Revision Schedule

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council: Interim Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Solihull Local Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options

Interim Report

October 2008

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
01	1st October 2008	Draft Report for client comment	Joanne Wort Stacey Green	Andrew Hargreaves	Nigel Stuart-Baker
02	22nd October 2008	Report following client comment	Joanne Wort Stacey Green	Andrew Hargreaves	Nigel Stuart-Baker
03	29 October 2008	Final Report following Client Comments	Joanne Wort Stacey Green	Andrew Hargreaves	Nigel Stuart-Baker

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 Scott Wilson was commissioned by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake an independent and integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Solihull LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options. This report documents our findings.

1.2 Solihull LDF - Core Strategy

1.2.1 Under the planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, The Solihull Local Development Framework (LDF) will replace the current adopted plan, the Solihull Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2006). It will consist of a number of Development Plan Documents (DPDs), including a Core Strategy, and consideration will be given to further DPDs that may include Site Allocations and Town Centre Area Action Plan. (The Solihull Local Development Scheme (LDS) sets the pogramme for developing the LDF).

1.2.2 The Core Strategy is the key plan within the LDF and sets the planning vision, objectives, monitoring and implementation framework to which other DPDs must comply. The Council anticipate that the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State by the end of 2009 .

1.3 SEA/SA

1.3.1 SEA involves the systematic identification and evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action (e.g. a plan or programme). In 2001, the EU legislated for SEA with the adoption of Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the 'SEA Directive'). The Directive entered into force in the UK on 21 July 2004 and applies to a range of English plans and programmes including LDFs. LDFs replace the current local hierarchy of development plans (Unitary Development Plans, and Local Plans).

1.3.2 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (PCPA), Local Authorities must undertake SA for each of their DPDs and SPDs – the constituent parts of the LDF. SA is therefore a statutory requirement for LDFs along with SEA. The Government's approach is to incorporate the requirements of the SEA Directive into a wider SA process that considers economic and social as well as environmental effects. In November 2005, the Government published guidance[1] – which the Consultants are following – on undertaking SA of LDFs which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive ('the Guidance'). The combined SEA / SA process is referred to in this document as 'Sustainability Appraisal (SA)'.

1.3.3 Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) states that, 'The Sustainability Appraisal should perform a key role in providing a sound evidence base for the plan and form an integrated part of the plan preparation process. Sustainability Assessment should inform the evaluation of alternatives'[2].

1.3.4 The Guidance advocates a five-stage approach to undertaking SA (see Figure 1). Stage A of the process has been carried out by Solihull MBC, with the Scoping Report documenting the findings. (An initial Scoping Report was published in November 2007 and was subject to the

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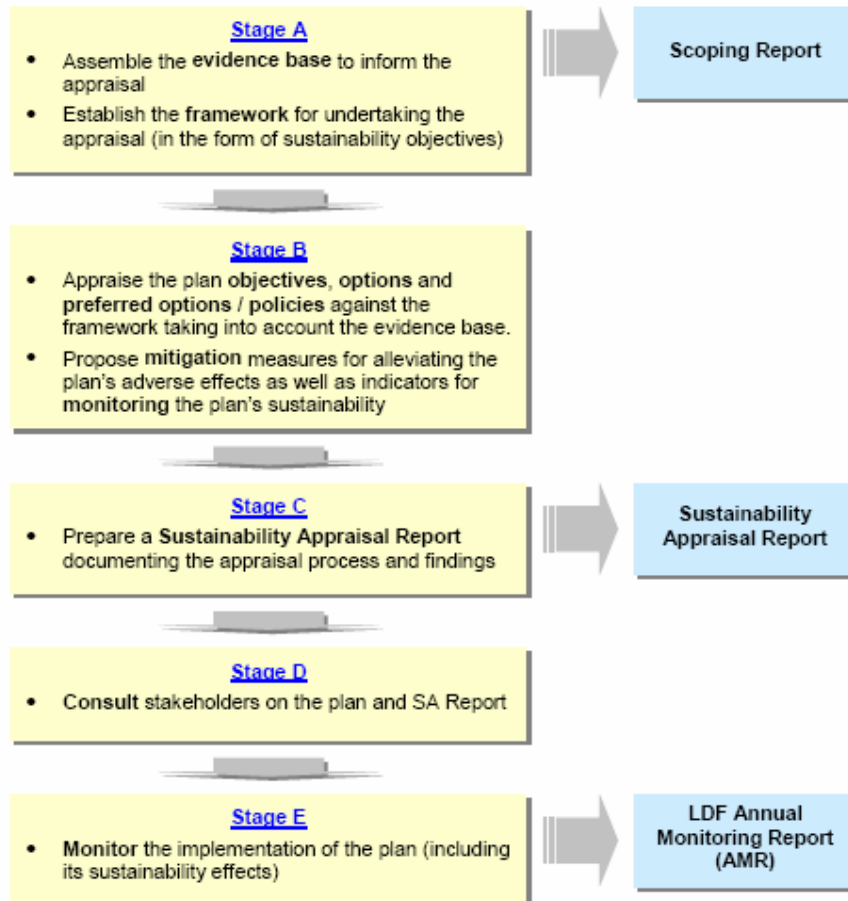[1] ODPM (2005). *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.*

[2] CLG (2008). *Planning Policy Statement 12: Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities through Local Spatial Planning.*

statutory consultation process. The amended Scoping Report was then published in July 2008). The Scoping Report has been used to appraise objectives and options in this Interim SA of the Core Strategy Issues and Options.

1.3.5   The SEA Directive sets out a legal assessment process that must be followed. In light of this, this Interim Report clearly sets out the relevant requirements of the SEA Directive and explains how these have been satisfied (or will be satisfied). An SEA checklist, demonstrating how this SEA conforms to the Directive can be found in the Appendices to this report.

1.3.6   In particular, the SEA Directive requires the preparation of an 'Environmental Report' on the implications of the plan or programme in question which will be prepared following the appraisal of the Core Strategy preferred options. This Interim Report will be used to aid development of preferred options and provide an audit trail that will be included within the Final SA Report ('Environmental Report').

Figure 1: The five stage approach to SA

Stage A
- Assemble the **evidence base** to inform the appraisal
- Establish the **framework** for undertaking the appraisal (in the form of sustainability objectives)

→ Scoping Report

Stage B
- Appraise the plan **objectives, options** and **preferred options / policies** against the framework taking into account the evidence base.
- Propose **mitigation** measures for alleviating the plan's adverse effects as well as indicators for monitoring the plan's sustainability

Stage C
- Prepare a Sustainability Appraisal Report documenting the appraisal process and findings

→ Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D
- Consult stakeholders on the plan and SA Report

Stage E
- Monitor the implementation of the plan (including its sustainability effects)

→ LDF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

1.4 This report

1.4.1 This report – referred to as the Interim SA Report – documents Stage B of the appraisal of the strategic development options of the Solihull LDF Core Strategy and summarises their potential economic, social and environmental implications. Although not a formal requirement, the appraisal has been prepared to help demonstrate that sustainability considerations have been incorporated into the development of the Core Strategy from an early stage, and to provide information for stakeholders as well as an audit trail of the appraisal process. The findings will be later incorporated into the Final SA Report (Stage C of the process).

1.4.2 The report has been prepared in the format required by the SEA Directive for the Final SA Report (Environmental Report) to allow a clear audit trail. (See Appendix 1). However, it should be noted that the Directive requires a non technical summary which, must, in turn, summarise the information in the environmental report itself. Since this report is an Initial SA/SEA it is considered that the Non-Technical Summary is not necessary – however this must be produced for the Final SA Report (Environmental Report).

1.5 What happens next?

1.5.1 An appraisal will be undertaken of any further Core Strategy Options and the findings will be documented in a Final SA Report. (See Figure 1 above). The latter will be published for consultation and submission as required by the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2004/ Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008.

1.6 Report structure

1.6.1 This report is structured as follows:

Section 2 – Summarises the relevant findings from Stage A in the SA process

Section 3 – Sets out the options appraisal methodology

Section 4 – Sets out the appraisal of the Core Strategy Objectives (Task B1)

Section 5 – Sets out the appraisal of the Core Strategy options

Section 6 – Sets out the findings of the appraisal

Appendix 1 – Sets out the SEA Directive Requirements

Appendix 2 – Sets out a glossary of terms

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2   Stage A Findings

2.1   Introduction

2.1.1   Stage A of the SA process has been carried out by Solihull MBC and has involved gathering evidence regarding the sustainability baseline and sustainability context in Solihull. This evidence was used to develop a set of sustainability objectives against which the sustainability effects of the Solihull LDF can be assessed. Together, the objectives can be considered to be the 'framework' for the appraisal. A related aim of the evidence gathering stage is to gather information about the current and likely future baseline situation in Solihull in order to aid the assessment of effects against these sustainability objectives.

2.1.2   The framework and evidence base for the SA of the Solihull LDF are documented in an SA Scoping Report, which was completed by Solihull MBC in July 2008.

2.2   A1 – Context Review

2.2.1   Stage A1 of the Scoping process involves establishing the context in which the LDF is being prepared, i.e. the other policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives that influence the content of the LDF (and vice-versa) and the opportunities and challenges they present. Establishing the sustainability context in Solihull helps to provide a basis for predicting and evaluating effects and helps to identify sustainability problems (see SA Stage A3 below).

2.2.2   The requirement to undertake a context review arises from the SEA Directive:

> The 'Environmental Report' required under the SEA Directive should include:
>
> "an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes"
>
> and
>
> "the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"
>
> (Annex 1(a) and (e))

2.2.3   In preparing the Core Strategy the Council has taken into account other key policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives prepared at national, regional and local level. In particular, the Core Strategy must be in conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy as well as reflect the aspirations of the Solihull Community Strategy. A range of other policies, plans etc. are also relevant.

2.3   A2 – Baseline

2.3.1   The collection of baseline information is a key component of the SA process and a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. Baseline information helps to provide a basis for

predicting and monitoring effects and assembling baseline data helps to identify sustainability problems (see SA Stage A3 above in Section 2).

2.3.2   The SEA Directive's requirements in relation to baseline information are:

The 'Environmental Report' required under the SEA Directive should include:

"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme"

"the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected"

(Annex 1(b) and (c))

2.4   A3 – Sustainability Issues

2.4.1   Stage A3 involves drawing on the evidence gathered in Stages A1 and A2 to identify those sustainability issues that are most pressing in Solihull. The sustainability issues identified then form the basis for developing a robust SA framework (Stage A4). Furthermore, the evidence summarised in the table of sustainability issues below can provide useful evidence to inform the judgment of effects against the SA framework at the assessment stage.

2.4.2   The requirement to identify sustainability issues arises from the SEA Directive:

The 'Environmental Report' required under the SEA Directive should include:

"any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive']"

(Annex 1(d))

2.4.3   Issues have been identified by reviewing other plans and strategies relevant to the Borough, by analysis of baseline data and through discussions with stakeholders.

2.4.4   **Table 1** lists the sustainability issues facing Solihull Borough, as set out in the SA Scoping Report (July 2008). This evidence includes findings from the baseline and context reviews.

Table 1: Sustainability Issues facing Solihull Borough
(As identified in the Solihull LDF SA Scoping Report (July 2008))

Sustainability issues
Sustainable consumption and production
Water resources and quality
Regeneration of north Solihull
Role and capacity of town centres
Accessibility
Airport expansion
Protecting the Green Belt
Managing our own waste
Diversifying the rural economy
Climate change and energy
Stabilising and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
Climate change adaptation
Sustainable construction (zero carbon development)
Renewable energy
Natural resource protection
Conservation of natural resources and minimising air, light, noise, soil, water pollution
Protecting and improving the quality of the built and natural environment (townscape and landscape character) and local distinctiveness
Conservation of biodiversity
Minimise flood risk
Sustainable communities
Amount and location of new housing
Meeting housing need and demand
Sustainable communities, including link between housing and employment growth
Regional assets
Land Rover
Employment needs
Road improvements
Healthy lifestyles and health inequalities
Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour
Increase accessibility, reduce the need to travel and reduce congestion
Settlement hierarchy

2.5   A4 - SA Framework

2.5.1   SA is fundamentally based on an objectives-led approach whereby the potential impacts of a plan are gauged in relation to a series of aspirational objectives for sustainable development. In other words, the objectives provide a methodological yardstick against which to assess the effects of the plan.

2.5.2   The SA objectives are developed primarily by drawing on the sustainability issues identified at Stage A3, but also taking account of other evidence gathered at Stages A1 and A2. **Table 2** below sets out the SA Objectives identified for Solihull Borough, as identified in the Solihull LDF SA Scoping Report (July 2008).

Table 2: Sustainability Framework Objectives
(As identified in the Solihull LDF SA Scoping Report (July 2008))

SA Objectives
Sustainable consumption and production
1)   Encourage sustainable economic growth and prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce
2)   Ensure education and training opportunities for all and value the contribution of unpaid work
3)   Minimise the use of natural resources, such as land, water and minerals, and minimise waste, increase reuse and recycling and manage within the Borough/Sub-region
4)   Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations and local sourcing of food, goods and materials, and encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling and walking
Climate change and energy
5)   Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy generation
6)   Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures and flooding
Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
7)   Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity
8)   Protect and enhance environmental assets such as landscape, countryside, historic environment and open space
9)   Promote high quality built environment and encourage local distinctiveness
10) Minimise air, soil, water, light and noise pollution
Sustainable communities
11) Reduce social exclusion and disparities within the Borough
12) Improve the supply and affordability of housing
13) Ensure the Borough's national and regional assets reflect wider needs
14) Improve health, reduce health inequalities and promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all

| 15) Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour |
| 16) Encourage development with a better balance between jobs, housing and services, and provide easy and equitable access to opportunities, basic services and amenities for all |

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3 Appraisal Methodology

3.1 SEA Directive Requirements

3.1.1   This section sets out the methodology for appraisal of the options for the Core Strategy: Issues and Options, as required by the SEA Directive:

> The Environment report required under the SEA Directive should include:
>
> 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'
>
> Annex 1 (h)

3.1.2   Furthermore, the SEA Directive requires the following with regard assessing plan effects:

> The SEA Directive requires the environmental assessment to identify, describe and evaluate'…'the likely significant effects on the environment of a plan or programme' Annex II of the SEA Directive provides criteria which help determine the likely significance of an effect.
>
> Article 5 & Annex II

3.2 The Appraisal

3.2.1   In accordance with Government Guidance, the appraisal of the Core Strategy involved:

- Appraising the LDF objectives which set out the Council's aspirations for the future of Solihull Borough;

- Appraising the three broad strategic growth options.

3.2.2   The appraisal was carried out using the SA Framework that was developed and documented in the Scoping Report. The SA Framework is provided in **Table 2** and consists of 16 objectives grouped within the four priority areas of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. The SA objectives were tested against the LDF objectives and growth options. The appraisal was a qualitative exercise based on the professional judgment of Scott Wilson, however, where possible judgments were made; evidence gathered at the Scoping Stage was taken in to account.

3.2.3   The performance of the LDF objectives against each SA objective was assessed according to the compatibility criteria set out in **Table 3** below.

3.2.4   The performance of the options against each objective was given a score according to the criteria set out in **Table 3a.** The total scores for each option are provided in **Table 8** as an indication of the environmental, social and economic impact of each option.

Table 3: Compatibility Criteria

Compatibility Criteria Key	
+	Objectives compatible
?	Uncertain relationship
-	Objectives are not compatible
NR	No direct relationship

Table 3a: Scoring criteria

Scoring Criteria Key	
+2	Option will result in a significant positive impact on the SA Objective
+1	The impact on the SA Objective would most likely be positive or have minor positive impacts
0	Neutral or negligible effect
-1	The impact on the SA Objective would most likely be negative or have minor negative impacts
-2	Option will result in a significant negative impact on the SA Objective

4   Testing the Core Strategy Objectives – Task B1

4.1   Introduction

4.1.2   Government guidance states that:

> 'It is important for the objectives of the DPD to be in accordance with sustainability principles. The objectives should be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives.'
>
> Section 3.3.4, Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents, DCLG, 2005

4.1.3   The Core Strategy will set our vision for the future development of the Borough and the strategy for delivering development to 2026.

4.1.4   The objectives of the Core Strategy will set out what the LDF is aiming to achieve and set the context for the development of options for the DPD (i.e. alternative means of achieving the objectives).

4.1.5   It is important for the objectives of the Core Strategy to be in accordance with sustainability principles, to ensure that these objectives provide a sustainable platform and basis for developing options.   With this in mind, government guidance recommends that the objectives should be tested for compatibility with the SA objectives. The objectives also need to be compatible with each other, and the SA objectives will be one way of checking for this.

4.1.6   The Guidance suggests using a matrix to compare the plan objectives with the SA objectives.

4.1.7   The Solihull LDF: Key issues, Vision and Objectives (May 2008) sets out a draft vision and twenty draft objectives for the Core Strategy:

Table 4: Solihull Core Strategy objectives

Core Strategy Objectives
A) Improve **accessibility** to employment and local services and facilities, particularly from/within the regeneration zone.
B) Manage vehicular traffic around major and traffic sensitive destinations within the Borough, e.g. town centres, and schools in order to reduce **congestion.**
C) Support the development of an integrated and well-connected **public transport network** that meets needs and provides choice as a safe, convenient and accessible alternative to travel by car, particularly within the Regeneration Zone and the rural areas and including the potential extension of the metro network.
D) Ensure that the Borough's **key economic drivers** (BIA, NEC, Regional Investment Sites, Solihull Town Centre and Land Rover), continue to remain successful, well connected and able to support the Region's economy and support BIAs ambition for growth and role in the Region whilst minimising and mitigating environmental impacts.

E) Reduce the Borough's **carbon footprint** and its reliance on non-renewable and imported energy; ensure that the exploitation of local resources contribute to a low carbon economy and promote sustainable locations, high quality design and methods of construction, efficient use of resources and the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources.

F) Maximise opportunities for **affordable housing** provision and provide for identified needs, such as special needs housing and gypsy and traveller accommodation, in a sensitive way.

G) Provide an appropriate **mix of new housing**, reflecting the profile of households requiring market and affordable housing (type & tenure, adaptable design and supported).

H) Ensuring local communities have an appropriate range and quality of **local services**, including health and education, to meet the needs of our population

I) Support **regeneration** activities to improve life chances, in north Solihull and other areas of deprivation in the Borough

J) Enable the diversification of the Borough's **business land & premises**, to meet RSS Review requirements for a range and choice of sites and premises, and encourage greater access to employment opportunities and increased economic activity, particularly in north Solihull, by facilitating the removal of barriers to employment, including locational barriers and protecting employment land/premises.

K) Promote, conserve and enhance the **special character** and cultural heritage of Solihull, including its high quality residential areas and green spaces, its Arden landscape characteristics and the accessibility of its countryside as an aspirational place to live, work and invest which make Solihull locally distinctive.

L) Facilitate the provision/improvement of a well-designed network of **green places and open spaces**, that are attractive, safe, inclusive and accessible to all, to promote physical activity, active commuting (walking & cycling) and the regeneration of North Solihull.

M) Identify and deliver a sufficient range of sites to meet **development requirements** over the plan period, including RSS requirements, based on a sustainable and sequential approach to site allocation, promoting mixed use and high levels of accessibility, in a way that meets local needs retains the character and local distinctiveness that makes Solihull an attractive place in which to live, work and invest.

N) Retain an effective **Green Belt** to maintain the key gaps between settlements and to contribute to the urban regeneration of the Borough and the wider West Midlands Region

O) Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Borough's main **retail centres** keeping them vibrant and competitive and able to fulfil their function as accessible foci for the communities they serve recognising their importance to regeneration and having regard to Solihull Town Centre's importance as a strategic centre as identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy

P) Protect and enhance the Borough's tranquil areas, avoid developments that would contribute to noise or air pollution in sensitive areas, such as countryside, residential area, canals and green spaces and locate sensitive uses away from sources of **noise and air pollution**, such as the airport, M42 and other major roads.

Q) Reduce the amount of **waste** arising in the Borough and that going to landfill, and provide for facilities to manage an equivalent tonnage of waste to that produced further up the waste hierarchy, i.e. by reuse or recycling/composting

R)	Conserve, enhance and increase **nature conservation** resources, particularly designated sites, local nature reserves, natural corridors and linkages within and outside the Borough, and the overall biodiversity resource. Ensure that all new development contributes positively to the conservation, enhancement, creation and management of local biodiversity action plan habitats and species.
S)	Ensure there are a range of **places to go and things to do**, to provide opportunities for leisure and culture across the Borough, particularly positive and inclusive activities for children and young people.
T)	Promote safer, inclusive, adaptable and **sustainable high quality design** as an integral part of new development to enable integration with existing development and to make a positive contribute to Solihull's sense of place, the Boroughs attractiveness and to people's quality of life.

4.1.8   **Table 5** 'tests' each of these objectives against each of the SA objectives (**Table 3** of this report).   **Table 6** then provides a commentary on each objective and **Table 6a** provides recommendations for improvement.

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Table 5: Testing the Core Strategy Objectives against the SA Framework

SA Objective	Core Strategy Objectives	A. Accessibility	B. Congestion	C. Public transport network	D. Key economic drivers	E. Carbon footprint	F. Affordable housing	G. Mix of new housing	H. Local services	I. Regeneration	J. Business land & premises	K. Special character	L. Green places & open spaces	M. Development requirements	N. Green Belt	O. Retail centres	P. Noise & air pollution	Q. Waste	R. Nature Conservation	S. Places to go & things to do	T. Sustainable high quality design
1. Encourage sustainable economic growth & prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce		+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+			+		+	?	?	?		+
2. Ensure education & training opportunities for all and value the contribution of unpaid work		+		+	+				+		+			+							
3. Minimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, increase reuse & recycling, & manage within the Borough						+	?	?		?	?			?				+	+		+

SA Objective	Core Strategy Objectives	A. Accessibility	B. Congestion	C. Public transport network	D. Key economic drivers	E. Carbon footprint	F. Affordable housing	G. Mix of new housing	H. Local services	I. Regeneration	J. Business land & premises	K. Special character	L. Green places & open spaces	M. Development requirements	N. Green Belt	O. Retail centres	P. Noise & air pollution	Q. Waste	R. Nature Conservation	S. Places to go & things to do	T. Sustainable high quality design
4. Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations & local sourcing of food, goods & materials, & encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling & walking		+	?	+	+	+	NR	NR	+	?	?	NR	NR	?	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	?	NR
5. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency & renewable energy generation		+	+	+	NR	+	NR	NR	+	?	NR	NR	NR	?	NR	NR	NR	+	NR	?	+
6. Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures & flooding		NR	NR	NR	NR	+	?	?	NR	?	?	+	+	Nr	+	NR	NR	NR	+	NR	+
7. Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	?	?	NR	?	?	+	+	?	+	NR	+	NR	+	+	+

SA Objective	Core Strategy Objectives	A. Accessibility	B. Congestion	C. Public transport network	D. Key economic drivers	E. Carbon footprint	F. Affordable housing	G. Mix of new housing	H. Local services	I. Regeneration	J. Business land & premises	K. Special character	L. Green places & open spaces	M. Development requirements	N. Green Belt	O. Retail centres	P. Noise & air pollution	Q. Waste	R. Nature Conservation	S. Places to go & things to do	T. Sustainable high quality design
8. Protect & enhance environmental assets		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	?	?	NR	?	?	+	+	?	+	NR	NR	NR	+	+	+
9. Promote high quality built environment & encourage local distinctiveness		NR	NR	NR	NR	+	?	?	+	+	NR	+	NR	+	+	+	NR	+	NR	NR	+
10. Minimise air, soil, light & noise pollution		NR	+	NR	NR	+	?	?	+	NR	?	NR	NR	?	NR	NR	+	+	NR	NR	+
11.Reduce social exclusion & disparities within the Borough		+	NR	+	NR	NR	+	+	+	+	+	NR	+	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	+
12. Improve the supply & affordability of housing		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	+	+	NR	+	NR	+	NR	+	?	NR	NR	?	?	NR	NR
13. Ensure the Borough's national & regional assets reflect wider needs		NR	NR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NR

SA Objective	Core Strategy Objectives	A. Accessibility	B. Congestion	C. Public transport network	D. Key economic drivers	E. Carbon footprint	F. Affordable housing	G. Mix of new housing	H. Local services	I. Regeneration	J. Business land & premises	K. Special character	L. Green places & open spaces	M. Development requirements	N. Green Belt	O. Retail centres	P. Noise & air pollution	Q. Waste	R. Nature Conservation	S. Places to go & things to do	T. Sustainable high quality design
14. Improve health, reduce health inequalities & promote healthy lifestyles, & encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all		+	NR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NR	+	+	+
15. Reduce crime, fear of crime & anti-social behaviour		NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	+	NR	?	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	+	+
16. Encourage development with a better balance between jobs, housing & services, & provide easy & equitable access to opportunities, basic services & amenities for all		+	NR	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	NR	+	+	NR	+	NR	NR	NR	+	NR

Table 6: Core Strategy Objectives and SA Framework: Commentary and Recommendations

Possible conflicting interactions between the Core Strategy objectives and the SA Framework	
Objectives in conflict	**Commentary & Recommendations**
SA objective 1 vs. Policy objectives: E (carbon footprint), K (special character), N (Green Belt), P (noise & air pollution), Q (waste) & R (nature conservation)	An increase in employment opportunities may encourage people to travel into the area for work which is likely to increase the carbon footprint, reliance on non-renewables and increase waste generation. In order to minimise these effects it will be necessary to utilise local resources which are sustainable in design, construction and operation. Careful planning will be required to ensure development is located in sustainable locations. The use of energy efficiency and renewable energy in new business development will be needed to reduce the reliance on non-renewable and imported energy. In order to minimise waste production and manage reuse it will be necessary to provide sufficient space for recycling receptacles. Environmental constraints and Green Belt boundaries may limit the extent of sustainable economic growth.
SA objective 3 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of new housing), I (regeneration), J (business land & premises), M (development requirements).	Construction of new housing, business premises, regeneration activity, cultural and leisure facilities will increase waste generation and increase the use of natural resources. These developments should be sustainable in design, construction and operation. In order to minimise waste production and manage reuse it will be necessary to provide sufficient space for recycling receptacles.
SA objective 4 vs. Policy objectives: I (Regeneration), J (business land & premises) & M (development requirements).	Regeneration and the increase in business premises and development requirements for the plan period are likely to increase the need to travel. The provision of better public transport services and walking/cycling routes, and careful planning with accessible locations for housing should minimise the need to travel.
SA objective 5 vs. Policy objectives: B (congestion), I (regeneration), M (development requirements), O (Retail centres) & S (places to go & things to do)	Move development and regeneration activities are likely to increase the emission of greenhouse gases through the use of fossil fuels. The use of energy efficiency and renewable energy in new development will be needed to minimise emissions of greenhouse gases. Regeneration activities and the provision of leisure and culture opportunities in Solihull will attract more visitors to the area. This could lead to a growth in vehicular traffic levels, thereby leading to more emissions of greenhouse gases. Encouraging the use of public transport by providing better facilities will minimise such increases.
SA objective 6 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of new housing), I (regeneration) & J (business land & premises).	Increased levels of hard surfacing associated with new housing, business premises, retail, cultural, and leisure facilities will require sustainable drainage

	measures to manage run-off and reduce the risk of flooding. Careful consideration should be given to the excavations and drainage required to provide new roads and footpaths in order to manage run-off and reduce the risk of flooding. Adaptable and sustainable high quality design will be required for all new buildings along with the use of SUDs and solar panels to manage temperature.
SA objective 7 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of housing), I (regeneration), J (business land & premises) & M (development requirements).	The design and location of housing, business premises, recreational and retail facilities must be carefully considered so as not to compromise existing biodiversity but rather to create further opportunities for its enhancement.
SA objective 8 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of housing), I (regeneration),J (business land & premises) & M (development requirements)	Careful planning will be required to ensure development will not compromise existing environmental assets such as open spaces and historic features of the area, but rather work with them and enhance them.
SA objective 9 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of housing) & M (development requirements).	Sustainable high quality design will be required to promote a high quality built environment for new residential properties and business premises.
SA objective 10 vs. Policy objectives: F (affordable housing), G (mix of housing), J (business land & premises) & M (development requirements).	Reduced traffic congestion and increased traffic levels associated with new housing, business premises, or cultural and leisure facilities could potentially worsen air quality. It will be necessary to minimise use of the car and encourage walking, cycling and public transport to prevent this happening. Increased traffic levels arising from attracting more visitors to the area could also potentially worsen air quality as well as generating more noise pollution. The increase in building activity associated with development will lead to more waste and potentially worsen soil pollution.
SA objective 12 vs. Policy objectives: N (Green Belt) Q (waste) & R (nature conservation).	The location of new housing must be carefully considered using a sustainable and sequential approach to site selection. New developments should make provision for recycling or reuse facilities to minimise the amount of waste arising.
SA objective 15 vs. Policy objective I (regeneration)	An increase in activity throughout the day and evening will increase levels of surveillance and reduce opportunities for crime. A possible adverse effect could be the potential for some residents to feel intimidated by groups of people on the streets in the evening, although generally the more diverse the uses and activities the less likely this is to occur.

Table 6a: Recommendations for the Core Strategy objectives

Core Strategy Objective	Commentary and Recommendations
A - Improve **accessibility** to employment and local services and facilities, particularly from/within the regeneration zone	The objective is unclear and would benefit from being more specific with an indication of how the issue is proposed to be addressed generally (link to other objectives, sustainable locations of new employment premises, improvements to the public transport network/services?).
B - Manage vehicular traffic around major and traffic sensitive destinations within the Borough, e.g. town centres, and schools in order to reduce **congestion**	The implication of this objective on environmental factors and the subsequent effects on other areas is unclear. It would be helpful to provide an indication of how the problem is proposed to be addressed generally and could benefit from a link with objective C to support the development of better public transport network.
C - Support the development of an integrated and well-connected **public transport network** that meets needs and provides choice as a safe, convenient and accessible alternative to travel by car, particularly within the Regeneration Zone and the rural areas and including the potential extension of the metro network.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
D - Ensure that the Borough's **key economic drivers** (BIA, NEC, Regional Investment Sites, Solihull Town Centre and Land Rover), continue to remain successful, well connected and able to support the Region's economy and support BIAs ambition for growth and role in the Region whilst minimising and mitigating environmental impacts.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
E - Reduce the Borough's **carbon footprint** and its reliance on non-renewable and imported energy; ensure that the exploitation of local resources contribute to a low carbon economy and promote sustainable locations, high quality design and methods of construction, efficient use of resources and the use of renewable and low carbon energy sources.	This is largely positive for most SA objectives, however it could possibly hinder economic growth unless emphasis is placed on the promotion of renewable energy initially – followed by the intention to reduce its use.
F - Maximise opportunities for **affordable housing** provision and provide for identified needs, such as special needs housing and gypsy and traveller accommodation, in a sensitive way	The objective implements government requirements to provide a sufficient supply of affordable housing. The objective is compatible with many of the 'economic' SA objectives but fails to be compatible with many of the social and environmental SA objectives. This is because it does not encourage 'sustainable' housing in terms of promoting decent homes in a community where people want to live, in locations that reduce the need to travel. The objective should include reference to sustainable communities and high quality design, and could also be merged with objective G, which is to provide a mix of new housing.
G - Provide an appropriate **mix of new housing**,	The objective could be merged with objective F to

reflecting the profile of households requiring market and affordable housing (type & tenure, adaptable design and supported)	promote sustainable communities.
H - Ensuring local communities have an appropriate range and quality of **local services**, including health and education, to meet the needs of our population.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
I - Support **regeneration** activities to improve life chances, in north Solihull and other areas of deprivation in the Borough	The objective has implications for environmental and social factors because it does not include any reference to sustainability. Emphasis needs to be made on the allocation of sustainable locations for regeneration, sustainable high quality design, local sourcing of materials, sustainable use of natural resources, sustainable drainage and secure by design. The objective should include reference to careful planning based on sustainable practice and implementation.
J - Enable the diversification of the Borough's **business land & premises**, to meet RSS Review requirements for a range and choice of sites and premises, and encourage greater access to employment opportunities and increased economic activity, particularly in north Solihull, by facilitating the removal of barriers to employment, including locational barriers and protecting employment land/premises.	The objective could be clearer and more specific. Emphasis needs to be made on the allocation of sustainable locations for employment land and premises (near to existing centres, infrastructure and potential employees) otherwise the effect on social and environmental SA objectives is unclear.
K - Promote, conserve and enhance the **special character** and cultural heritage of Solihull, including its high quality residential areas and green spaces, its Arden landscape characteristics and the accessibility of its countryside as an aspirational place to live, work and invest which make Solihull locally distinctive.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
L - Facilitate the provision/improvement of a well-designed network of **green places and open spaces**, that are attractive, safe, inclusive and accessible to all, to promote physical activity, active commuting (walking & cycling) and the regeneration of North Solihull.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
M - Identify and deliver a sufficient range of sites to meet **development requirements** over the plan period, including RSS requirements, based on a sustainable and sequential approach to site allocation, promoting mixed use and high levels of accessibility, in a way that meets local needs retains the character and local distinctiveness that makes Solihull an attractive place in which to live, work and invest.	The objective could have implications for environmental objectives depending on how it is implemented. The preservation, enhancement and promotion of environmental assets through this process should be highlighted.
N - Retain an effective **Green Belt** to maintain the key gaps between settlements and to contribute to the urban regeneration of the Borough and the wider West Midlands Region.	Generally positive for all SA objectives.

O - Maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of the Borough's main **retail centres** keeping them vibrant and competitive and able to fulfil their function as accessible foci for the communities they serve recognising their importance to regeneration and having regard to Solihull Town Centre's importance as a strategic centre as identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy.	This is positive for all SA objectives.
P - Protect and enhance the Borough's tranquil areas, avoid developments that would contribute to noise or air pollution in sensitive areas, such as countryside, residential area, canals and green spaces and locate sensitive uses away from sources of **noise and air pollution**, such as the airport, M42 and other major roads.	Generally positive for all SA objectives.
Q - Reduce the amount of **waste** arising in the Borough and that going to landfill, and provide for facilities to manage an equivalent tonnage of waste to that produced further up the waste hierarchy, i.e. by reuse or recycling/composting	The objective could include reference to protecting and managing the use of natural resources and mitigation activities that cause their degradation.
R - Conserve, enhance and increase **nature conservation** resources, particularly designated sites, local nature reserves, natural corridors and linkages within and outside the Borough, and the overall biodiversity resource. Ensure that all new development contributes positively to the conservation, enhancement, creation and management of local biodiversity action plan habitats and species.	Generally positive for all SA objectives.
S - Ensure there are a range of **places to go and things to do**, to provide opportunities for leisure and culture across the Borough, particularly positive and inclusive activities for children and young people.	The implication of this objective on environmental SA objectives and other Core Strategy objectives is unclear. The proposal may lead to increased car travel/or inappropriate changes to the countryside for example. The objective would benefit from an additional clause such as "… in sustainable locations that are accessible and would not cause harm to the environment or amenity".
T - Promote safer, inclusive, adaptable and **sustainable high quality design** as an integral part of new development to enable integration with existing development and to make a positive contribute to Solihull's sense of place, the Boroughs attractiveness and to people's quality of life.	This is positive for all SA objectives.

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5   Options Appraisal (B3/B4) and Mitigation (B5)

5.1   Introduction

5.1.1   This chapter sets out the summary findings from the appraisal of the three strategic growth options.

5.1.2   The full appraisal tables can be found below.

5.1.3   As part of the evaluation of the options, the findings from the appraisal are set out along with the mitigation measures identified during the appraisal. The impact dimensions of each objective are also set out in terms of duration, likelihood, impact and reversibility. The mitigation of significant effects is a key requirement of the SEA Directive:

> The SEA Directive requires 'the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme' to be included in the environmental report.
>
> Annex 1g, the SEA Directive

5.1.4   Many of the measures proposed are in the form of general recommendations or points for consideration, rather than measures designed to counter specific impacts. This will allow the Council to make a justified response to these recommendations.

5.2   Appraisal of the Growth Options

5.2.1   **The Council has identified three draft strategic growth options to guide the location of development within the Borough of Solihull:**

   o   **Option 1 - Consolidation of Current Development Plan Principles;**

   o   **Option 2 - Corridors;**

   o   **Option 3 - Clusters.**

5.2.2   **Table 7** compares the sustainability implications of the three options and gives a summary of the findings for each option and a set of recommendations.

5.2.3   .**Table 8** sets out the appraisal scores for each option and totals the score in relation to economic, environmental and social SA objectives. An overall score for each option is not given as it is considered that this would be misleading since each SA Objective cannot be equally weighted.

5.2.4   Conclusions of the appraisal and further Recommendations are then given in Chapter 6.

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Table 7: Appraisal of the Growth Options

Option 1: Consolidation of Current Development Plan Principles (i.e. the Regional Spatial Strategy and Unitary Development Plan). Development principles:						
• Supporting the urban renaissance • Retaining the Green Belt, allowing adjustments in exceptional circumstances to support regeneration or to allow the most sustainable form of development • Development where public transport systems can be significantly improved • Supporting regeneration in North Solihull • Considering opportunities for development and redevelopment of existing urban sites before Greenfield sites • Minimising the need to travel						
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	**Impact Dimensions**				**Comment**	**Potential Mitigation Measures**
	Duration	**Likelihood**	**Impact**	**Reversibility**		
Sustainable consumption and production						
1. Encourage sustainable economic growth & prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce	Long	Potential	Cumulative	Yes	0 May not deliver the supply of employment land required to support future economic growth. Regeneration in the North should provide some business development.	N/A
2. Ensure education & training opportunities for all and value the contribution of unpaid work	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+1 Regeneration in the North will provide some new business development, creating new facilities and providing more opportunities. Synergy between uses in other areas may not be so strong if development is dispersed.	N/A
3. Minimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, increase reuse & recycling, & manage	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+1 Supports the development and redevelopment of previously developed sites before Greenfield sites.	Measures to promote recycling/re-use and minimise waste will need to be included within all developments.

within the Borough						
4. Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations & local sourcing of food, goods & materials, & encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling & walking	Long	Potential	Direct	No	+1 Development would be located in areas where transport systems can be significantly improved which should reduce car dependency. However, the process to improve public transport provision is likely to take a long time.	N/A
Score	3					
Climate change and energy						
5. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency & renewable energy generation	Medium	Potential	Direct	Yes	-1 This option is more likely to provide a more dispersed pattern of development which will not deliver energy efficiency.	N/A
6. Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures & flooding	Long	Potential	Direct	Yes	-1 Existing infrastructure may not cope with additional development and lead to congestion/overloading with adverse effects on climate change. New development will create more impermeable surfaces which could potentially increase the risk of flooding.	Allocate land for development within areas of least flood risk in accordance with PPS25 and SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). Implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.
Score	-2					
Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement						
7. Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity	Medium	Likely	Direct	Unknown	+1 Supports retention of the Green Belt and should ensure conservation, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity through application of existing development plan principles.	Existing development plan principles would need to up-dated and renewed.

8. Protect & enhance environmental assets	Medium	Likely	Direct	No	+1 Supports retention of the Green Belt and should protect and enhance environmental assets through application of existing development plan principles.	Existing development plan principles would need to up-dated and renewed.
9. Promote high quality built environment & encourage local distinctiveness	Long	Likely	Direct	Yes	+1 Supports the urban renaissance and regeneration of North Solihull and should ensure promotion of high quality built environment and local distinctiveness through application of existing development plan principles.	Existing development plan principles would need to up-dated and renewed.
10. Minimise air, soil, light & noise pollution	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	0 Minimising the need to travel should support improvements to air, soil, light and noise quality within the Borough as a whole. However, more dispersed development is likely to encourage more car use.	N/A
Score	3					
Sustainable communities						
11.Reduce social exclusion & disparities within the Borough	Short	Likely	Direct	Yes	+2 Regeneration of North Solihull should reduce social exclusion and inequality within the Borough by providing opportunities, facilities and links to services in the south of the borough.	Monitor social exclusion and disparities.
12. Improve the supply & affordability of housing	Medium	Potential	Direct	Yes	-1 The supply of housing would be limited because it would rely almost completely on the development of some long-term housing sites identified in the UDP and little else.	Would need to identify significant amounts land to accommodate housing growth.
13. Ensure the Borough's national & regional assets reflect	Long	Potential		Yes	-1 National and regional assets cannot be flexible to reflect wider needs but exceptional Green Belt releases	N/A

wider needs					possible to support national and regional assets.	
14. Improve health, reduce health inequalities & promote healthy lifestyles, & encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all	Medium	Likely	Indirect	yes	+1 North Solihull will be improved. However, the effect of the option on the rest of the Borough is unclear.	N/A
15. Reduce crime, fear of crime & anti-social behaviour	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+1 North Solihull will be improved. However, the effect of the option on the rest of the Borough is unclear.	N/A
16. Encourage development with a better balance between jobs, housing & services, & provide easy & equitable access to opportunities, basic services & amenities for all	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+1 Improving equitable access for North Solihull residents.	Ensure balance is achieved through sequential approach to site selection.
Score	3					

Summary
Option 1 represents the approach that has the opportunity most likely to address social equity by supporting regeneration in the north of the borough and providing development where public transport can be most improved. Given the significance of existing economic problems in North Solihull, Option 1 is the best option to address employment and education/training opportunities for the short term. It is likely that targeted growth in the north can address existing spatial inequalities in terms of economic and social deprivation through triggering regeneration, further inward investment and an increase in the number of economically active people. However, without allocation of any new employment sites it is unlikely that this option will be sustainable in the long term.

In terms of environmental impact, the option scores highly because it does not allow for adjustments to the Green Belt without exceptional circumstances and promotes the development of existing urban sites. However, these restrictions, without the allocation of any new employment and housing sites, may result in an inability to deliver the supply of land necessary to support the level of growth required for the duration of the plan period up to 2026.

Option 2: Corridors – based on development within public transport corridors.
Development Principles:
• **Development should be located where it can be supported by the existing public transport network**
• **Development focused in the main urban area, particularly the town centres (Solihull, Shirley and Chelmsley Wood) and along main public transport corridors**
• **Possible urban expansion provided that land can be well linked by walking, cycling and public transport to key destinations**
• **Limited housing development in smaller rural settlements except for local needs**

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Impact Dimensions				Comment	Potential Mitigation Measures
	Duration	**Likelihood**	**Impact**	**Reversibility**		
Sustainable consumption and production						
1. Encourage sustainable economic growth & prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	**+2** Allocation of new employment sites at main centres, corridors and the urban expansion is likely to promote sustainable economic growth. The urban expansion, which is likely to involve the re-drawing of boundaries, is likely to provide the required levels of development on new sites which is needed for the long term future. Allows greater choice of location by developers.	Ensure promotion of economic measures keeps in tandem with needs of the local workforce.
2. Ensure education & training opportunities for all and value the contribution of unpaid work	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	**+1** New development could potentially provide education and training facilities. Synergy between uses may not be so strong if development is widely dispersed.	Prioritise corridors where additional development supports existing education and training or permits justification of new facilities.
3. Minimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, increase reuse & recycling, & manage within the Borough	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	**-1** The option permits an urban expansion which is likely to have adverse impact. New development provides opportunities for sustainable construction. Effect of option on waste/recycling is unclear.	Request additional resources through S106 agreement for waste collection/recycling services. New development should be focused on previously developed land and use sustainable construction

					techniques. Measures to promote recycling/re-use and minimise waste should be included within all developments. Option to include sustainable development principles.
4. Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations & local sourcing of food, goods & materials, & encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling & walking	Long	Likely	Direct	No	+2 Should help to reduce car dependency and increase the use of more sustainable modes of travel.	N/A
Score	4					
Climate change and energy						
5. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency & renewable energy generation	Medium	Potential	Direct	Yes	0 Possible increase in congestion along existing public transport corridors. However, use of public transport network will be encouraged.	Energy policy should set out standards to be achieved.
6. Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures & flooding	Long	Likely	Direct	Yes	0 Focus of development within main urban areas and corridors may allow better use of energy systems. Possible increase in congestion along main transport corridors. An urban extension would result in the loss of permeable surfaces and intensification along main corridors could also cause loss of permeable areas. If the option relies on incursion into Green Belt this would also result in the loss of permeable	Allocate land for development within areas of least flood risk in accordance with PPS25 and SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). Implementation of sustainable urban drainage systems.

					areas.	
Score	0					
Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement						
7. Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Unknown	-1 Development along main public transport corridors could encroach on the rural landscape. An urban expansion could create significant incursion into the rural landscape and Green Belt.	Ensure that all new development is in accordance with and contributes to LBAP targets (Local Biodiversity Action Plan). .
8. Protect & enhance environmental assets	Medium	Potential	Cumulative	No	-1 Development focused in the main urban centres protects the rural landscape but development along public transport corridors could spread beyond the urban environment. Urban expansion could create significant incursion into the rural landscape and Green Belt.	
9. Promote high quality built environment & encourage local distinctiveness	Long	Potential	Indirect	Yes	-1 A ribbon form of development would result along the spine of main public transport routes.	Provide policy on local distinctiveness.
10. Minimise air, soil, light & noise pollution	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	-1 Urban expansion would exacerbate the potential sources of pollution in the suburban area. Focussed development in main urban areas and corridors should constrain pollution within the MUA but increased cumulative impacts of development within transport corridors may increase congestion and noise/air/light pollution.	The relationship between different developments should be carefully managed to ensure problems of localised noise and light pollution do not occur. To maintain soil resources, development should predominately be located on previously developed land.
Score	-4					
Sustainable communities						
11.Reduce social	Medium	Likely	Indirect	yes	+1	Ensure objectives of Community

					Improved public transport links across the Borough should increase accessibility and provide opportunities to all services.	Strategy are fully integrated with development proposals. Community infrastructure should be targeted in a way that seeks to redress the existing inequalities as well as being delivered alongside new development.
exclusion & disparities within the Borough						
12. Improve the supply & affordability of housing	Medium	Likely	Direct	Yes	+2 Urban extension should provide the housing needed to fulfil the requirements of the RSS since there is an absence of development sites in Solihull TC.	A mix of housing types should be created guided by the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). Phasing to mitigate adverse effects on existing infrastructure.
13. Ensure the Borough's national & regional assets reflect wider needs	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+2 This option is likely to ensure that sufficient capacity for growth is provided at the locations of regional and national assets e.g. BIA, NEC.	Enhance public transport provisions to regional development along the M42 corridor.
14. Improve health, reduce health inequalities & promote healthy lifestyles, & encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	0 Locating development on public transport corridors should aid employment opportunities and thus aid public health, but may increase community severance on main corridors and cause negative health effects. Urban expansion is likely to be car based which limits accessibility to health services and cultural / recreational opportunities for those reliant on public transport. High standards of development should result in healthy living environments.	N/A
15. Reduce crime, fear of crime & anti-social behaviour	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	0 More policing may be needed in more places if development is dispersed along main transport corridors. However improvements to main urban areas should in turn increase sense of	Ensure Secure by Design standards within all new development.

					personal safety, security and surveillance.	
16. Encourage development with a better balance between jobs, housing & services, & provide easy & equitable access to opportunities, basic services & amenities for all	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+2 Concentrated development has the potential to create greater synergy between different uses. Development along main transport corridors should provide easy and convenient access.	Ensure balance is achieved through sequential approach to site selection.
Score	7					

Summary
Option 2 revealed negative impact on environmental objectives due to the potential urban expansion into the rural landscape and Green Belt. However, the level of environmental impact would be dependent on proper implementation of mitigation measures. In terms of economic and social impacts, this Option scored well, particularly for accessibility and providing employment and housing land with the potential to create communities which have a better balance of development and accessibility to services.

If this option were to be progressed through the Core Strategy, mitigation measures as discussed in the table would be important. For example, 'priority' corridors should be explored where additional development can support existing uses, new development should focus on previously developed land and sustainable construction methods should be used. The Borough's regional/national assets should also be catered for and in particular sustainable access implemented – for example enhanced public transport provisions on the M42 corridor.

Option 3: Clusters – focused development at main destinations and at some railway stations.						
Development Principles:						
• **Support regeneration**						
• **Support sustainable development principles**						
• **Promote the continued economic success of the Borough**						
• **Support strong town centres as accessible foci for a broad range of uses including residential, cultural, retail, service and employment uses**						
• **Firm urban design controls to protect the character and quality of Solihull's mature suburbs and other attractive areas**						
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	**Impact Dimensions**				**Comment**	**Potential Mitigation Measures**
	Duration	**Likelihood**	**Impact**	**Reversibility**		
Sustainable consumption and production						
1. Encourage sustainable economic growth & prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+1 Allocation of new employment sites is likely to promote sustainable economic growth, however, without incursion into the Green Belt involving the re-drawing of Green Belt boundaries, achieving the required levels of development on new sites for the long term future will be difficult. Allocation of new employment sites at the main centres also limits choice of location by developers seeking to create employment wealth outside of the main centres. There may be boundary/ redevelopment implications when accommodating RSS requirements for offices in Solihull TC. Those disadvantaged communities not in close proximity to these sites are adversely affected if closer locations are available. Policy will promote aggregative effects.	Ensure promotion of economic measures keeps in tandem with needs of the local workforce.
2. Ensure education & training opportunities for all and value the	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+2 Regeneration could provide education and training facilities. Opportunities for	Implement measures to ensure broad development mix at these destinations.

					synergy between facilities within cluster development.	
3.Minimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, increase reuse & recycling, & manage within the Borough	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	0 Regeneration provides opportunities for recycling of land and buildings and sustainable construction. If option relies on incursion of the Green Belt there will be impacts on natural resources.	Development at a higher density should ensure better use of natural resources and ease of implementation of recycling measures within all developments.
4. Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations & local sourcing of food, goods & materials, & encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling & walking	Long	Likely	Direct	No	+2 Concentrating development at main destinations gives the chance for shorter journeys and could reduce the need to travel locally. Concentration of development at some railway stations should provide opportunities to sustainable modes of travel.	Efforts to reduce car dependency by improving public transport and provision of safe and pleasant walking and cycling routes. Green travel plans and implementation of sustainable procurement policies.
Score	5					
Climate change and energy						
5. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency & renewable energy generation	Medium	Potential	Direct	Yes	+1 Regeneration and firm urban design controls should provide opportunities for high quality design standards and there is the potential to incorporate renewables. Focused development also presents an energy efficient pattern of development if the main centres are not car based.	Encourage public transport provision. Energy policy should set out standards to be achieved. Options for sustainable design and construction and also bespoke approaches for designing low/zero carbon energy generation should be considered.
6. Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures & flooding	Long	Likely	Direct	Yes	0 Higher density development within existing centres could allow better use of energy systems. If this option is reliant on incursion into the Green Belt, it would result in the loss of permeable	Allocate land for development within areas of least flood risk in accordance with PPS25 and SFRA (Strategic Flood Risk Assessment). Implementation of sustainable urban drainage

					surfaces. Loss of open space would affect cooling effect.	systems. Measures to reduce surface water flood risk to be designed into new development.
Score	1					
Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement						
7. Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity	Medium	Likely	Direct	Unknown	0 Concentrating development at main destinations protects the rural landscape and possibly protected sites. If this option relies on significant incursion in to the Green Belt then biodiversity will be affected.	Ensure that all new development is in accordance with and contributes to LBAP targets (Local Biodiversity Action Plan).
8. Protect & enhance environmental assets	Medium	Likely	Cumulative	No	0 Concentrating development at main destinations protects the rural landscape and possibly protected sites. However, concentrating on main centres may adversely affect heritage and townscape. Environmental assets will be adversely affected if this option relies on incursion in to the Green Belt.	Assess green infrastructure and identify areas to be conserved and enhanced. Avoid development of recreational areas and important green space. Enable enhancement and provision of greenspace as part of development.
9. Promote high quality built environment & encourage local distinctiveness	Long	Likely	Direct	Yes	+2 Inclusion of firm design controls could protect the character of quality of Solihull's built environment.	N/A
10. Minimise air, soil, light & noise pollution	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	0 Focussed development patterns should support improvements to air, soil, light and noise quality within the Borough as a whole. However, increased cumulative impacts of development within centres are likely to increase congestion and noise/air/light pollution.	The relationship between different developments should be carefully managed to ensure problems of localised noise and light pollution do not occur. To maintain and enhance soil resources, development should predominately be located on previously developed land.
Score	2					
Sustainable communities						
11.Reduce social	Medium	Likely	Indirect	Yes	+1	Ensure objectives of Community

exclusion & disparities within the Borough					Commitment to regeneration should improve social exclusion and disparities.	Strategy are fully integrated with development proposals. Community infrastructure should be targeted in a way that seeks to redress the existing inequalities as well as being delivered alongside new development.
12. Improve the supply & affordability of housing	Medium	Likely	Direct	Yes	+1 Should provide sites to meet the contribution to housing required by the RSS. There is an absence of development sites in Solihull TC which could cause limitations.	A mix of housing types should be created guided by the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). Rural housing policy should address local needs. Suitable phasing will need to be implemented to mitigate adverse effects including pressure on existing infrastructure.
13. Ensure the Borough's national & regional assets reflect wider needs	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+2 This option is likely to ensure that sufficient capacity for growth is provided at the locations of regional and national assets e.g. BIA, NEC.	N/A
14. Improve health, reduce health inequalities & promote healthy lifestyles, & encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+1 Regeneration is likely to increase the provision of health services and quality open space, which should provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles. High standards of development should result in healthy living environments.	Ensure that health service, access to open space and improved air quality result.
15. Reduce crime, fear of crime & anti-social behaviour	Medium	Potential	Indirect	Yes	+1 Concentrated development in main centres should increase sense of personal safety and opportunities for surveillance and security measures. Increased interaction should encourage sense of community.	Ensure Secure by Design standards within all new development.
16. Encourage development with a	Long	Likely	Cumulative	Yes	+1 Concentrated development has the	Ensure balance is achieved through sequential approach.

better balance between jobs, housing & services, & provide easy & equitable access to opportunities, basic services & amenities for all					potential to create greater synergy between different uses. Depends upon application of sustainable development principles and whether access is equitable for all since it is more likely to be car based.	Efforts to promote take up of public transport options should be encouraged. Major regeneration projects will require a strategic approach that ensures that retail, office, residential and leisure uses are complementary to, rather than competing with the uses that exist in the main centres in the borough.
Score	7					

Summary

Concentrated development has the potential to reduce car based travel and provide opportunities for shorter journeys with linked trips, which has direct impacts for energy efficiency and pollution. The economies of scale associated with such development should also encourage sustainable economic growth and the development of the borough's national and regional assets should also be promoted through this option. It is considered that there will be indirect improvements to health and crime reduction and the inclusion of firm design controls will also ensure that the character of Solihull's environment is protected.

However, it is unclear at this stage whether option 1 relies significantly on incursion into the Green Belt and should this be the case it is considered likely that the environmental impacts will be higher. For that reason, appropriate mitigation measures will be essential to ensure proper implementation to minimise any adverse impacts. For example, new developments should be constructed in a sustainable manner taking full account of their impact on natural resources and the opportunities to minimise greenhouse gas emissions. While this option does support sustainable development principles, it remains the case that all new developments, unless wholly constructed from the re-use and recycling of materials and renewable resources and energy, inevitably will have an adverse impact on the earth's natural resources and mitigation measures will be key to ensuring that social and economic benefits are not gained to the detriment of the environment.

Table 8: Appraisal Scores

Sustainability Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Sustainable consumption and production			
1. Encourage sustainable economic growth & prosperity for all in a diverse local economy, with employment opportunities suited to the needs of the local workforce	0	+2	+1
2. Ensure education & training opportunities for all and value the contribution of unpaid work	+1	+1	+2
3.Minimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, increase reuse & recycling, & manage within the Borough	+1	-1	0
4. Reduce the need to travel by encouraging housing growth in accessible locations & local sourcing of food, goods & materials, & encourage the use of more sustainable modes, such as public transport, cycling & walking	+1	+2	+2
Economic Impact Score	**3**	**4**	**5**
Climate change and energy			
5. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy use, encourage energy efficiency & renewable energy generation	-1	0	+1
6. Protect all from the impacts of climate change, such as increased temperatures & flooding	-1	0	0
Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement			
7. Conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity	+1	-1	0
8. Protect & enhance environmental assets	+1	-1	0
9. Promote high quality built environment & encourage local distinctiveness	+1	-1	+2
10. Minimise air, soil, light & noise pollution	0	-1	0
Environmental Impact Score	**1**	**- 4**	**3**
Sustainable communities			
11.Reduce social exclusion & disparities within the Borough	+2	+1	+1
12. Improve the supply & affordability of housing	-1	+2	+1
13. Ensure the Borough's national & regional assets reflect wider needs	-1	+2	+2
14. Improve health, reduce health inequalities & promote healthy lifestyles, & encourage increased cultural and recreational opportunities for all	+1	0	+1
15. Reduce crime, fear of crime & anti-social behaviour	+1	0	+1
16. Encourage development with a better balance between jobs, housing & services, & provide easy & equitable access to opportunities, basic services & amenities for all	+1	+2	+1
Social Impact Score	**3**	**7**	**7**

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6 Conclusions, Recommendations and Monitoring (B6)

6.1 Conclusions

Core strategy Objectives

6.1.1 The Appraisal reveals that the Solihull LDF Core Strategy Objectives are generally in accordance with the SA Framework. However, where possible conflicts are apparent, recommendations to improve the Objectives have been suggested.

6.1.2 **Table 6** discusses possible conflicts between the SA Framework Objectives and Core Strategy objectives and makes general recommendations. Specific recommendations for each of the core strategy objectives are then made in **Table 6a**. Recommendations for improvement include improved wording of objectives to give greater clarity, improved promotion of sustainability (through amended wording) and merging of some objectives to simplify the overall list of Core Strategy Objectives.

Options Appraisal

6.1.3 **This Interim Sustainability Appraisal has assessed the three draft strategic growth options identified by Solihull MBC to guide the location of development within the Borough of Solihull:**

   o **Option 1 - Consolidation of Current Development Plan Principles;**

   o **Option 2 - Corridors;**

   o **Option 3 - Clusters.**

6.1.4 This Initial Appraisal reveals that Option 3 (Cluster Development) provides the most sustainable strategic approach for Solihull Borough for the plan period of the Core Strategy up to 2026. (This is based on the description of Development Principles for each option agreed by the Solihull Members Advisory Group in August 2008).

6.1.5 However, this Appraisal does rely on certain assumptions as to how development will take place and is based on the information available. The Appraisal is clear that extensive mitigation measures will need to be in place as more specific options and policies are developed and implemented to ensure that the most sustainable pattern of development is implemented. These findings and recommendations are further discussed below.

6.1.6 The sustainability implications of the three strategic options (set out in **Table 7** and **Table 8**) has been discussed in terms of economic, environmental and social impacts. All three options have scored relatively well in terms of economic impacts however there are clearer contrasts for the environmental impacts. For all options, but particularly options 2 and 3 (which are more likely to support higher growth up to 2026), this would lead to greater resource use and more pollution. In particular, option 2 would have more impacts on the landscape and biodiversity because of the potential urban extension into the rural landscape.

6.1.7   Whilst option 1 specifically supports regeneration in north Solihull, option 3 also supports regeneration and this is to be focused in the main centres; one of which is Chelmsley Wood. Therefore it is likely that option 3 can also address the existing economic and social inequalities in north Solihull, but perhaps to a lesser extent dependent upon the scale of targeted growth.

6.1.8   As discussed, inevitably there will be environmental impacts associated with providing the required housing, employment land and associated infrastructure to meet the needs of Solihull over the period to 2026. Given the boundaries of the Green Belt to the east of the borough, it may be necessary for some redefining of the boundaries and/or some development in smaller rural settlements, in order to provide employment and housing growth requirements. In order to provide equitable access between the north and south, and to overcome the accessibility problems for some of the smaller rural settlements, an affordable and efficient public transport network needs to created so that places are not car dependant. Alternative mechanisms for reducing vehicular trips must be promoted, for instance improved access to Broadband and IT, community transport schemes and the promotion of more flexible working patterns. To encourage a modal switch in urban areas, employers and developers need to be encouraged to submit Green Travel plans and explore opportunities to minimise car parking spaces.

6.1.9   An impact of concern is traffic generation and the associated impacts on air quality. There are already some congestion issues in Solihull and Shirley town centres. The town centres of (Solihull, Shirley and Chelmsley Wood) are, however, sustainable locations for locating development given their accessibility, which is well served by rail and bus services, so that in transport terms there is no better location in the borough for locating development. To prevent adverse impacts, however, it is important that for all new developments in the main centres have their transport implications carefully assessed. The approval of developments should be conditional on appropriate measures to prevent the existing traffic situation becoming worse and the opportunity should be taken to implement measures that will improve the situation wherever possible. In the long term the only way of tackling growth is likely to be through smarter transport solutions such as congestion charging and a new public transport system which may comprise guided buses and park ride facilities beyond the centre boundaries.

6.1.10   Each option provides a strategic approach to targeting growth which means that each option has the potential to locate development in areas where sustainable transport patterns can be promoted (for example, greater use of public transport to services, facilities and employment). In terms of option 3, directing growth to existing urban areas should also minimise the loss of greenfield land to development, and therefore avoid adverse impacts to the Borough's most sensitive natural environments. However, regardless of which option is chosen, the absolute number of trips by car and lorry will rise with the increase in households, and is likely that air pollution will continue to be a constraint to growth. Furthermore, high levels of growth will require strong measures to reduce waste production since it has been identified as an existing significant problem throughout Solihull.

6.2   Difficulties encountered

6.2.1   A key issue in undertaking the appraisal of the Core Strategy was the strategic nature of the document and the uncertainty surrounding precisely how its ambitions would be implemented on the ground and the degree to which they would be achieved in practice (particularly since

many different partners are involved in its delivery). Due to the high level, strategic nature of much of the Core Strategy, the appraisal has identified relative uncertainty when predicting many of the effects.

6.2.2   Within the SA Framework a number of objectives have been used to cover Sustainability and these are considered comprehensive enough to cover most eventualities. The combination of sustainability objectives is an important matter. Numerically, there are more environmental and social objectives than economic ones.

6.2.3   However the assessment process is not intended to be viewed as a quantitative assessment in which adding up the numbers creates the answer. Rather, the objectives pose a series of challenges to the proposal to draw out its effects.

6.2.4   The description of each of the options is still fairly general at this stage. Due to the qualitative nature of the appraisal, this could lead to uncertainties, depending on the individual's viewpoint.

6.3   Monitoring

6.3.1   Solihull MBC currently undertakes monitoring through the **Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)**. This is required to monitor and report on the implementation of Solihull's planning policies and proposals as well as progress towards producing the planning documents set out in our Local Development Scheme (LDS). Each year an Annual Monitoring Report is submitted to the Secretary of State by 31st December, covering the previous monitoring period, 1st April - 31st March.

6.4   Recommendations

6.4.1   The following recommendations have been put forward to improve the Core Strategy Options and support the Sustainability Appraisal process.

- More comprehensive development principles would provide better clarity of what each option is trying to achieve and would support appraisal of the option when predicting effects.
- Precision of terms within each option. For example, the difference between 'supporting regeneration' (option3) and 'supporting the urban renaissance' (option1) should be explained.
- It is unclear whether option 3 will rely purely on focussed development in the main centres or whether there is the potential for significant incursion into the Green Belt.
- Development principles must be clear and precise to reduce uncertainty when predicting effects.
- All options should include reference to 'sustainable development principles' and 'firm urban design controls' (currently just within Option 3).

6.4.2   In general, access to more of the evidence base in relation to housing land availability and housing market assessment would strengthen the appraisal prior to the review.

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Appendix 1 – Meeting European legislative requirements

European Directive 2001/42/EC *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment* requires certain plans and programmes prepared in the UK to undergo a 'strategic environmental assessment' (SEA). The SEA Directive requires the preparation of an 'environmental report' on the findings of the assessment and this report must include certain information. This is set out in **Table 9** below.

This report is not the final 'environmental report'. However, it has been set out in the format required by the SEA Directive to allow a clear audit trail. The table below indicates where in this report this information can be found.

Please note that the Directive requires a non technical summary which, must, in turn, summarise the information in the environmental report itself. Since this report is an Initial SA/SEA it is considered that the Non-Technical Summary is not necessary – however this must be produced for the Final SA Report (Environmental Report).

<p style="text-align:center">Table 9: Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive</p>

SEA Directive requirement	Section of this report
(a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	**Chapter 4**
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	**Chapter 2**
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	**Chapter 2**
(d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (The Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive);	**Chapter 4**
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	**Chapter 5 and 6**

SEA Directive requirement	Section of this report
(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 the interrelationship between the above factors;	**Chapter 5 and 6**
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	**Chapter 5 and 6**
(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;	**Chapter 5 and 6**
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	**Chapter 6**
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	**N/A for this Initial SA/SEA Appraisal. However will need to be provided in the Final SA Report (Environmental Report).**

Appendix 2 - Glossary

Appropriate Assessment

AA is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan on one or more European sites[3]. The 'assessment' proper is a statement - which could be as brief as one sentence - which says whether the plan does, or does not, affect the integrity of a European site. However the process of determining whether or not the plan will affect the site(s) is also commonly referred to as 'appropriate assessment'. The process will usually be documented in a report, entitled something like 'information in support of an appropriate assessment'. The assessment is termed 'appropriate' because it should be 'appropriate' to its purpose under the Habitats Regulations, namely to assess the implications of the plan in respect of the site's 'conservation objectives'.

Area Action Plan (AAP)

A type of Development Plan Document focusing on implementation, providing an important mechanism for ensuring development of an appropriate scale, mix and quality for key areas of opportunity, change or conservation.

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[3] European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) as well as potential SPAs (pSPAs), candidate SACs (cSACs) and Ramsar sites. It should be noted that the Habitats Regulations do not provide statutory protection for pSPAs or to candidate cSACs before they have been agreed with the European Commission. However, PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation makes clear that for the purposes of considering development proposals affecting them, as a matter of policy, the Government wishes pSPAs and cSACs included in a list sent to the European Commission, to be considered in the same way as if they had already been classified or designated. It should be noted that very few cSACs still await decisions regarding their designation as SACs. Listed Ramsar sites, also as a matter of policy, should receive the same protection as designated SPAs and SACs.

Adoption statement	A statement prepared by the Local Planning Authority notifying the public that the Development Plan Document or Supplementary Planning Document has been adopted. This is required by Regulation 36 for Development Plan Documents and Regulation 19 for Supplementary Planning Document in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
	A statement on the main issues raised during the consultation on the sustainability appraisal and how these were taken into account in the development of the Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents as required by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, is recommended to be included in the Adoption Statement.
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Assesses the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies in Local Development Documents are being achieved.
Consultation Body	An authority which because of its environmental responsibilities is likely to be concerned by the effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted under the SEA Directive. The Consultation Bodies in England are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency.
Consultation Statement	A statement prepared by a Local Planning Authority for a Supplementary Planning Document under regulation 17 (1) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Core Strategy	Should set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It should comprise: a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving delivery.
Development Plan Documents (DPD)	A type of Local Development Document. DPDs include the Core Strategy, site specific allocations of land and Area Action Plans (where needed).
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A generic term used to describe environmental assessment as applied to projects. In this guide 'EIA' is used to refer to the type of assessment required under the European Directive 337/85/EEC.
Indicator	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Output indicator	An indicator that measures the direct output of the plan or programme. These indicators measure progress in achieving a plan objective, targets and policies.
Significant effects indicator	An indicator that measures the significant effects of the plan.
Contextual indicator	An indicator used in monitoring that measures changes in the context within which a plan is being implemented.
Local Development Document (LDD)	There are two types of Local Development Document: Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Local Development Framework (LDF)	Sets out, in the form of a 'portfolio', the Local Development Documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the area in question. The LDF also includes the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.
Local Development Scheme (LDS)	Sets out the local authority's programme for preparing the Local Development Documents**.**
Local Development Regulations	Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. Town and Country Planning (Transitional Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2004.
Mitigation	Used in this guidance to refer to measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects on the environment.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Option	For the purposes of this guidance option is synonymous with 'alternative' in the SEA Directive.
Plan	For the purposes of the SEA Directive this is used to refer to all of the documents to which this guidance applies, including Regional Spatial Strategy revisions and Development Plan Documents. Supplementary Planning Documents are not part of the statutory Development Plan but are required to have a sustainability appraisal.

PPS11	Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies
PPS12	Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks
Pre-submission consultation statement	A statement prepared by a Local Planning Authority for a Development Plan Document pursuant to regulation 28(1)(c) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a Sustainability Appraisal.
Screening	The process of deciding whether a document requires a SA.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (which transposed the SEA Directive into law).
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	A statement setting out the consultation procedures for a Local Planning Authority. Explains to stakeholders and the community how and when they will be involved in the preparation of the Local Development Framework, and the steps that will be taken to facilitate this involvement.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. In the UK, SEA is increasingly used to

refer to an environmental assessment in compliance with the 'SEA Directive'.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)   A type of Local Development Document. Supplementary Planning Documents are intended to elaborate on DPD policies and proposals but do not have their statutory status.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)   *Generic term used to describe a form of assessment which considers the economic, social and environmental effects of an initiative.   SA, as applied to Local Development Documents, incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.*

Sustainability issues   The full cross-section of sustainability issues, including social, environmental and economic factors.