adopted after receipt of an inspector's binding report.
Diversification of Rural Employment		The establishment of new enterprises in rural locations often re-using rural buildings and land that is no longer used for agriculture.
Evidence Base		The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the "soundness" of the policy approach set out in Local Development Documents, including physical, economic, and social characteristics of an area.
Flood plain		Generally flat-lying areas adjacent to a watercourse, tidal lengths of a river or the sea where water flows in times of flood or would flow but for the presence of flood defences.
Green Belt (not to be confused with the term 'greenfield')		A statutory designation of land around certain cities and large built-up areas, which aims to keep the defined area permanently open or largely undeveloped. Areas of Green Belt within Lichfield District form part of the West Midlands Green Belt. The purposes of Green Belt are to: ● check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas; ● prevent neighbouring towns from merging; ● safeguard the countryside from encroachment; ● preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and ● assist urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Glossary

Term	Abbr.	Definition
Green Infrastructure		The physical environment within and between our cities, towns and villages. It is a network of multi-functional open spaces, including formal parks, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, waterways, street trees and open countryside.
Green Networks or Corridors		Linking rights of way, cycle routes, canals, rivers, parks and woodland to create greater accessibility to the countryside and provide potential for improved biodiversity.
Greenfield Land or Site		Land (or a defined site) which has not been built on before or where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape over time.
Greenway		Part of green infrastructure, a corridor of undeveloped land, as along a river or between urban centres, that is reserved for recreational use or environmental preservation.
Gypsies & Travellers		Persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds only of their own or their family's or dependants' educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.
Historic Environment Character Area	HECA	An area of defined character in the landscape, such as medieval field patterns.
Historic Environment Record	HER	A system for recording information, such as known archaeological sites & finds, designated sites, historic landscapes, historic buildings and other features in the landscape.
Historic Landscape Character		The identification of the historic development of today's landscape, and the resultant pattern of physical features due to geography, history and tradition.
Homeworking		Relates to the growing practice of working from home, especially when related to the use of Information Communication Technology.
Housing Market Area		A geographical area which is relatively self-contained in terms of housing demand
Housing mix		The provision of a mix of house types, sizes and tenures in an area.
Implementation		The practical delivery of a measures that form part of a plan.
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	IMD	The index combines a number of indicators which focus on a range of social, economic and housing issues, and are then used to provide an overall deprivation rank for these areas. Published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
Infrastructure		The basic structures and facilities needed to support a society or organisation.
Infrastructure Delivery Plan	IDP	A plan to implement the necessary social, physical and green infrastructure, required to create sustainable communities in line with a Local Plan.
Issues, Issues and Options, Preferred Options, Policy Directions and Shaping our District		The "pre-submission" consultation DPDs, with the objective of gaining public consensus over proposals ahead of submission to Government for independent examination.
Interim Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal	ICSSA	An interim sustainability appraisal of the Issues, Issues and Options and Directions of Growth for the Core Strategy
Key Rural Settlements		Defined settlements outside major towns/urban areas providing services and facilities.
Lichfield District Council	LDC	The local authority responsible for matters including planning, environmental health, waste collection, housing, parks and open space.

Glossary

Lichfield Transport and Development Strategy	LTaDS	A package of measures to deliver road and public transport improvements for Lichfield City.
Lichfield Sustainability Working Group	LSWG	The group established to undertake the sustainability appraisal of the Plan.
Local Centre		Small shops and perhaps limited services, serving a small catchment. Sometimes also referred to as a local neighbourhood centre.
Local Development Document	LDD	These include Development Plan Documents, which will form part of the statutory development plan, and Supplementary Planning Documents, which do not form part of the statutory development plan. LDDs collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area, and may be prepared jointly between local planning authorities.
Local Development Framework	LDF	The Local Development Framework is a non-statutory term used to describe a folder of documents, which includes all the Local Planning Authority's local development documents (comprised of development plan documents, which will form part of the statutory development plan, and supplementary planning documents). The Local Development Framework will also comprise the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.
Local Planning Authority	LPA	The Local Authority or Council that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions. Often the local Borough or District Council.
Local Transport Plan	LTP	A five-year integrated transport strategy, prepared by local authorities in partnership with the community. The plan sets out the resources for delivery of the targets identified in the strategy.
Mitigation		Measures to avoid, reduce or offset the significant adverse effects of an external factor e.g. Lessening the effects of climate change.
Mosaic Data/Groups		Data provided by Experian which draws on sources of governement and commercial data to provide classifications to households within the UK. Mosaic groups provide information about the types of people and families that can be expected in inhabit an area.
National Forest		A national project for woodland creation, tourism and economic revival.
Mixed use (or mixed use development)		Provision of a mix of complementary uses, such as residential, community and leisure uses, on a site or within a particular area.
Natural assets		Stocks of natural raw materials, including forests, fisheries, soil, and minerals; and the capacity of the environment media such as air and water to absorb and decompose the wastes from production and consumption.
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace		Includes woodlands, wetlands, urban forestry, RIGs sites,scrub and grassland.
Nature Reserves		A protected area of wildlife or other geological interest. Can also be used to provide opportunity for special areas of research.
Neighbourhood Centre		An group of essential local services which may comprise a shop, post office, take away, health centre and a pharmacy. See also, local centre.
Offices		Defined by Class A2 of the Use Class Order, including financial and professional services, rather than businesses which are covered by Class B1 of the Use Class Order.

Glossary

Open Space		All space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs, which can offer opportunities for sport and recreation. They can also act as a visual amenity and a haven for wildlife.
Other Rural Settlements		Smaller villages that do not have a good range of public services.
Pitch (Gypsy and Traveller Sites)		A designated place for a family of Gypsies or Travellers to live.
Phasing		Distinct stages of development implemented in a sequential manner appropriate to demand.
Primary Care Trust	PCT	An NHS primary care trust is a type of NHS trust, which is part of the National Health Service in England. The PCT provides some primary and community services or commissions them from other providers, and are involved in commissioning secondary care.
Regeneration		The economic, social and environmental renewal and improvement of rural and urban areas.
Regional Spatial Strategy	RSS	The RSS was a strategy for how a region should look in 15 to 20 years time and possibly longer. It identified the scale and distribution of new housing in region, indicates areas for regeneration, expansion or sub-regional planning and specifies priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals and waste treatment and disposal. Regional Spatial Strategies were revoked by the Secretary of State on 6th July 2010 and therefore the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands no longer forms part of the development plan.
Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites	RIGS	Non-statutorily protected sites of regional and local importance for geodiversity (geology and geomorphology) in the United Kingdom.
Renewable Energy		Energy produced from a sustainable source that avoids the depletion of the earth's finite natural resources, such as oil or gas. Sources in use or in development include energy from the sun, wind, hydro-power, ocean energy and biomass.
Retail Floorspace		Total floor area of the property that is associated with all retail uses. Usually measured in square metres.
Rural Regeneration		Careful development in rural areas to ensure local housing needs are met and that there are suitable opportunities for employment to ensure economic sustainability.
Safeguarding		to ensure that no harm is caused to a particular feature.
Section 106 Agreement		A legal agreement under Section 106 of the 1990 Town & Country Planning Act. It is a way of addressing matters that are necessary to making a development acceptable in planning terms such as providing highways, recreational facilities, education, health and affordable housing.
Site of Biological Importance	SBI	A non-statutory designation used to protect locally valued sites of biodiversity.
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A site identified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as incorporated in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features (basically, plants, animals, and natural features relating to the Earth's structure).

Glossary

Spatial Planning		Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function. This includes policies which can impact on land use, for example by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission and which may be implemented by other means.
Spatial Strategy		The overview and overall approach to the provision of jobs, homes, and all infrastructure over the plan period.
Special Area of Conservation	SAC	Strictly protected sites for rare and threatened species and habitats on land or sea as designated under the EC Habitats Directive.
Staffordshire County Council	SCC	The local authority responsible for matters including education, transport, highways, minerals and waste.
Staffordshire Strategic Partnership	SSP	A framework for all agencies, sectors and partners to work collectively to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the County.
Strategic Centre		A local or town centre which provides a wide range of services and facilities such as shops, supermarkets, post office, banks, health centres etc.
Strategic Development Allocation	SDA	An area which has been identified and allocated for new development, which is significant to the spatial strategy as a whole. These allocations are usually complex, have long lead in times and can assist in the delivery of strategic infrastructure.
Strategic Development Location	SDL	An area which has been identified as suitable for new development, which will be significant in the wider region.
Strategic Framework Objective	SFO	The overarching objectives established through the preparation of the Scoping Report which are used to assess the environmental, economic and social impacts of the Plan
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	SFRA	An assessment of the likelihood of flooding in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered.
Supplementary Planning Document	SPD	An SPD is a Local Development Document that may cover a range of issues, thematic or site specific, and provides further detail of policies and proposals in a 'parent' DPD.
Supported Housing		A housing service aimed at helping people live more stable lives, including those who may have suffered from homelessness, addiction or other serious challenges to life.
Surface Water Management Plan	SWMP	The reports follow the requirements of Defra's draft Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) guidance and have been produced for the Local Authority areas of Stafford Borough, Lichfield District, Tamworth Borough, South Staffordshire District and Cannock Chase District. The purpose of the report is to identify areas at the greatest risk of surface water flooding and to provide evidence for the Local Plan.
Sustainability Appraisal	SA	An assessment to establish if the plan is promoting sustainable development. An assessment to comply with Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and further guidance, and the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment from European Directive 2001/42/EC

Glossary

Sustainable Communities		Central Government refers to sustainable communities as 'places where people want to live and work, now and in the future'. Creating communities that are more sustainable will generally mean seeking to provide a range of homes, jobs and facilities that enables people to meet more of their needs locally without the need to make long journeys by private transport.
Sustainable Community Strategy	**SCS**	A strategy prepared by a community to help deliver local aspirations, under the Local Government Act 2000.
Sustainable Development		A widely used definition drawn up by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The Government has set out four aims for sustainable development in its strategy "A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK". The four aims, to be achieved at the same time, are: social progress which recognises the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; the prudent use of natural resources; and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.
Sustainable travel / Sustainable Transport		Often meaning walking, cycling and public transport (and in some circumstances "car sharing"), which is considered to be less damaging to the environment and which contributes less to traffic congestion than one-person car journeys.
Sustainable Drainage Systems	**SuDS**	A replicate natural system which aims to reduce the potential impact of new and existing developments on surface water drainage discharges such as permeable paving or on site retention basins.
Traffic Impact Assessment	**TIA**	An assessment of the effects upon the surrounding area by traffic as a result of a development, such as increased traffic flows that may require highway improvements.
Travelling Showpeople		Members of a group organised for the purposes of holding fairs, circuses or shows (whether or not travelling together as such). This includes such persons who on the grounds of their own or their family's or dependants' more localised pattern of trading, educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently.
Touch Down Units		Locations available to buisness's which offer a ranage of services and facilities such as internet access, hot desk provision, meeting/conference rooms and photocopying. These spaces offer faccess to facilities which some buisness's otherwise would not be able to access.
Unregulated energy		The expected energy use in a building which is not 'regulated' (see 'Regulated energy' above). Unregulated energy does not fall under Building Regulations, and most typically includes appliances and small electrical items.
Urban Cooling		The effect which can be achieved by increasing vegetation cover and reducing hard surface cover in built up areas to reduce very high temperatures.
Urban open space		Parks, play areas, sports fields, commons, allotments, green corridors alongside rivers/canals/railways and other open areas vital to the cultural, aesthetic and historic heritage of urban life.
Veteran Trees		Trees that are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of age, size or condition. Normally this means the tree is over 250 years old with a girth at breast height of over 3 metres. However, other factors must be considered such as the location and past management of the tree.
Viability		In terms of retailing, a centre that is capable of success or continuing effectiveness. More generally the economic circumstances which would justify development taking place.

Glossary

Vibrancy		An area or street which is alive with activity.
Vitality		In terms of retailing, the capacity of a centre to grow or develop.
Waste Hierarchy		The waste hierarchy is the cornerstone of most waste minimisation strategies and refers to the 3Rs of reduce, reuse and recycle. The Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint Core Strategy refers to 5 stages: eliminate, reduce, re-use, recycle, energy recovery & dispose. The aim of the waste hierarchy is to to generate the minimum amount of waste and to extract the maximum practical benefits from products.
Windfall Development or Site		A site not specifically allocated for development in a development plan, but which unexpectedly becomes available for development during the lifetime of a plan. Most "windfalls" are referred to in a housing context.