

SA Commentary Technical Appendices



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Assessment of Plans, Policies and Programmes 1

What are Plan, Policies and Programmes?

1.1 A plan is a set of linked actions, with a specific timeframe that implement the policy: for instance how much nuclear power to produce by 2020; a staged approach to testing and introducing genetically modified foods.

1.2 A policy is an aspiration and guidance for action: for instance whether or not to promote the development of nuclear in Country A; whether to promote more intensive forms of agricultural production.

1.3 A programme is a set of projects in a particular area that implement the plan: for instance four new nuclear power stations with X capacity in area Y by 2020; a series of test sites for genetically modified foods.

1.4 In practice this terminology is not consistently used, nor are these distinctions and stages very clear. What is important is that more strategic actions affect other strategic actions and, ultimately, projects.

Reviewing Plans, Policies and Programmes

1.5 A plan may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes and by external environmental objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. Therefore a review of relevant plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) is essential to highlight these relationships for the Sustainability Appraisal process.

1.6 Through the identification of these relationships it is possible to address potential inconsistencies and constraints, enabling potential synergies to be exploited. The review is also useful in raising issues that have already been addressed in other PPPs and therefore may not need to be addressed further in this exercise. Finally the review also provides a useful focus for refining Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

1.7 The SEA Directive states that:

The environmental report should provide information on:

‘the plan’s relationship with other relevant plans and programmes and the environmental protection objectives, established at international, [European] Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan ... and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation’. (Annex I (a), (e))

1.8 Typically International and National PPPs that are dealt with in the first part of this Technical Appendix would ordinarily be covered by the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) rather than the SA of the LDF. However at this point in time this analysis has not been carried out for the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2 Introducing the review table

2.1 The following tables outlines all of the policies, plans and strategies at the international, national, regional and local levels which will have a bearing on the Local Development Framework DPD based on the Sustainability Appraisal objectives listed below.

Economic Objectives

1. To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment
2. To ensure high and stable levels of economic diversity and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues
3. To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages and their communities
4. To support the needs of the local rural economy and communities
5. To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as risk of flooding, on public well-being, the economy and the environment

Social Objectives

6. To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home
7. To improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services
8. To reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime
9. To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution
10. To improve health, safety and well-being across the whole community

Environmental Objectives

11. To reduce societal contributions to climate change
12. To protect and enhance biodiversity
13. To protect and conserve soil
14. To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers whilst maximizing their carrying capacity and achieving sustainable water resource management.

15. To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character.

Community Objectives

16. To create a sense of community identity and belonging
17. To ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities
18. To ensure that all individuals and groups in society have the opportunity to efficiently engage in issues relating to their community
19. To encourage strong, inclusive, community and voluntary sector
20. To engender a sense of civic and neighbourhood values, responsibility and pride.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 1

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan options	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS1</p> <p>Policies should promote mixed-use developments for locations that allow the creation of linkages between different uses and can thereby create more vibrant places.</p>	<p>80% of planning applications within three weeks</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>

Introducing the review table 2

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Development should support existing communities and contribute to the creation of safe, sustainable liveable and mixed communities with good access to jobs and key services for all members of the community.</p>			
<p>PPG 4</p> <p>Development plans should aim to ensure that there is sufficient land available which is readily capable of development and well served by infrastructure.</p> <p>They should also ensure that there are a variety of sites available to meet differing needs.</p> <p>In rural areas, applications for development necessary to sustain the rural economy should be weighed with the need to protect the countryside in terms of, for example, its landscape, wildlife, agriculture, natural resources and recreational value.</p>	<p>Encourage new development in locations that minimise the length and number of trips, especially by motor vehicles.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>PPG 4</p>	<p>Emphasis on the sequential approach to selecting sites for development, for retail,</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Local Planning Authorities should ensure that their development plans contain clear land-use policies for different types of industrial and commercial development through positive policies to provide for small businesses.</p> <p>Industrial buildings in an area of open countryside will not become more acceptable because their occupancy is restricted; nor will the expansion of a local firm necessarily lead to less pressure for further development (e.g. housing) than an outside firm.</p>	<p>employment, leisure and other key town centre uses.</p>		
<p>PPS 6 A sequential approach should be applied in selecting appropriate sites for allocation with the centres where identified need is to be met</p>	<p>No specific targets included apart from advocating the use of the sequential approach</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>PPS 6 Provision is made for a range of sites for shopping, leisure and local services, which allow genuine choice to meet the needs of the whole community, particularly the needs of those living in deprived areas.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands This promotes employment-led growth and diversification in North Staffordshire</p>	<p>The target provision for urban areas should not preclude further quality employment land within the built-up area being brought forward in response to as yet unidentified regeneration opportunities.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>West Midlands Economic Strategy - 'Connecting to Success' Strategic Objective Developing markets and sectors with the most wealth and employment potential</p>		<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action for the West Midlands Business Clusters – This Framework outlines ten clusters that aim to increase the region's competitive advantage, reputation and wealth creation in key markets and industries, by encouraging businesses to collaborate and exploit strategic opportunities</p>	<p>Creating conditions for growth. The priorities relevant to the plan are to: Secure delivery of the West Midlands transport priorities, Support urban renaissance, Support rural renaissance, Supply good - quality employment land, Regenerate Brownfield land; and Develop the region's ICT infrastructure.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Community Priorities are to: Tackle economic exclusion; Develop a dynamic and sustainable social economy and Revitalise our market towns</p>			
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011 Employment land provision and distribution provision is for 1,245 hectares (gross) of employment land in the industrial, office, warehousing and distribution sectors (Class B uses) between 1996 and 2011.</p>	<p>Stafford Borough's provision is to identify 150 hectares of employment land</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011 Increasing the Choice of Sites - Existing allocations and expiring permissions for employment land should be reviewed to see whether reallocation for alternative uses would provide for more sustainable development.</p>	<p>The provision of new employment land, in accordance with these requirements should complement rather than duplicate the existing stock of sites by creating a more diverse land portfolio increasingly able to meet different market requirements as they arise.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011 Locational Factors for New Sites - New employment sites should be located where the</p>	<p>In all cases, regard should be given to: (a) the availability of utility services; (b) access to the strategic highway and rail networks for the distribution of goods and services; (c) the</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>requirements of those firms most likely to be accommodated on them can be met.</p>	<p>presence of a nearby potential workforce; (d) the capability of being served by public transport;(e) the availability of pedestrian and cycle links between the site and adjoining residential areas;(f) the capability of existing services being able to be extended or improved to allow for future site expansion, when and if appropriate; (g) avoiding the sterilisation of mineral reserves; (h) the ability to reuse PDL.</p>		
<p>Stafford Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020 Economic and development theme (c) The aim is to provide a range of land and premises, with good access and communications attributes</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>·Economic and Development Theme (b) – Marketing the Borough To highlight the quality of opportunity that exists, in terms of workforce, accessibility, accommodation and environment, local distinctiveness and develop further our targeted inward investment campaign.</p>			

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 7 Promote competitive, diverse and thriving rural enterprise that provides a range of jobs and underpins strong economies.</p>	<p>Local planning authorities should identify suitable sites for future employment use in development plans</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>PPS 7</p>	<p>Local planning authorities should: ii. make provision for new</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where farming achieves high environmental standards, minimising impact on natural resources, and contributes both directly and indirectly to rural economic diversity.	buildings, as well as the re-use of existing buildings, for industrial and business development; iii. clarify the scale of allowable business developments in different locations iv. set out policies on the future expansion of business premises in rural areas, allowing where possible for reasonable future expansion on site.		
PPG 4 Policies included in development plans should provide for choice, flexibility and competition	Policies should also ensure that there is a variety of sites available to meet differing needs. A choice of suitable sites will facilitate competition between developers; this will benefit end-users and stimulate economic activity.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
PPS12 The LDF should contain within its documents, an integrated set of policies which are based on a clear understanding of the economic, social and environmental needs of area.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996 – 2011	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Providing a portfolio of sustainable employment sites, which is available and attractive to a wide range of potential users.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2010 Economic and Development Theme (c) Infrastructure for Growth. To provide adequate infrastructure support for both new and existing organisations. Provide range of land and premises	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
Screen Image and Sound 3 year strategic business plan 2005-08 (SIS Cluster Opportunity Group / Advantage West Midlands) To support effective, innovative and well targeted opportunities for development and learning for business, professional and creative craft skills.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
Tomorrows Tourism Toady 2004 Local Authorities should ensure continuous improvement in the quality of our tourism products	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>West Midlands Economic Strategy - 'Connecting to Success'</p> <p>Strategic Objective</p> <p>Capitalising on sustainability and low-carbon opportunities</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 3

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPG2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built up areas; To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another. To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and To assist in urban 	<p>Once Green Belts have been defined, the use of land in them has a positive role to play in fulfilling the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population. To provide opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation near urban areas. To retain attractive landscapes, and enhance landscapes, near to where people live; 	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · To improve damaged and derelict land around towns; · To secure nature conservation interest; and · To retain land in agricultural, forestry and related uses. 		
<p>PPS 3 A key objective is to make effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed.</p>	National target is that at least 60 per cent of new housing should be provided on previously developed land.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
<p>PPS 3 Ensure that housing is developed in suitable locations which offer a range of community facilities with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.</p>		All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
<p>PPS 3 At the local level, Local Development Documents should include a local target and trajectory and strategies for bringing previously developed land into housing use.</p>	PPS3 states that the national annual target is that at least 60 per cent of new housing should be provided on previously developed land. Local planning authorities may wish to set out a range of densities across the plan area rather than one broad density range although 30 dwellings per hectare	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020 Economic and Development Theme (b) Marketing the Borough	should be use as a national indicative minimum.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 4

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>A Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food 2002</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the viability and diversity of rural and urban economies and communities through provision rural infrastructure and access <p>This will achieve:</p> <p>Prosperous rural economies to which a thriving agriculture industry contributes, Cohesive and inclusive rural communities with access to good public and private service; and An accessible countryside for all to enjoy.</p>	Reduced gap in productivity between the less well performing quartile of rural areas and the English median by 2006 and Improved accessibility of services for rural people.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 3 In providing for affordable housing in rural communities, where opportunities for delivering affordable housing tend to be more limited, the aim should be to deliver high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages.</p>	<p>Consider the relationship between settlements so as to ensure that growth is distributed in a way that supports informal social support networks, assists people to live near their work and benefit from key services, and minimise environmental impact and where possible encourage environmental benefits.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>PPS3 When assessing the level of housing provision take account of A sustainability appraisal of the environmental, social and economic impacts including costs, benefits and risks of development. This will include considering the most sustainable pattern of housing, including in urban and rural areas.</p>	<p>Consider the relationship between settlements so as to ensure that growth is distributed in a way that supports informal social support networks, assists people to live near their work and benefit from key services, and minimise environmental impact and where possible encourage environmental benefits.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>PPS 3 LPA's should set out criteria to be used for identifying broad locations and specific sites taking into account: The need to provide housing in rural</p>	<p>Consider the relationship between settlements so as to ensure that growth is distributed in a way that supports informal social support networks, assists people to live near their work</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>areas, not only in market towns and local service centres but also in villages in order to enhance or maintain their sustainability.</p>	<p>and benefit from key services, minimise environmental impact and where possible encourage environmental benefits.</p>		
<p>PPS 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People who work in rural areas should have reasonable access to a range of services and facilities 	<p>Facilitate and plan for accessible new services through Local Development Documents, Ensure new developments are supported by improvements to public transport and to walking and cycling facilities, Support mixed and multi purpose uses that maintain community validity</p> <p>Support the provision of small scale, local facilities to meet community outside identified service centres.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Forestry Commission West Midlands Delivery Plan WE3</p> <p>To help new initiatives and share knowledge for creating a shared market.</p>	<p>10% renewables in new developments adopted as regional target; 25% LGA's with biomass installations by 2009</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>See Sustainability target for SA Objective 'To reduce societal contributions to climate change'.</p>
<p>Shaping the Future of Staffordshire 2005 – 2020 – The Sustainable Strategy for the County</p> <p>Developing strong and</p>	<p>Ensure that where changes in land use occur, positive enhancements are included that provide greater value than any existing assets lost</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
sustainable rural communities by improving access to services, opportunities and the number of quality jobs available, while also protecting and enhancing the environment.			
Rural Renaissance: Advantage West Midlands' Rural Framework Achieve sustainable development in the rural West Midlands by improving access to opportunity and the number and quality of jobs available within sustainable rural communities.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 5

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
1992 Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Precautionary Principle: ‘Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.’</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
<p>PPS 3 Flood risk is identified as a consideration when Local Planning Authorities identify broad locations and specific sites.</p>	<p>Ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process, including the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment that will contribute to the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA will cross refer to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in future reports. Reference is made to SFRA in section 12 of the Scoping Report.
<p>PPS 25 LPA's should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by: Appraising risk, Managing risk, Reducing risk Flood Zone Apply sequential Test to allocating land for development to demonstrate there are no reasonably available sites in areas with a lower degree of flooding.</p>			

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Rural Strategy 2004 Recognises that flood risk will increase with climate change and increased development. It highlights the impact on both rural and urban areas.	Reduce numbers of properties at risk from flooding	All development strategy options	The SA indicators in relation to this objective could be updated to include numbers of properties at risk from flooding. This information will be providing in the SFRA

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 6

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
PPS 1 Ensure the provision of sufficient, good quality, new homes (including an appropriate mix of housing and adequate levels of affordable housing	Housing completions compared with targets as set by Regional Spatial Strategy	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
PPS 3 Planning system should deliver a mix of housing, both market and affordable, particularly in terms of tenure and price, to support a wide variety of households in all areas, both urban and rural.	The national target is that by 2008, 60% of additional housing should be provided on previously developed land and through conversions of existing buildings.	All development strategy options	The key policy requirement with regard to previously developed land is overridden by the Structure Plan target of 55% for Stafford Borough.

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
High quality housing that is well-designed and built to a high standard	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA objective, indicator and target complies with the identified policy requirement SA Objective 4.
PPS 7 The priorities within PPS3 should be applied with due consideration of the specific context / needs of rural areas.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
Rural Strategy 2004 Highlights the need for affordable housing that helps sustain mixed and viable rural communities. Planning policy supports this aim through specific provisions to provide affordable housing in small rural settlements.	End fuel poverty in vulnerable households by 2010 and in all households by 2016-2018	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA targets refers to energy efficiency that supports this policy requirement.
UK Fuel Poverty Strategy Focuses primarily on measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce the costs of fuel for fuel poor households.			

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>The strategy aims to combat this by tackling poor energy efficiency in homes and low incomes. Other factors include the size of some properties in relation to the number of people living in them, and the cost of fuel.</p>			
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020 Prosperity Theme (a) Ensure that the housing stock offers to everyone the opportunity of a decent home at a price they can afford. Such homes to be accessible and resource efficient.</p>		<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>Review the wording of the Sustainability targets. The number of unfit dwellings target should be changed from – ‘Meet Government’s Decent Homes Standards by 2004’ to the targets given in this plan.</p>
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Region A substantial majority of the additional housing provision across the region should take the form of new housing on previously developed land and conversions within urban areas.</p>	<p>The West Midlands Local Government Association have been asked to identify a target for the proportion of new housing to be developed from these sources up to 2011, and have indicated that at least 61% of new housing across the region as a whole should be found on recycled sites.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. This should be reviewed in line with the RSS partial review.</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Staffordshire & Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996 – 2011</p> <p>Accommodating the pressures for housing in Southern Staffordshire in such a way as to create a more sustainable development pattern. · The need to use some Greenfield land in sustainable locations is unavoidable if people are to be housed in the numbers required. · In order to create sustainable communities, proposals for large residential schemes should include a mix of compatible land uses.</p> <p>Provision should be made for sites suitable for a wide range of dwellings to meet differing and changing housing needs, including the special needs.</p>	<p>70,400 should be in the Plan Area.5,600 to be accommodated in the Core Strategy area – A target of 55% on previously developed landDistrict Councils should consider the use of minimum density policies and ensure that housing within urban areas should include high density development located within and adjacent to town and local centres and at other points of high public transport accessibility. With 50% target for development on recycled land in Stafford.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Stafford Borough Councils Homelessness Strategy 2002</p> <p>Ensure decent appropriate housing is available and where appropriate allow people to remain in their homes for life</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Maximise supply of new affordable housing and improve access to existing affordable housing			
Stafford Borough Council Housing Strategy 2003 Maximise supply of affordable housing in both rural and urban areas throughout the Borough Promote quality and choice across all housing tenures	Reduce the number of unfit dwellings in the Borough by 10%.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. To be reviewed in line with Housing Strategy updates

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 7

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
A Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food 2002 Better public health, in particular through improved nutrition and workplace health and safety.	Consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.
PPS 3	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>The planning system should deliver: Housing developments in suitable locations, which offer a good range of community facilities and with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.</p> <p>When assessing design quality include the extent to which the proposed development; is easily accessible and well-connected to public transport and community facilities and services, and is well laid out so that all the space is used efficiently, is safe, accessible and user friendly</p>			
<p>Staffordshire County Council Local Transport Plan Vision: 'To bring forward an integrated and sustainable transport Strategy safe and pleasant environment'</p>	<p>The Local Transport Plans policy for Land Use – ' Meet the needs of existing Staffordshire residents without compromising the needs of future residents'.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2020</p>	<p>To support the development of new and improved sporting facilities</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Prosperity Theme – (b) Access to Services· Health Theme (b) Healthy Lifestyles. Promoting healthy lifestyles for all groups in the population.			
Sign up for Sport – A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands: 2004-2008 Local Authorities to complete the assessment of needs and opportunities of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in accordance with the requirements of PPG17	50% of Local authorities completed by 2006 100% of Local authorities completed by 2008	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 8

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Development Plans and other strategies should · promote the creation of high quality built environments as part of urban and rural renaissance and the regeneration strategies for the Region's cities, towns and villages.</p> <p>Particular attention should be given to: creating safer environments that discourage crime; and promoting community safety.</p>			
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020</p> <p>Community Safety Theme (c) To promote Stafford Borough and it's diverse neighbourhoods as a safe place in which to live, travel, work and visit.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	Wording of sustainability objectives reviewed to ensure that all relevant PPP objectives.
<p>PPG 24</p> <p>The impact of noise can be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.</p>	This outlines the WHO guidelines where "general daytime outdoor noise levels of less than 55 dB (A) Leq are desirable to prevent any significant community annoyance".57 dB(A) Leq (previously 35 NNI) relates to	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Further detail regarding implications to be explored during subsequent Sustainability Appraisals of more specific Development Plan Documents.

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
	the onset of annoyance as established by noise measurements and social surveys. "based on limited data available, a level of less than 35dB (A) is recommended to preserve the restorative process of sleep" and this is considered more relevant when seeking to achieve the best practicable conditions for rest and sleep.		

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 9

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
PPG 24 The planning system should ensure that, wherever practicable, noise-sensitive developments are separated from major sources of noise.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
PPG 24 Special consideration is required where noisy development is proposed in or near Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).	Proposals likely to affect SSSIs designated as internationally important under the EC Habitats or Birds Directives or the Ramsar Convention require extra scrutiny. Special consideration should	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
	<p>also be given to development that would affect the quiet enjoyment of the National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coasts. The effect of noise on the enjoyment of other areas of landscape, wildlife and historic value should also be taken into account</p>	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. To be reviewed in line with the RSS partial review.
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Creating a high quality built environment for all Development Plans and other strategies should promote the creation of high quality built environments as part of urban and rural renaissance and the regeneration strategies for the Region's cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>Particular attention should be given to: Assessing and minimising the impacts of noise and light pollution as a result of development.</p>	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food Ensure that all consumers have access to nutritious food.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Sustainability Appraisal Objective 10

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan Options	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 3 Housing When assessing design quality include the extent to which the proposed development: Provides, or enables good access to, community and green and open amenity and recreational space (including play space) as well as private outdoor space such as residential gardens, patios and balconies, Takes a design-led approach to the provision of car-parking space, that is well-integrated with a high quality public realm and streets that are pedestrian, cycle and vehicle friendly</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 – 2020 Prosperity Theme (b) Access to Services – to ensure that access to services and benefits is available for all sections of our community.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 – 2020</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Community Safety Theme (a) Engage with young people and encourage participation in education activities.			
Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2003 – 2006 Health theme (b) Healthy Lifestyles. Promote healthy lifestyles for all groups in the population.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
Englands Rural Development Programme (Defra, 2005) En 3.1 To use the planning system to achieve sustainable development and protect and enhance the natural and built assets and provide an attractive, healthy and accessible environment	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 11

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra, 2002)	Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from food and farming	All development strategy options	

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Achieve consistently high standards of environmental performance by reducing energy consumption, by minimising resource inputs, and use renewable energy wherever possible.</p>	<p>Energy White Paper – Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy</p> <p>This White Paper sets out the Government's overall goals for UK energy policy.</p> <p>The future energy system will require greater involvement from English regions and from local communities, complemented by a planning system that is more helpful to investment in infrastructure and new electricity generation, particularly renewables.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Further detail regarding implications to be explored during subsequent Sustainability Appraisals of more specific Development Plan Documents.</p>
<p>Energy White Paper – Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy</p> <p>This White Paper sets out the Government's overall goals for UK energy policy.</p> <p>The future energy system will require greater involvement from English regions and from local communities, complemented by a planning system that is more helpful to investment in infrastructure and new electricity generation, particularly renewables.</p>	<p>The aim is to put the UK on a path to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020, and to maintain reliable and competitive energy supplies.</p> <p>Target to generate 10% of UK electricity from renewable energy sources by 2010. The White Paper set out the Government's aspiration to double that figure to 20% by 2020.</p> <p>Clear Skies, a three-year capital grant programme worth £10m, for schemes such as solar water heating and biomass heat which have a strong community or household focus.</p>		

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan Options	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 22 Policies cover technologies such as onshore wind generation, hydro, photovoltaics, passive solar, biomass and energy crops, energy from waste, and landfill and sewage gas.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra, 2002) Achieve consistently high standards of environmental performance by reducing energy consumption, by minimising resource inputs, and use renewable energy wherever possible.</p>	<p>Reduced greenhouse gas emissions from food and farming</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands - Creating a high quality built environment for all Development Plans and other strategies should promote the creation of high quality built environments as part of urban and rural renaissance and the regeneration strategies for the Region's cities, towns and villages.</p>	<p>Particular attention should be given to: incorporating sustainability considerations such as energy and water efficiency, use of renewable energy, sustainable construction and drainage, building orientation, use of recycled materials, minimisation of waste, construction materials, and prolonging the lifespan of buildings.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. To be reviewed in line with the RSS partial review.</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Forestry and Woodlands; the by-products of woodland management and wood processing together with species such as willows are increasingly important as fuel for renewable energy production in the Region.</p>	<p>Development plans, other strategies and programmes should encourage tree cover in the Region to be increased, where it is appropriate to the character of the area) taking account of the Regional Forestry Framework) and in ways that reinforce and support the Spatial Strategy by: promoting, where appropriate, opportunities for short rotation coppice as a raw material and where this can provide a renewable energy resource.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>See Sustainability target for SA Objective 'To protect and enhance Biodiversity'. Review in line with the RSS partial review.</p>
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Energy Conservation Development plans should include measures to:</p>	<p>Minimise energy demands from development, by encouraging the use of sustainable construction techniques, best practice in energy efficient design, and orientation of all building types to maximise passive solar gain.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Review in line with the RSS partial review.</p>
<p>Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Energy Policy should aim to contribute as far as possible towards the achievement of the</p>	<p>In 2000, the Region generated less than 0.1% of its consumption from renewable sources and had installed capacity to deliver some 30MW from combined heat and power</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Review in line with the RSS partial review.</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>national energy target – 10% of electricity produced from renewable energy by 2010, with an aspiration to double renewables' share of electricity between 2010 and 2020.</p> <p>Technical studies have indicated substantial Regional potential for renewable energy generation over the coming decades from biomass, solar, waste and wind sources. Together these could provide in excess of 15% of Regional needs.</p>	<p>(CHP). In both cases there is scope for major increases. The Regional Energy Strategy should include targets for renewable electricity generation, CHP and heat production from renewable sources, having regard to the changing European and national context.</p>		
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020</p> <p>Prosperity Theme (a) Homes to be resource efficient thereby removing fuel poverty from the Borough as well as being environmentally friendly.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>		<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>West Midlands Energy Strategy Objectives</p> <p>Improving energy efficiency</p> <p>Increasing the use of renewable energy resources.</p>	<p>Industry: Reduce CO2 emissions by 18% by 2010 and an additional 32% by 2020 Commercial and public sector: Reduce emissions by 36% by 2010 and additional 26% by 2020 Domestic: Reduce</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Maximising uptake of business opportunities</p> <p>Ensuring focused and integrated delivery and implementation</p>	<p>emissions by 19% by 2010 and an additional 29% by 2020</p> <p>Transport: Reduce emissions by 7% by 2020</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>DfT, Public Service Agreement</p> <p>Increase use of bus and light rail use</p>	<p>By 2020, increase the use of public transport by more than 12% in England compared with 2000 levels, with growth in every region.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>Consider ways to facilitate improvements in energy efficiency in existing and new developments.</p>
<p>Stafford Borough Council Housing Strategy 2003</p> <p>Reduce fuel poverty in the Borough and enable all households to adequately heat their homes</p>	<p>Facilitate improvements in domestic energy efficiency by 30% between 1996 - 2011</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>DPD to ensure that there is provision for 10% of energy comes from on site renewables</p>
<p>Draft PPS1: Planning and Climate Change</p> <p>Local Spatial Strategies are expected to shape the framework for energy supply in their area with DPDs setting out policies on provision of low carbon and renewable sources of energy</p>	<p>10% of energy should come from on site provision</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>DPD to ensure that there is provision for 10% of energy comes from on site renewables</p>

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Sustainability Appraisal Objective 12

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan Options	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 9 Plan policies and planning decisions should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.</p>	To meet international responsibilities and obligations for nature conservation.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS 9 The aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological interests.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS 9 Local Development Frameworks should ensure that policies in local development documents are consistent with national, regional and local biodiversity priorities and objectives.</p>	Arising from article 10 of the Habitats Directive, regulation 37 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the Habitats Regulations) states that such policies shall include policies encouraging the management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS 9</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Local Development Frameworks should indicate the location of designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity, making clear distinctions between the hierarchy of international, national, regional and locally designated sites.</p>			
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006-2020 Biodiversity and Environment Theme (a) To make measurable progress in conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the Borough.</p>	<p>Emphasis on rebuilding biodiversity in the Staffordshire Washlands.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands Challenge 4: Re-connecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity.</p>	<p>LDF's contain appropriate biodiversity coverage and linkages</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>Stafford Borough Council Economic Development Strategy</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Protection of wildlife is not an objective, which applies only in SSSIs; it depends on the wise use and management of the nation's land resources as a whole.</p> <p>Nature conservation objectives should be taken into account in all planning activities, which affect rural land use, and in urban areas where there is wildlife of local importance.</p>			

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 13

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS 23 Any consideration of the quality of land, air or water and potential impacts arising from development, possibly leading to an impact on health, is capable of being a material planning consideration.</p>	<p>60 % on previously developed land, however Local Planning Authorities should take account of physical and environmental constraints on the development of land when deciding on which sites to allocate for housing.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Further detail regarding implications to be explored during subsequent Sustainability Appraisals of more specific Development Plan Documents.</p>
<p>PPS 23 In considering proposals for</p>	<p>60 % on previously developed land, however Local Planning Authorities should take account</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Further</p>

Introducing the review table 2

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>development, LPAs should take account of the risks of and from pollution and land contamination, and how these can be managed or reduced.</p> <p>To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.</p>	<p>of physical and environmental constraints on the development of land when deciding on which sites to allocate for housing.</p>		<p>detail regarding implications to be explored during subsequent Sustainability Appraisals of more specific Development Plan Documents.</p>
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 –2020 Vision</p> <p>Be a place where the environment is protected and enhanced and a sustainable way of life for the community is promoted, supported and delivered.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement</p>
<p>PPS 23</p> <p>To seek to bring damaged land back into beneficial use; and to seek to ensure that the cost burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and economically sustainable.</p>	<p>60% on previously developed land, however Local Planning Authorities should take account of physical and environmental constraints on the development of land when deciding on which sites to allocate for housing.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement. Further detail regarding implications to be explored during subsequent Sustainability Appraisals of more specific Development Plan Documents.</p>
<p>Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy</p>	<p>100% of Borough Council area to be investigated for contaminated land.</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>Implication for Sustainability Appraisal has yet to emerge</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
The Stafford Borough Council is required to inspect land in its District for contamination under new legislation that came into force on the 1st April 2000. A five-year programme of inspection will be undertaken, running from July 2001 to June 2006			
Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra, 2002) Respect and operate within the biological limits of natural resources (especially soil, water and biodiversity)	Improved soil nutrient status	All development strategy options	Could include indicator of Soil Nutrient Status to SA Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 14

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
EU Water Framework Directive To prevent further deterioration and protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands; · To promote the sustainable	The overall requirement of the Directive is to achieve "good ecological and good chemical status" by 2015. There is also a general "no deterioration" provision to prevent deterioration in status. These will require the management of the quality, quantity and	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>consumption of water; to reduce pollution of waters from priority substances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent the deterioration in the status and to progressively reduce pollution of groundwaters; and To contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. 	<p>structure of aquatic environments. The Directive also requires the reduction and ultimate elimination of priority hazardous substances and the reduction of priority substances to below set quality standards.</p>		
<p>Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra, 2002)</p> <p>Respect and operate within the biological limits of natural resources (especially soil, water and biodiversity).</p>	<p>Improved river water quality</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement.</p>

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 15

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPG 15</p> <p>Authorities should ensure that aspects of conservation policy that are relevant, directly or indirectly, to development control decisions are included in the plan</p>	<p>The plan should include provisions in view of the statutory requirements - that authorities should have special regard to the desirability of preserving any listed building or its setting, or any features</p>	<p>All development strategy options</p>	<p>Wording of sustainability objectives reviewed to ensure that all relevant PPP objectives</p>

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
	<p>of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses, and should pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of any Conservation Area in exercising their development control functions.</p>		
<p>Englands Rural Development Programme (Defra, 2005) En.2.3 To protect and maintain the cultural heritage of urban and rural areas</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>European Landscape Convention Aim is to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	To draw on Stafford and Stone Conservation Area Appraisals and Stafford Historic Landscape Characterisation, when completed.
PPG16	Not applicable	All development strategy options	Ensure LDF covers policy topic area

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Detailed development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement, preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings			
PPS1 References to protecting and enhancing the historic environment and the quality and character of the countryside Enhance as well as protect the historic environment and landscape and townscape character.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 16

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
PPS1 Planning authorities should plan positively for the achievement of high quality and inclusive design for all	Key objectives should include ensuring that developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to their local context and create or reinforce local distinctiveness; 	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes.	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS3 Matters to consider when assessing design quality include the extent to which the proposed development creates or enhances a distinctive character that relates to the surroundings and supports a sense of local pride and civic identity.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS7 Planning authorities should ensure that development respects, and where possible enhances these particular qualities. It should also contribute to a sense of local identity and regional diversity and be of an appropriate design and scale for its location.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Sustainability Appraisal Objective 17

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>Sustainable Community Plan 2005 – 2020 By 2020 we want Stafford Borough to be an area where all members of the community can share in its prosperity to include appropriate decent housing, educational and training opportunities together with personal development to take advantage of economic and social opportunities.</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Sustainable Community Plan 2005 – 2020 Be an area where all members of the community are safe in their homes, in the street, in town centres and the countryside while pursuing leisure activities and while at work and that they feel safe and free from the fear of crime</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Stafford Borough Cultural Strategy 2000 – 2006</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
To ensure that all residents have equal access to cultural activities and opportunities whatever their age, gender, disability, or ethnic origin, wherever they live within the Borough and taking account of their ability to pay			

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 18

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
PPS12 The SCI should identify the community groups that need to be involved and the techniques required to effectively involve them both informally and formally	All DPD consultation to be in accordance with SCI	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
PPS12 The SCI should also set out the various points at which the local planning authority will involve the community in preparing local development documents	All DPD consultation to be in accordance with SCI	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

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Sustainability Appraisal Objective 19

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan Options	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
<p>PPS12 The SCI should identify the community groups that need to be involved and the techniques required to effectively involve them both informally and formally</p>	All DPD consultation to be in accordance with SCI	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>PPS12 The SCI should also set out the various points at which the local planning authority will involve the community in preparing local development documents</p>	All DPD consultation to be in accordance with SCI	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement
<p>Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 – 2020 Be a place where there is a strong community and voluntary sector, which enhances quality of life and enables people to be active and participate fully in society</p>	Not applicable	All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

2 Introducing the review table

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
To enhance community and voluntary capacity in the Borough. To encourage volunteering and value it through raised awareness of activities and benefits to deliver benefits to the community			

Sustainability Appraisal Objective 20

Key Objectives Relevant To The Plan And Sustainability Appraisal	Key Targets And Indicators Relevant To The LDF And Sustainability Appraisal	Implications For Plan	Implications For Sustainability Appraisal
Stafford Borough Sustainable Community Plan 2006 – 2020 Prosperity Theme (c) To raise the aspirations of all people within the Borough.		All development strategy options	No significant implication as SA complies with the identified policy requirement

Introducing the baseline data 1

1.1 Baseline data provides the basis for prediction and monitoring environmental and other sustainability effects, and helps to identify problems and alternative ways of dealing with issues.

1.2 The aim of collecting and using baseline data for the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements is to ensure that spatial planning within the Local Development Framework (LDF) proceeds in the right direction and in the right places, with the correct safeguards and benefits to mitigate and compensate for environmental losses.

1.3 The SEA Directive states that the SEA should provide information on:

‘relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme’ and ‘the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected’ (Annex I (b), (c))

and

‘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 and 92/43/EEC’. (Annex I (c)).

1.4 As the SEA Directive is incorporated into the wider SA context, this baseline report will not only include information on the current state of the environment and environmental issues relevant to the plan, but also information that will give a detailed profile and outline of social and economic trends. This evidence base means that the potential effects of the plan can be assessed on their significant social, economic and environmental effects.

Collecting the baseline data

1.5 Stafford Borough Council has collected substantial amounts of data about the current and likely future state of the environment together with the Borough’s social and economic profile to allow the effects of the LDF to be adequately predicted.

1.6 An initial scoping exercise of issues that could be affected by the plan was undertaken. This took account of the requirements outlined in the SEA Directive (for example: populations and human health; biodiversity, flora and fauna and climatic effects) and the Governments Sustainability Appraisal guidance. This stage was important as it ensured that the baseline study was not limited to information that we knew already existed, but also acted as a driver for broader data assembly.

1.7 The baseline data provided as part of this report provides the basis for prediction and monitoring of environmental or other sustainability effects. This will enable a much better picture to be obtained of how situations are improving or deteriorating and will help to identify problems and alternative ways of dealing with them assisted by the LDF process.

1 Introducing the baseline data

1.8 A variety of devices have been adopted to assist readers to find their way around and to understand the data that has been collected. Maximum use has been made of maps, diagrams and tables. To the lay person some of the data contained in this report might seem complicated. Although Stafford Borough Council have tried to limit jargon to minimum, technical terms cannot be avoided altogether and a Glossary of these terms can be found at the end of the report.

Data limitations and difficulties

1.9 Ideally all the data should be up to date, but this of course is not always possible and in some cases the data is not as up to date as would be liked.

1.10 In some cases the data has been collected by external bodies, and therefore data may not be available at all (or in the same format) in the future in order to make reliable comparisons.

Settlement character and population structure

1.11 Stafford Borough is centrally placed within Staffordshire County. Staffordshire is a large County between the conurbations of Manchester, 50 miles to the north, and Birmingham, 30 miles to the south. The Borough shares boundaries with Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin and North Shropshire.

1.12 The Borough covers an area of 230 square miles and has a population of around 120,000 people. There are two main areas of settlement, Stafford with a population of around 57,000 and Stone, 6 miles to the north of Stafford within the valley of the River Trent, with a population of approximately 13,000. The majority of the Borough's area is rural in character, with a range of settlements varying from suburban areas on the fringes of the Potteries conurbation, to large free-standing villages and more isolated settlements. There are a range of further settlements scattered across the Borough area including Gnosall, Eccleshall, Hixon, Blythe Bridge, Great Haywood, Little Haywood & Colwich, Barlaston and Meir Heath & Rough Close.

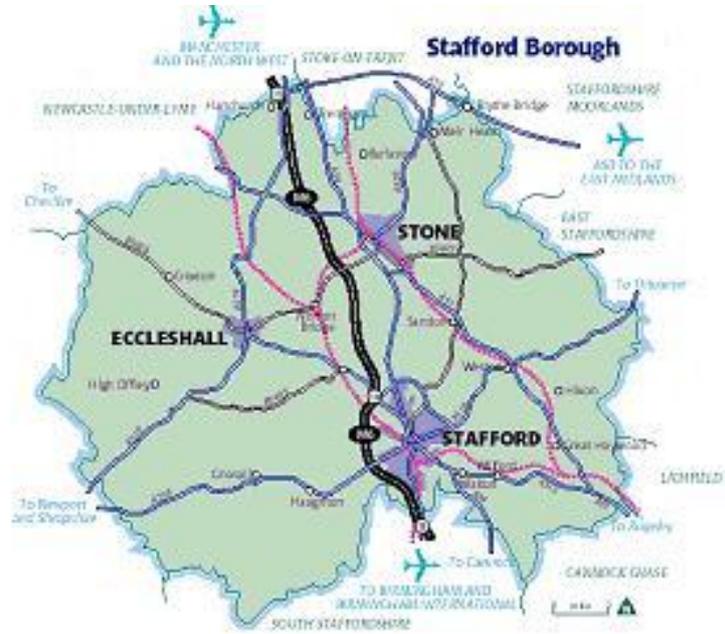
1.13 The 2001 Census of Stafford Borough suggests that:

- 50% of the population of Stafford are male and 50% are female
- 8.4% were under 16 and 22.5% were over 60 years
- 56.7% were married and 25.2% had never married
- 97.4% were white
- 79.9% were Christian

1.14 According to the Midyear Population Estimates there has also been a relatively small decline in the population from 123,200 in 1997 to 121,900 in 2003. The Census also demonstrates a higher proportion of those in the older age groups and a higher proportion of single households. This increasingly older population will have implications for the future provision of services in the Borough.

Introducing the baseline data 1

Map 1.1 Stafford Borough



2 Social

Social Exclusion

2.1 The Prime Minister referred to social exclusion as "a short hand label for what can happen when individuals or areas suffer from a combination of linked problems such as unemployment, poor skills, low income, poor housing, high crime environments, bad health and family breakdown" (DFT, 2004). Lack of key services, affordable housing and poor public transport in rural areas contribute to social exclusion and can have a negative effect on quality of life.

Index of Multiple Deprivation

2.2 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provides an insight into the social characteristics of the Borough. Multiple deprivation measures were developed by the former Government Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions to assist in the targeting of regeneration policies to the most deprived areas. There are six domain indices at ward level; these relate to income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training, housing and geographical access to services. These six domains have 32 separate indicators, which together make up the overall Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

2.3 Stafford is not considered to be a deprived Borough in comparison with some parts of the country. However, there are significant levels of poverty and isolation in some parts of Stafford, and some wards are among the poorest in Staffordshire.

The opportunity of the decent home

2.4 One of the Government's aims is to give everyone the opportunity of a decent home, and so promote social cohesion, well-being and self-dependence. It is important that housing is available to serve the needs of those groups within the community not met by providers operating solely according to market principles or available from existing housing stock for rent or purchase. If levels of homelessness are to be permanently reduced, there is a need for a wide range of support and other preventive services for homeless people. For these reasons many services, for example health, social and other community services, in addition to housing providers, must be involved in successful homelessness strategies.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Affordable / Special needs housing	10 affordable dwellings built in 2005/2006	1,100 affordable dwellings to be completed between 1996 and 2011, giving a yearly average of 73 affordable dwellings. (Source: Staffordshire Affordable	Significant decrease on previous years total of 85 affordable dwellings.	Delivery of affordable has not been consistent over the last few years and needs a dramatic increase to meet target set by Staffordshire Affordable Housing SPG.

Social 2

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
		Housing SPG)		
Homelessness	52 homeless households in Stafford Borough in 2004 (Source: DCLG)	2,206 homeless households in West Midlands	Slight increase in previous years	Need to reduce the number of homeless households.

Figure 2.1 Overcrowded Households

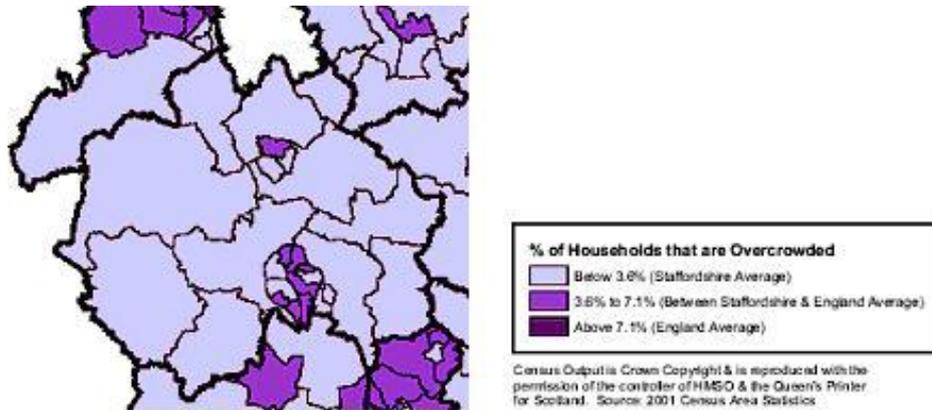
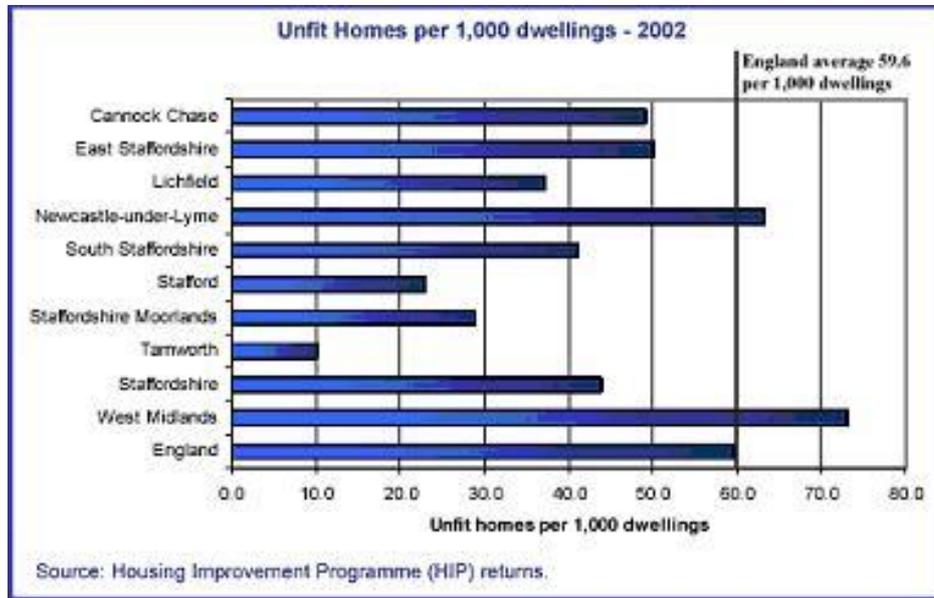


Figure 2.2 Affordable Housing



2 Social

Figure 2.3 Unfit Homes



Access to Services

2.5 Lifestyles and leisure behaviours are changing more rapidly than ever before, often driven by advances in information and communications technologies. Most people, wherever they live, want greater mobility and greater choice. Accessibility to healthcare, education, justice, youth services and retail services are placed at a premium. The Countryside Agency have produced detailed information regarding access to services in the rural areas.

2.6 A lack of mobility can cause real hardship. As well as reducing employment and educational opportunities, a lack of transport can have an impact more widely on people’s health and quality of life – by reducing access to healthcare facilities and social and leisure activities. This is especially apparent in the more rural areas of Stafford Borough.

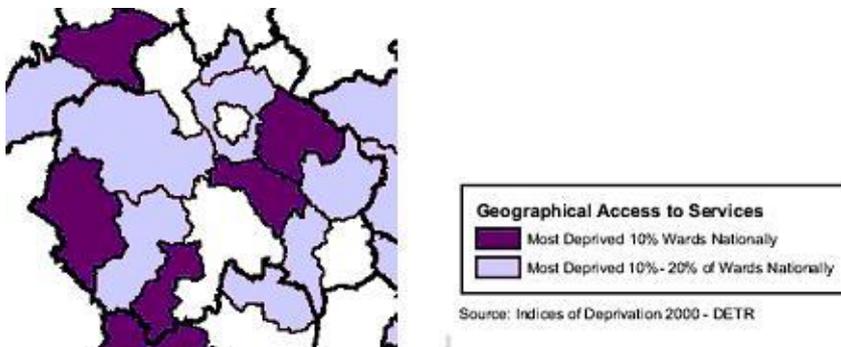
2.7 The concept of accessibility to all goes far wider than improving access to a range of jobs, services and facilities. It should include ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to use the full range of transport services, buildings and opens spaces that make up the places in which we live. Accessibility benefits everyone, including people travelling with children, those with temporary or permanent disabilities or simply encumbered with heavy luggage or shopping.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Disabled access	None as yet.	Requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	Access audit to be completed by October on all of the County’s public

Social 2

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
				buildings by end of 2003 (Staffordshire County Council)
Development within walking distance of a frequent bus service.	<p>Within the settlement of Stafford 100% of dwellings were within 350m of a 30-minute bus route.</p> <p>Within smaller settlements 67% of dwellings were within 350m of a 30-minute bus route, 12% were within 350m of a 60-minute bus route and 21% were not within 350m of a frequent bus route.</p> <p>(Source: ArcGIS)</p>	<p>In 2001, 63% of housing completions in the West Midlands were within 200m of a bus stop and 91% within 400m of a bus stop.</p> <p>(Source: RPG Monitoring Report 2002/2003)</p>	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	

Figure 2.4 Access to Services



Social 2

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Areas of Open Space / Outdoor recreation	131.98 ha of outdoor sport provision (equivalent to 1.1 ha per 1000 population) (Source: Stafford BC Playing Pitch Assessment)	National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommends 2.43 ha of open space per 1000 population 1.6 - 1.8 ha should be for outdoor sport 0.6 – 0.8 ha should be children's playing space	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	Need to increase the amount of formal outdoor sports provision available. Need to collect more data regarding children's play space and informal open space.
Length of cycle ways	6,275 metres created in 2002 (Source: Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan Monitoring Report 2002)	Intensity of use? Length created elsewhere	5,353 metres better than the year before	Ensure that cycle routes provided are effective and useful. Ensure that provision remains high.

Crime and Safety

2.9 "People act and behave differently in different settings. This implies that the built environment provides cues for behaviour and that the environment can therefore, be seen as a form of non-verbal communication." Rapoport (1977). The relationship of the physical environment and its influences on the levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime are well documented. Therefore, creating a better connected environment that is inclusive and accessible will enhance the sense of safety and security within a development and out to surrounding areas. People generally feel safer on active streets and in places with natural or other surveillance. A poor environment (graffiti, vandalism and disrepair) signals neglect and lack of control and can enhance a sense of vulnerability.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Fear of crime	No data at present	National figures for 2003.	No data available.	

2 Social

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
		<p>14% had high levels of worry about burglary.</p> <p>16% had high levels of worry about car crime.</p> <p>20% had high levels of worry about violent crime.</p> <p>(Source: British Crime Survey: June 2003)</p>		
Crime	<p>32.1 notifiable crimes recorded per 1,000 population</p> <p>(Source: Stafford Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership)</p>	<p>11,881 notifiable offences per 100,000 population in the West Midlands in 2001/2002.</p>	<p>A slight increase in notifiable crimes per 1,000 over the year before.</p>	<p>The trend suggests there is a problem with notifiable crimes per 1,000 population increasing and this needs to be addressed.</p> <p>However, the level of crime in Stafford is still below the level in the West Midlands generally.</p>
Number of traffic accidents	<p>4839 casualties on all roads in Staffordshire in 1999 – 47 of them fatal</p>	<p>28,924 casualties in the West Midlands in 2001.</p> <p>(Source: RPG Monitoring Report 2002/2003)</p>	<p>No data available.</p>	<p>Need to collect / find data relating to traffic accidents in Stafford.</p> <p>Need to ensure that number remains as low as possible.</p>

Social 2

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Standardised Mortality Ratio	103 in 2002 (Source: ONS Population Trends Report)	100	Fluctuating around the 100 mark previously at 97.	

3 Economic

Economic Development

3.1 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of wealth that can be used to analyse the overall prosperity of the Borough compared with the region or the country as a whole. In 1998 GDP in Staffordshire was £10,310, in the West Midlands GDP was £11,455 whilst in the UK as a whole it was £12,548 (Source: ONS Regional Accounts)

3.2 Productivity is measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA gives an indication of the value of the economic activity generated within an area. High levels of GVA and economic prosperity are generally closely related. Overall, the manufacturing GVA in the Borough is in line with the Southern Staffordshire average with the exception of East Staffordshire. However, for the whole economy GVA Stafford Borough is the lowest among the other districts and this low figure would mainly be related to the lack of higher quality service activities. In terms of activity in the private sector, Wholesale / Retail, Transport / Storage / Communication and Real Estate / Business Activities have particularly low GVA per person employed.

Figure 3.1 GVA

Area	Manufacturing	Index UK=100	Whole Economy*	Index UK=100
Cannock Chase	25,756	70	20,905	81
East Staffordshire	57,868	157	27,846	108
Lichfield	25,679	70	18,902	73
South Staffordshire	27,287	74	19,334	75
Stafford	25,345	69	18,402	71
Tamworth	25,950	70	20,055	78
Southern Staffordshire	33,662	91	21,335	83
United Kingdom	36,934	100	25,858	100

Source : ABI2000/ONS; Research, Development Services Department, Staffordshire County Council (Provisional).
* Excludes on farm agriculture.

3.3 The majority of the Borough's area is rural in character and therefore supports agricultural and forestry activities. A range of settlements varying from suburban areas on the fringes of the Potteries conurbation, to large free-standing villages and more isolated settlements are also contained within the Borough sustaining economic and residential land use activities.

3.4 The largest proportion of land is used for agriculture, second is residential followed by industrial uses. Industrial uses vary from large international manufacturing sites such as the Alstom and Evode sites in Stafford to the small - medium size uses to be found on the Borough's industrial estates. Mineral extraction is only on a small scale with one sand and gravel quarry. The Borough is home to the largest RAF maintenance unit in the country.

Economic 3

Figure 3.2 Economic Sectors

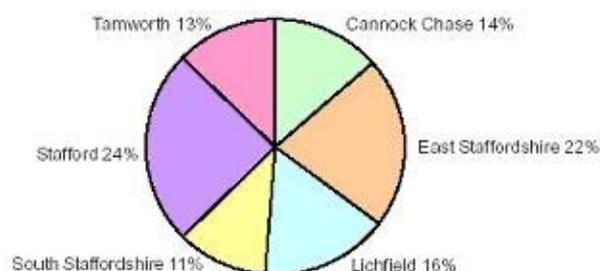
	Agriculture		All Sectors	
	Firms	%	Firms	%
Staffordshire Moorlands	-65	-7.3	-115	-2.5
Staffordshire	-245	-8.4	+85	+0.3
UK	-11,055	-6.8	+48,790	+3.0

Source: VAT Statistics, ONS.

3.5 The 2001 Census states that approximately 63% of the population is in employment, with a further 15% being retired and 4% being permanently sick or disabled. Less than 3% of the population are economically inactive. Therefore, Stafford is home to an economically active population of 97% in comparison to a Great Britain average of 94.9% (Source: National Statistics Labour Force Survey, May 2002).

3.6 A healthy and adequately sized local jobs base is fundamental to the area's sustainability, providing work opportunities close to home and resources for investment. The primary source of workplace based employment data is the 2001 Annual Business Inquiry from ONS and includes employees only. There are some 240,000 employee jobs in the Southern Staffordshire area (a little over 10% of the Regional total) with the larger concentrations to be found in East Staffordshire and Stafford Borough. The figure below shows the distribution within the area. This figure of 240,000 compares to a resident economically active population of some 300,000.

Figure 3.3 Employee Jobs



Source : 2001 ABI, ONS

3.7 It has always been an important source of job growth to the local area, assisted by good location, site availability, labour skills and costs. The table below shows inward investment levels for 2002 to 2003 with at least some 1,300 jobs being created by 26 companies. Just over a quarter of these were foreign owned with their employment accounting for around a tenth of the total jobs.

3.8 As a shopping centre, Stafford Town Centre ranks 132nd Nationally, 14th regionally (GOAD EXPERIAN Retail Centre Ranking, 2002) and the second highest ranking shopping centre in Southern Staffordshire. (Southern Staffordshire Economic Baseline Report 2003)

3 Economic

3.9 Tourism is an important part of the Stafford economy. Tourism and its related sectors account for around 7.9% of all employment in Stafford (ONS). There have been a number of recent developments in the tourism sector, primarily through the provision of new accommodation such as the Premier Lodge & Brewers Fayre near M6 junction 14, which provides over 50 beds and created more than 70 jobs and the £1.4 million facelift of the Swan Hotel, which created 27 bedrooms and further facilities.

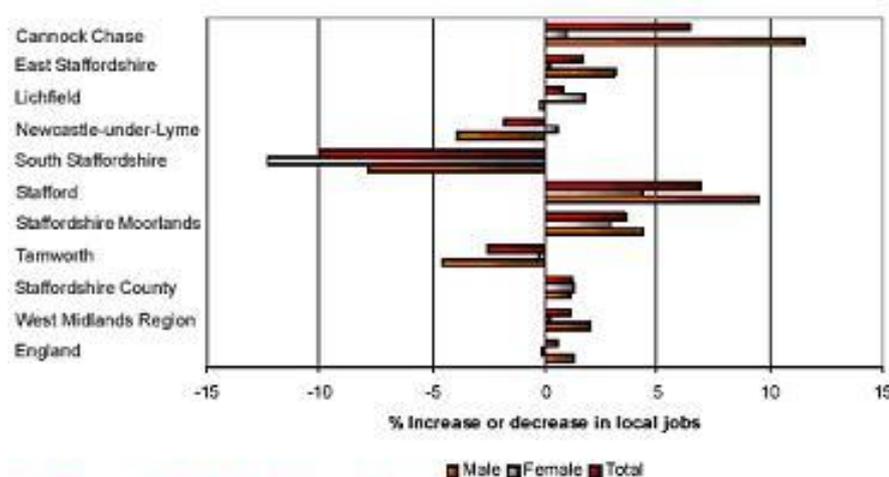
3.10 To achieve stable and sustainable growth Stafford Borough needs a well educated, well equipped and adaptable labour force, whilst learning also promotes active citizenship and helps to combat social exclusion. The Borough as a whole has 47 primary schools and 6 high schools, and has one of the highest levels of educational attainment in the County. In 2001, 76% of people at age 19 in England had level 2 qualifications.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Employment Land Availability	<p>Position at 31st March 2002</p> <p>87.98 ha of new land available for industrial development</p> <p>74.50 ha of land identified for redevelopment</p> <p>2.48 ha of new land available for other employment</p> <p>(Source: Staffordshire Employment Land Availability Survey 2002)</p>	<p>The Structure Plan allocation for Stafford is 150 ha.</p> <p>38.7% of employment land (sites over 0.4ha) in the West Midlands was readily available.</p> <p>63% of employment land was Brownfield.</p> <p>(Source: RPG Monitoring Report 2002/2003)</p>	<p>No suitable data available in order to define a trend.</p>	
Business start ups	<p>Stafford Borough has had a net positive increase in the number of business registrations in the area.</p>	<p>14.5 Registrations in the West Midlands in 2000</p> <p>(14.2 de-registrations)</p> <p>0.3 net change and 3.0% increase in Staffordshire</p>	<p>See below for comparative trends</p>	

Economic 3

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Inward investment	2002/2003 9 companies located in Stafford with resultant job creation of 185.	West Midlands attracted 13% of Foreign Direct Investment Projects into the UK in 2001/2. Of which Stafford obtained 0.	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	
Vacancy Rate	6.51% units vacant (Data Source: Goad Experien)	10.57% GB average.	Below GB average but higher than other southern Staffordshire rates	
Shopping Floorspace Sq /ft / 1,000 population	12,3000 square feet per 1,000 of the population	Tamworth has 16,100 but ranks 197 on the National ranking compared to 132 for Stafford.	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	

Figure 3.4 Change in Local Jobs



* NB. Figure for South Staffordshire is affected by postcode error issues.
Source: Annual Business Inquiry (from NOMIS). Crown Copyright Reserved.

3 Economic

Transport Links

3.11 The Borough is well served by a comprehensive network of road and rail links. The M6 runs through the Borough and provides easy access from the north and south of the country. In fact half of the country's population live within a two hour drive of Staffordshire, and 90% within a four hour drive. Within Staffordshire and the surrounding areas there are over 60,000 people within 10 minutes drive time of Stafford Town Centre and almost 1,500,000 within 30 minutes.

3.12 The West Coast main line runs through the Borough with a main station at Stafford, services run to London and Birmingham to the south and Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow to the north

Environmental 4

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

4.1 The Habitats Directive is European law that provides for the creation of a network of protected areas across the European Union to be known as, Natura 2000. The Natura 2000 network of protected sites consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive. There are four SACs in Stafford Borough: Cannock Chase, Chartley Moss, Motte Meadows, and Pasturefields Saltmarsh, although some parts of Cannock Chase SAC extend into other local authority areas and only a very small part of Motte Meadows falls within the boundary of the Borough.

4.2 Stafford Borough contains several other internationally and nationally important sites, of which two are National Nature Reserves managed by English Nature. These are Chartley Moss, which is a floating bog and Aqualate Mere, the largest of the natural meres that can be found throughout Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire. Aqualate Mere, Chartley Moss and Cop Mere are Ramsar sites. Details of all designated sites are given in the table below.

4.3 Biodiversity is concerned with the variety of living organisms, including within and between species, and the different habitats and ecosystems.

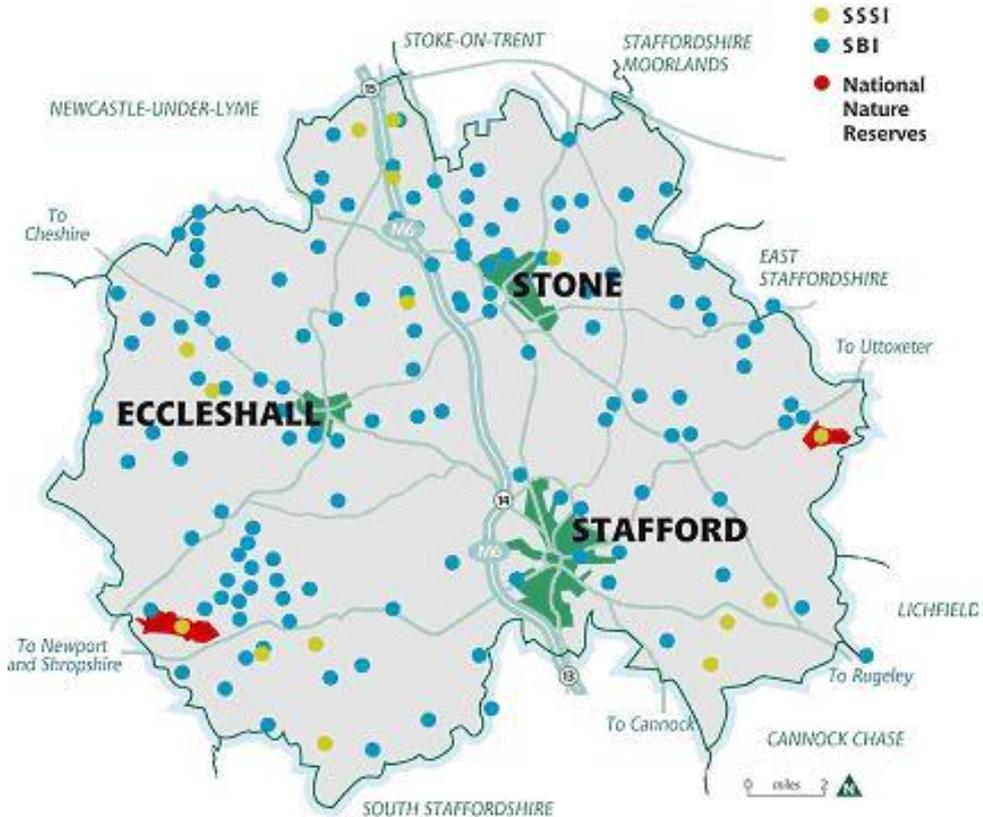
4.4 The habitats that are particularly important for wildlife within the Borough include woodland, wetland, such as Doxey and Tillington Marshes, flower rich meadows and heathland, such as areas of Cannock Chase. These important habitat areas often occur in isolated patches between larger areas of intensively farmed land and this makes them very susceptible to degradation and loss.

4.5 Over the last few years there has been a significant decline in the amount and quality of the wildlife asset in the Borough. For example between 1979 and 1999 over 50% of the Boroughs marshy grassland has been lost, which is important for wading birds and other wetland species.

4.6 Several species have already become extinct from Stafford Borough including the red squirrel, marsh helleborine and *Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus*, a very rare and distinctive leaf beetle of wetlands.

4 Environmental

Map 4.1 Wildlife Sites in Stafford Borough



Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
Number and area of designated sites	Ramsar sites	Retain and enhance the number and area of sites	1 SSSI has been designated in the last decade.	SSSI's are often in private ownership and can be quite hard to keep up to date information.
	<i>Chartley Moss – 106.25 ha</i>			
	<i>Aqualate Mere – 241.01 hectares</i>	Retain and enhance the number and area of sites	1 SSSI has been designated in the last decade	Designated sites are not monitored regularly enough to ensure an accurate picture.
	<i>Cop Mere – 37.01 ha</i>			
	0 SPAs			Need to retain and enhance the number and area of sites protected.
	4 SACs			
<i>Pasturefields Saltmarsh – 7.67 hectares</i>			SSSI's are often in private ownership and can be quite hard to keep up to date information.	
<i>Chartley Moss – 106.25 hectares</i>				

Environmental 4

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
	<p><i>Cannock Chase - 1,271.78 ha of which 886.81 ha in Stafford Borough</i></p> <p><i>Mottey Meadows – 43.87 hectares of which 0.11 hectares in Stafford Borough</i></p> <p>3 NNRs</p> <p><i>Aqualate Mere – 241.01 hectares</i></p> <p><i>Chartley Moss – 106.25 hectares</i></p> <p><i>Mottey Meadows – 43.87 hectares of which 0.11 hectares in Stafford Borough</i></p> <p>17 SSSI's</p> <p>Allimore Green Common – 2.63 hectares</p> <p>Aqualate Mere – 241.01 hectares</p> <p>Baswich Meadows – 12.92 hectares</p> <p>Burnt Wood – 41.06 hectares of which 0.8 hectares in Stafford Borough</p> <p>Cannock Chase – 1271.78 hectares of which 886.81 hectares in Stafford Borough</p>			<p>Designated sites are not monitored regularly enough to ensure an accurate picture.</p> <p>Need to retain and enhance the number and area of sites protected.</p>

4 Environmental

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
	Chartley Moss – 106.25 hectares Cop Mere – 37.01 ha Doley Common – 16.87 hectares Doxey and Tillington Marshes – 128.31ha Kings and Hargreaves Woods – 57.89 ha Loynton Moss – 13.53 ha Milford Quarry – 6.48 ha Motte Meadows – 43.87 hectares of which 0.11 hectares within Stafford Borough Newport Canal – 6.62 hectares of which 0.1 hectares in Stafford Borough Pasturefields Salt Marsh – 7.67 hectares Rawbones Meadow – 20.93 hectares Stafford Brook – 7.08 ha LNRs <i>Barlaston and Rough Close Common</i>			

Environmental 4

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
	<p>Proposed LNRs at Kingsmead Marsh, Stone Meadows, Astonfields Balancing Lakes, Kingston Pool Covert and Ferndown Drive</p> <p>(Source: A Biodiversity Strategy for Stafford)</p>			
Quality of SSSI's	<p>57% of SSSI's in Staffordshire are in a favourable or recovering position in 2003.</p> <p>(Source: RPG Monitoring Report 2002/2003 and data taken from English Nature 6 year rolling survey)</p>	<p>54% of SSSI's in the West Midlands are in a favourable or recovering position in 2003.</p>	<p>48% of SSSI's in Staffordshire were in a favourable or recovering position in 1999.</p>	<p>The trend has been that the condition of SSSI's is improving. It is important that this is maintained.</p>
Achieving national / regional / local conservation objectives	<p>None available</p>	<p>To meet 100% of the targets set out in the Stafford Biodiversity Strategy and Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Significant decrease in wet grassland, and a decrease in species including water vole, brown hare and skylark. However there has been some improvement in otter and nightjar populations.</p>	<p>Need to improve biodiversity habitats and increase the population numbers of the species which are targeted by the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>

4 Environmental

Air

4.7 The quality of the air that we breathe is of growing national and international concern. The air quality in the UK today is much improved over that of 50 years ago where industrial smogs caused acute health effects for the public.

4.8 In recent years however there has been a growing body of evidence to suggest that poor air quality may have a cumulative effect, which may be chronic for sensitive individuals. When air pollution is present in high concentrations it can cause various health effects ranging from irritation of the eyes, nose and throat to the worsening of lung and heart diseases.

4.9 In addition to impacts on human health, annual levels of nitrogen oxides (mainly from traffic) and sulphur dioxide (mainly from industry) could impact on the protection of vegetation and ecosystems. Air pollutants can also lead to the soiling and corrosion of buildings.

4.10 One of the most significant contributors of air pollution in Stafford is traffic from the M6 and A34 road corridor, which bisects the Borough north-south. It is important to note that most of the recent improvements and likely future improvements in air quality will occur in the transport sector.

4.11 In some cases air pollutants emitted in the Stafford Borough will have impacts outside the Borough without having a significant impact within the region, and vice versa.

4.12 Power generation and other industries contribute to 90% of the total mass release of sulphur dioxide. Rugeley Power Station has been identified as being one of the most important possible local sources of industrial sulphur dioxide in the air. However, these emissions are controlled by Environment Agency conditions ensuring that they comply with air quality standards at all times.

4.13 Nevertheless, the air quality within the Borough is satisfactory at present with none of the Borough designated as requiring an Air Quality Management Scheme.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
Air Quality Management Area	0% of Stafford requiring an Air Quality Management Scheme (Source: Air Quality Review and Assessment by SBC)		0% of Stafford requiring an Air Quality Management Scheme since 2000	
Modal split	2001 Stafford Travel to work 11% - Walk	1999/2001 England Trips per person per year by mode	1991 Stafford Travel to work 13% - Walk	Need to encourage use of more sustainable forms of transport; currently use of private vehicles is still very high within the Borough.

Environmental 4

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
	4% - Bicycle 79% - Private vehicle 6% - Public Transport (Source: ONS 2001 Census)	of transport 25% - Walk 2% - Bicycle 64% - Private vehicle 9% - Public Transport 1999/2001 England Distance per person per year by mode of transport 3% - Walk 1% - Bicycle 84% - Private vehicle 12% - Public Transport (Source: West Midlands RPG Monitoring Report)	4% - Bicycle 70% - Private Vehicle 6% - Public Transport 7% - Other (Source: ONS 1991 Census) Therefore there has been an increase in private vehicle use and a decrease in the number of people walking to work over the ten year period.	

Climatic Factors

4.14 It is important to recognise that climate change is not a new phenomenon - it has been happening for millions of years. However the rate of present global warming is causing concern and it is widely accepted that human behaviour is inducing this rapid rate of change.

4 Environmental

4.15 In the last 100 years or so, the Earth's surface and lowest part of the atmosphere have warmed up on average by about 0.6oC. During this period, the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased, largely as a result of the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation, and land use changes, for food by mankind. In the last 20 years, concern has grown that these two phenomena are, at least in part, associated with each other. Global warming is now considered most probably to be due to the man-made increases in greenhouse gas emissions. Whilst other natural causes of climate change, including changes in the amount of energy coming from the Sun and shifting patterns of ocean circulation, can cause global climate to change over similar periods of time, the balance of evidence now indicates that there is a discernible human influence on the global climate.

4.16 At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) the countries of the world agreed a Climate Change Convention which highlighted the need to tackle unsuitable trends in energy. Both energy conservation measures as well as increased energy generation from renewable sources will be required to bring about a significant change in the amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere and causing climate change.

4.17 18.4 The market for energy crops across the UK is now developing in response to Government targets to generate 10% of the nations electricity from renewable sources by 2010. Stafford's Biomass Farming Project aims to examine the viability of developing renewable energy in the Stafford area and in particular power generation from energy crops as a means of farm diversification, resulting in a fully operational heat to energy plant producing electricity from locally grown energy crops.

4.18 18.5 Stafford are already beginning to improve in terms of domestic conservation of energy and energy efficiency, including providing free and independent advice relating to energy efficiency in the home.

4.19 18.6 The Woodland Trust document 'Space for People: Targeting action for woodlands access' provides specific information about Stafford Borough as set out below. The regional figure of the West Midlands region is in brackets as a comparator:

- % of population requiring new woodland access to a 2+ hectare wood within 500 metres – 70.75 (67.39)
- % of population requiring new woodland for access to a 20+ hectare wood within 4 kilometres – 17.8 (19.52)
- Minimum area of new woodland required for 2+ hectare woods within 500 metres (hectares) – 210 (4,834)
- Minimum area of new woodland required for 20+ hectare woods within 4 kilometres (hectares) – 60 (914)
- % of population with access to 2+ hectare wood within 500 metres – 2.19 (9.42)
- % of population with access to 20+ hectare wood within 4 kilometres – 37.29 (54.66)
- % of extra population with access to a 2+ hectare wood within 500 metres if existing woods opened – 27.05 (23.19)
- % of extra population with access to a 20+ hectare wood within 4 kilometres if existing woods opened – 45.62 (25.82)

Environmental 4

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
Renewable energy	No data at present	10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 (Renewables Obligation DTI)	No data at present	No data at present, this will need to be collected. It will be necessary to encourage renewable energy usage in order to achieve the target.
Conservation of Energy	2.1% improvement in energy efficiency in 2002/2003	30% improvement in energy efficiency over 15 year period from 1996	Fluctuations but overall a general Improvement about 9% improvement in efficiency to date since 1996.	Conservation of Energy

Water and Soil

4.20 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) has highlighted the growing need to explore the interconnectivity between land use planning, water pollution and flooding. It aims to improve and control the quality of water by identifying, progressively reducing, and ultimately eliminating hazardous substances, and therefore securing the future water supply. This section of the Sustainability Appraisal is important in terms of appraising the plan on achieving the WFD objective of “good ecological status” for surface water quality.

4.21 Rivers are an important part of the Borough’s environment. They support amphibians, fish and many plant species as well as a variety of invertebrates, which are fundamental in food chains. Rivers can also form important links between otherwise fragmented habitats acting as wildlife corridors.

4.22 Rivers are also a source of water for drinking, domestic, agricultural and industrial use. They can also provide an important recreational resource.

4.23 River quality testing allows the quality of one river to be compared to another. Testing also helps to set conditions on licences provided to industry and commerce for their discharges of water into rivers, and is used in decisions to protect rivers and canals from the impacts of the use of land for agriculture, leisure and housing. River quality in Stafford Borough is generally assessed as being fair however, for more detailed results and trends see the table below.

4.24 The principal rivers in Stafford Borough are the River Sow and the River Penk. Much of Stafford town is located in its floodplain. Flooding of land adjacent to rivers is a natural process and, in the right place can be a desirable process. However, it can have far reaching effects on people and property who may be effected by it, including considerable damage and costs.

4 Environmental

4.25 Flooding is affected not only by the changing weather conditions but also by urbanisation, for example water quickly runs off hard surfaces and is more likely to cause flooding. One of the easiest ways to minimise flood risk to new buildings is to locate them away from areas likely to flood. Other alternatives include developing Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), which control water as near to the source as possible, and create and enhance environmental corridors.

4.26 Water quality in the Borough is also relatively good, with 98% of inland waterways being judged to be of good or fair biological quality and 96% determined to be good or fair chemical quality, by the Government Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in 2000.

4.27 The Council is currently investigating the level of contaminated land within the Borough. At present no contaminated land, as defined by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, has been identified. Further information can be found at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) [website](#) or the Environment Agency [website](#)

4.28 The quality of the land and of the soils need to protected and restored, to enable them to be used beneficially and safely, so that they do not lead to the pollution of other natural resources such as air or water.

4.29 Soil is central to the environment. It stores and recycles nutrients and water, and provides the medium for crop growth; but it also acts as a buffer between the atmosphere and aquatic ecosystems. This can only be maintained if damage to soil is limited; once damaged or contaminated soil can be very difficult, if not impossible to repair and, soils themselves can become sources of pollutants.

Figure 4.1 Agricultural Land Classification



4.30 Historic land contamination is often caused as a result of the previous industrial use of the land. The level of contamination in terms of the physical and chemical condition of the land is often linked to the sites previous usage. The Borough has been home to a variety of industries for example heavy engineering making locomotives, the manufacturing of large transformers and the manufacturing of consumer goods such as shoes.

4.31 One of the principal means of preventing new contamination and securing remediation of historic land contamination is through the planning system, where contamination is a material consideration and the development of Brownfield land is encouraged.

Environmental 4

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
Inland Water (River and Canal) Quality	Biology 2005 52% - Good Chemistry 2005 25% Good (Source: DEFRA)	Biology 2005 England 72% - Good Chemistry 2005 England 68% Good (Source: DEFRA)	Biology is improving with the proportion classified as 'Good' increasing by 14% since 2000. Chemistry is declining with a 9% decrease since 2001	While biology has improved over time, chemistry has fallen over the last few years. Figures for both biology and chemistry are below the national averages for 'good' quality water so further improvement is required.
Contaminated land	No contaminated land, as defined by the Environmental Planning Act 1990, has been identified.	No data at present.	No data at present.	Need to ensure that in future data is collected and analysed. Contaminated land when found, or created should be remediated in order for the land to be suitable for re-use.
% of development on previously developed land (PDL)	74% - 2005/2006	60% of new dwellings on PDL by 2008 (set by PPG3)	Fluctuating 55% - 2003/04 81% - 2004/05	Need to maintain consistency to meet target
Number (and percentage) of Empty Homes	212 Housing Association 1,401 Private Landlord empty homes at 2006 (of which 923 empty for more than 6 months)	3.60% of homes in the West Midlands are empty	Slight increase from 2002	Need to ensure data is collected fully. Need to reduce the number of empty homes.

4 Environmental

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trends	Problems / Constraints
	Total of 2.96% of housing stock is empty (Source: EHA)			

Cultural Heritage and Landscape

4.32 The modern countryside has come about through a long process of interaction between people and the basic elements of the land: the rocks and soils, the hills, slopes and valleys, the streams and rivers that drain them, and the plants and animals that are native to the area, or that have been introduced to it. Physical influences such as geology and landform are often the key determinants of landscape character, but in places the overlying pattern of settlement, land use, or field enclosure may be more significant.

4.33 Stafford Borough has one of Britain's best rural landscapes including Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). AONB are designated on the basis of the quality and character of their landscapes in the national context. The primary objective of designation is to conserve the natural beauty of these open and wooded landscapes. Cannock Chase is characterised by a heathland landscape, supporting priority habitats and species, and existing extensive areas of forest. Further detailed work has been carried out by Staffordshire County Council to prepare the 'Planning for Landscape Change: Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan 1996-2011' which looks at the wider character of the rural areas. An update to this work is currently being undertaken as part of the evidence base for the LDF. When completed, information and actions will be referred to in subsequent SA work.

4.34 Green Belts are designated in order to check urban sprawl, safeguard the surrounding countryside, prevent neighbouring settlements from merging, preserve the setting and special character of historic towns, and assist urban regeneration. There are 2 areas of Green Belt designated within Stafford Borough, they surround the North Staffordshire and West Midlands conurbations and continue into both the northern and south eastern parts of the Borough, their locations can be seen below. Within the plan area the most extensive area of Green Belt and the one subject to the most development pressure is the North Staffordshire Green Belt.

Historic Environment

4.35 Stafford Borough is steeped in history, from its Stone Age origins, through Roman and medieval times to modern industrial life. Its network of towns and villages with picturesque churches, castles and stately homes reflects the unique identity of this part of the north Midlands. Buildings such as the Ancient High House, the largest timber framed town house in England, Izaak Walton Cottage and Shugborough, home to the Earls of Lichfield, attract visitors from across the world.

Environmental 4

4.36 The Stafford Borough area is rich in archaeological remains of many times and periods. These remains contain irreplaceable information about the past and are valuable in themselves and in their role in education, leisure and tourism. They represent a non-renewable resource often very susceptible to damage and destruction.

4.37 Historic Parks and Gardens are part of the Borough's heritage and contribute to the attractiveness of the landscape. There are four Registered Parks & Gardens in Stafford Borough, these being: Trentham Gardens, Sandon Park, Shugborough Park and the German Military Cemetery at Cannock Chase.

4.38 There are 43 Scheduled Ancient Monuments these include Bury Bank Hillfort, bowl barrows in Swynnerton, and moated sites and fishponds at Hilderstone Hall, Hextall and Norbury Manor.

4.39 Other designed landscapes contribute to the character of the local historic environment, such as village greens, public parks, and country estates.

4.40 Within Stafford Borough there are 819 Listed Buildings of which 21 are Grade I, 71 are Grade II* and 727 Grade II. Of these 819 Listed Buildings 5 are on the English Heritage 'At Risk' Register (The Register only records grades I & II*).

4.41 There is currently several pieces of work being undertaken to inform local policy on the historic environment. These include Stafford and Stone Conservation Area Appraisal and a Stafford Borough Historic Landscape and Characterisation Assessment. When completed, the information and recommendations from these studies will be used as part of the decision making process in subsequent SA reports.

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Listed building and proportion at risk	21 – Grade I 71 – Grade II* 727 – Grade II Buildings at Risk – 5 buildings on English Heritage 'At Risk' Register (The Register only records grades I & II*)	For the West Midlands 4.9% of Grade I and II* were at risk. West Midlands has seen an increase in Listed Buildings (2007 Heritage Counts Report)	2000 position 18 – Grade I 57 – Grade II* 713 – Grade II 23 – Other (Source: Images of England)	Relatively favourable - slight increase in Listed Buildings and decrease. However Buildings at Risk calculated to be 5.4%, slightly higher than the West Midlands average.
Conservation Areas	2003 position 29 Conservation Areas		No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	

4 Environmental

Indicator	Quantified data	Comparators and Targets	Trend	Problems / Constraints
Archaeological sites	The County's Historic Environment Record (HER) contains information on over 1166 entries of archaeological interest, 45 are Scheduled Ancient Monuments		No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	
Historic Battlefields	There is one Historic Battlefield within Stafford Borough called Hopton Heath.	There are 6 Registered Historic Battlefields in the West Midlands	NO suitable data available in order to define a trend	Lack of information on the condition of the site
Areas designated for their national or local landscape value	Cannock Chase AONB - 68km ²		No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	
Green Belts	3% of dwellings built in Stafford 2002/2003 were built on Green Belt land (of those 40% were on PDL) (Source: LfNH database)	4% of dwellings nationally were built on Green Belt land (of those 61% were on PDL) (Source: ODPM)	No suitable data available in order to define a trend.	Need to protect Green Belt from new (non-agricultural development)

Monitoring Table 1

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
To create high, stable and equitable levels of employment	Employment rate	NOMIS	Annually July – June	Significant decrease in employment rate	Consideration of allocating additional employment sites
	Amount of employment land lost to residential development	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Significant increase in employment land lost to residential development	Consider change in policy to offer employment land greater protection
To ensure high and stable levels of economic diversity and competitiveness that recognises social and environmental issues	% Increase in total VAT registered businesses	Audit Commission	Annually	Decrease in total VAT registered businesses	Further study into employment land and infrastructure?
	Amount of floorspace by employment type which is on Previously Developed Land	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Significant decline in employment on previously developed land	Consider revising site allocations
To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Development not meeting targets set out in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy	Consider ways of delivering retail, office and leisure development including Area Action Plans and revising site allocations
	Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development in town centres				

1 Monitoring Table

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
	% of land that is derelict	ODPM	Annually	Increase in % of land that is derelict	Review target for development on PDL
	% of vacant units in town centres	GOAD	Annually	Increase in % of units in town centres	Consider Area Action Plan for Town centres
To sustain the vitality and viability of Stafford Borough's towns and villages, and their communities	% of empty homes	The Empty Homes Agency	Annually	Increase in % of empty homes	Work with housing agencies to ensure empty homes are brought back into use
	Rank of town centres	British Retail Consortium	Annually	Stafford town centre falls in rank of town centres	Consider Area Action Plan for town centre
To support the needs of the local rural economy and communities	% of dwellings within 350 metres of 30 minute bus route	RSS Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Decrease in % of dwellings within 350 metres of 30 minute bus route	Work with delivery agencies to ensure the delivery of adequate services and facilities
To reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change such as risk of flooding, on public well-being, the economy and the environment.	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April - March	Planning permissions granted contrary to advice of EA	Review of flood risk policy and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Monitoring Table 1

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Number of affordable housing completions	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Significant decline in affordable housing completions	Alterations to thresholds for affordable housing
	Affordability Ratio – House price / earnings	Audit Commission	Annually	Significant increase in affordability ratio	Alterations to thresholds for affordable housing
To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Number of unfit dwellings	Housing Improvement Programme (HIP) returns	Annually	Significant increase in number of unfit dwellings	Consider ways of improving the current housing stock
	Homelessness	DCLG	Annually	Significant increase in number of homeless households	Consider ways of reducing levels of homelessness
To improve opportunities for access for all to work, education, health and local services	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment and major retail centres	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Significant development not being delivered within 30 minutes public transport time of services.	Consideration of site allocations, developer contributions and public transport provision
	Index of Multiple Deprivation	Office of National Statistics	2004	Increase in population living in	Consideration of site allocations,

1 Monitoring Table

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
				areas of high deprivation	developer contributions and public transport provision
To reduce and prevent crime, and reduce the fear of crime	Number of notifiable crimes per 1,000 population	Staffordshire Police		Significant increase in number of notifiable crimes per 1,000 population	Production of design SPD
To reduce the impact of noise and light pollution	Number of IPPC breaches recorded	Environment Agency	Uncertain – Annually	Increase in number of IPPC breaches recorded	Review of Development Control policies and possible production of SPD on design and building standards
To improve health, safety and well-being across the whole community	Area of outdoor sport provision	PPG17 Assessments	In line with LDF review	Decrease in are of outdoor sport provision and open space	Use of planning obligations and conditions. Review of open space policy
To reduce societal contributions to climate change	Renewable energy capacity installed by type	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Required sites are not delivering 10% on-site renewable energy	Possible change in planning obligations or renewable energy targets and policy

Monitoring Table 1

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
To reduce societal contributions to climate change	% of household waste used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	AC Knowledge and Data – only measured at County level	Annually	No increase in % of household waste used to recover heat, power and other energy sources	Consideration of allocating sites for delivering renewable energy
	Total emissions of CO2	Defra – Nuts4 data	Annually	Significant increase in CO2 emissions	Increase the onsite renewable energy requirement, stronger emphasis on sustainable locations
	Overall % improvement in domestic energy efficiency	Defra	Annually April – March	Decline or reduction in growth of energy efficiency	Work with infrastructure and delivery agencies to consider ways of improving energy efficiency
	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, areas of employment and major retail centres	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually	Significant development not being delivered within 30 minutes public transport time of services.	Consideration of site allocations, developer contributions and public transport provision

1 Monitoring Table

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
To protect and enhance biodiversity	% of new development incorporating water efficiency techniques	Not currently monitored	Not currently monitored	No new developments deliver water saving techniques	Consider amendments to planning policy to require water saving techniques
	% of new homes meeting code for sustainable homes standard	Not currently monitored	Not currently monitored	New developments not meeting code for sustainable homes standards	Consider ways of improving the sustainability rating of new homes
	Change in priority habitats and species	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Condition gets worse	Consider ways of improving biodiversity protection and enhancement
To protect and conserve soil	Change in areas designated for their intrinsic environmental value	Natural England	Annually	Condition gets worse	
	Percentage of SSSI's in 'favourable' condition	Natural England	Annual (However EN rolling cycle of 6 years)	Condition gets worse	
	To achieve targets as set out in the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (SBAP)	The Wildlife Trust	Unknown, most recent survey in 2002	Condition gets worse	
	% of new and converted dwellings	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually April – March	Significant decline in % of new dwellings on	Consider phasing or alternative release of

Monitoring Table 1

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
	on previously developed land	The Housing Monitor: Land for New Homes		previously developed land	allocated sites along with allocating alternative sites for housing development
To protect and enhance water quality of the Borough's rivers whilst maximising their carrying capacity and achieving sustainable water resource management.	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency	Annual Monitoring Report	Annually	Planning permissions granted contrary to advice of Environment Agency	Consider revising water resources policy, including the requirement for sustainable drainage techniques
	% of rivers with good biological / chemical records	Defra	Annually	No reasonable improvements achieved in plan period	Investigation of water saving techniques and control of waste water as close to the source as possible
	% of new development incorporating water efficiency techniques	Not currently monitored	Not currently monitored	No new developments deliver water saving techniques	Consider amendments to planning policy to require water saving techniques
To protect, enhance and, where	Number / % of Listed Buildings and	English Heritage	Annually	Increase in the number of buildings at risk	Consider ways of improving buildings at risk

1 Monitoring Table

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, local scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character.	Scheduled Ancient Monuments at Risk				
To protect, enhance and, where necessary, restore designated landscape areas and town character, local scenic beauty, local distinctiveness, and historic and cultural character.	Provision of accessible natural greenspace	West Midlands Regional Assembly	Annually	Limited delivery of accessible natural greenspace	Consider ways of improving provision of accessible natural greenspace
To create a sense of community identity and belonging	Population change	Staffordshire County Council	Annually	Significant decrease in population	Investigate patterns of population change and relationship with housing and employment
To ensure tolerance, respect and engagement with people from different	% of residents who think that people being attacked because of their skin	Audit Commission	Annually	Significant increase in % of residents who think this is a problem in their local area.	Investigate ways to 'design out crime' through the planning process.

Monitoring Table 1

SA Objective and Policy	Indicator and Policy linked to significant effect	Where does monitoring data come from?	How often is data monitored?	When action should be considered? (Will depend on policy identified)	What action should be considered?
cultures, backgrounds and beliefs recognising their rights and responsibilities	colour, ethnic origin or religion is a very big or fairly big problem in their local area				

2 Glossary

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
Adverse Impact	Where a development / policy would result in harmful effects.
Affordable Housing	Low cost market housing and subsidised housing irrespective of tenure, ownership or financial arrangements, available to people who cannot afford to rent or buy houses generally available on the open market.
Agricultural Land Classification	Classification of land by DEFRA (Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) according to quality. The quality of agricultural land is based on the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long term limitations on the agricultural use of the land for food production. The scale ranges from 1 (excellent) to 5 (uncultivated land suitable for rough grazing only) with the best and most versatile falling within grades 1, 2 and 3a.
Air Quality Management Area	Areas identified as being unlikely to meet National Air Quality Objectives set out in the National Air Quality Strategy
Alternative	One of two or more possibilities / options / courses of action.
Amenity	The perceived value and pleasant features of space and place.
Amenity Uses	Uses such as open space, which contribute to the pleasantness of place and quality of life of an area.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Locations with statutory national landscape designation to provide special protection of the area's natural beauty. These are designated by the Countryside Agency.
Baseline Data	The data is used as a reference with which to compare future observations or results.
Biodiversity	The richness and variety of living things (i.e. plants, birds, animals, fish and insects etc.), which exist in a given area, and the habitats that support them.
Community Plan	A Plan or Strategy for enhancing the quality of life of the local community which each local authority has a duty to prepare under the Local Government Act 2000. The plan is developed and implemented by the Local Strategic Partnership.
Compensate	To make satisfactory payment, reparation or substitution in exchange for something that has been lost or damaged or for some inconvenience.
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Within a Conservation Area there are special controls over development and the felling of trees.

Glossary 2

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
Consultation Body	Authorities which because of their environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specific stages of the SEA. The Consultation Bodies designated in the SEA regulations are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency.
Contaminated Land	Land that is polluted by virtue of past industrial and chemical uses or naturally occurring radiation, which makes it unsuitable for development without decontamination taking place to remove potential hazards to occupiers and potential users of the development.
Countryside Character Areas	Areas of distinctive landscape, wildlife and natural features as defined by the Countryside Agency.
Cultural heritage	Places or things that are valued because they give us a sense of the past and of our cultural identity.
Cumulative Effects	These effects can be caused by a number of developments which, individually and in themselves, may have insignificant effects, but together combine to create a significant effect.
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, responsible for promoting sustainable development, protecting and improving rural, urban, marine and the global environment.
Derelict Land	Land that has been previously developed but has been allowed to fall into disrepair and is no longer used.
Economic Development	The development of the economy of the Council area by the creation of employment opportunities.
Environmental Assets	All environmental assets that provide ecosystem services, e.g. landscape, habitats, pollination, erosion prevention, and the absorption of emissions and pollutants resulting from human activities.
Environmental Capital	The combination of the assets (i.e. the tangible commodities, land, trees, fields, etc.) with the environmental benefits derived from them (leisure opportunities, tranquility, natural habitats etc.)
Environmental Limits	The limit to which an environment or ecosystem can cope with the population, resource exploitation and pollution pressures placed on it. Beyond the environmental limit, there is a risk of causing long-term damage to the health and productivity of an environment.
Environmental Report	A document required by the SEA Directive, as part of an environmental

2 Glossary

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
	assessment, that identifies, describes and evaluates the likely effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Fauna	All the animal life of a given place or time.
Flora	All the plant life of a given place or time.
Green Belt	Land designated in development plans to be kept open in accordance with PPG2.
Greenfield Sites	Land that has never been built on, usually grassland, farmland or heath.
Habitat	A site or areas inhabited by wild flora and fauna upon which they are reliant for their continued free existence.
Heritage	Things of value inherited or passed on from generation to generation, qualities which are worthwhile to preserve for prosperity.
Historic Parks and Gardens	Parks or gardens of special historic interest.
Indicator	Measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Indirect (Secondary) Effects	Effects which are not a direct result of the plan, often produced away from or as a result of a complex pathway
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Telephone, computing and other technology designed to enable Communications Technology remote working and communication.
Infrastructure	Roads, sewers, drainage and the availability of energy supplies at the most basic level, through to social infrastructure such as schools and community centres.
Listed Building	A building contained in a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest prepared by the Secretary of State for the Culture, Media and Sport (under Section 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).
Local Nature Reserve	Sites established by the Local Authority which can make a valuable contribution to nature conservation, local wildlife or geological interest, providing opportunities for education and enjoyment at the local level.
Local Transport Plan	Plan prepared by Staffordshire County Council detailing transport priorities and actions to be taken.
Local Need	Anticipated requirements (e.g. for housing) generated by local growth or

Glossary 2

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
	other (e.g. demographic) trends. This specifically excludes demands generated by inward migration.
Modal Split	The proportion of people travelling by different types of transport.
Mitigate	To alleviate or to moderate a quality or condition that is harmful or unpleasant (e.g. pollution)
Mitigation Measures	Measures designed and intended to reduce adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	An area of national / international importance for nature conservation and managed in accordance with a nature reserve agreement.
National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)	A charity where the aim is to acquire, protect and improve playing fields and other recreational space for the community.
Net Gain	The useful and/or positive benefits remaining after all deductions have been made.
Non-statutory Designations	A designation not enacted, created, or regulated by statute.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)	A series of notes issued by the Government, setting out policy guidance on different aspects of planning. Local Planning Authorities must take their content into account in preparing their LDF.
Precautionary Principle	The assumption that an activity or development might be damaging unless it can be proved otherwise.
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	Housing land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings) and associated fixed surface structures. The definition covers the curtilage of the development.
Public Transport Nodes	Areas that offer greater accessibility by public transport and reduce reliance on the private car.
Ramsar	A wetland site designated under the European Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
Reclaim/Re-use	To regenerate, rescue or restore an area to bring it back into use.
Regional Planning Guidance (RPG)	Planning Guidance produced at a regional level to tackle issues of strategic importance that can be best dealt with over a larger area.

2 Glossary

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
Renewable Energy	Energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment (e.g. from sun, wind or wave or fall of water). Plant and some waste materials are also potential sources.
Rural Diversification	Engaging in new and different economic activity to strengthen the rural economy and support existing agricultural businesses and farm incomes.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC 'On the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.'
SEA Regulations	<i>The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004</i>
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including sustainability effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A European designation for the conservation of sites of international conservation importance, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora.
Special Needs Housing	A segment of the housing market where a proportion of the housing is targeted or reserved for those people who require special housing requirements. It covers a spectrum of providers and tenures including housing association, joint ventures, public sector and owner occupation.
Site of Biological Importance (SBI)	A site of biological importance that is of county importance for its wildlife interest.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A protected area identified as being of national importance in terms of wildlife, flora, fauna, geological or physiological features. They represent irreplaceable parts of our natural heritage
Special Protection Area (SPA)	A European designation for the protection of wild birds, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR)	Is the ratio of the actual number of deaths one would expect if the population had the same death rate as a standard population.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision-making by ensuring that significant environmental effects of the decision are taken into account.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Appraisals of plans, strategies and proposals to test them against the four broad objectives set out in the government's sustainable development strategy.

Glossary 2

Accessibility	The ease with which facilities of any kind can be reached by people wishing to use them.
Sustainable Development (SD)	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland 1987).
Synergies	The working of two things to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects.
Target	An objective that seeks a specified desired end, stated usually within a specified time-scale.
Unstable Land	Land which by reason of geological conditions or man-made changes, is likely to be subject to movement or collapse, putting at risk life and developments located on or near it.