

North Warwickshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report



**North Warwickshire
Borough Council**

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Non -Technical Summary

Introduction

To support the North Warwickshire Local Plan (NWLP) and other Development Plan Documents (DPD), the Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The purpose of the sustainability appraisal process is to test the social, environmental and economic effects of the plan from the outset. In doing so it will help ensure that decisions are made that contribute to achieving sustainable development.

This Scoping Report has been prepared as the first stage of the SA process.

The Scoping Report has been prepared as part of the combined Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

SEA focusses on the environmental elements of the plan, whilst the SA process is broader covering the social, economic and environmental impacts of the plan. Government guidance suggests that SA and SEA requirements can be met through a single appraisal process.

A comprehensive review of other plans and programmes at a national, regional, and local level has been undertaken to identify implications for future Local Plan and Development Plan Document policies and the Sustainability Appraisal.

The following sustainability issues were identified as particularly important in advancing the environmental, economic and social progress of the Borough

| Scoping Report Topics | Sustainability Issues |
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| Population | A growing population has the potential to place additional strain on the transport network adding to congestion, road safety concerns and carbon emissions. To mitigate this, a significant reduction in private car usage and the overall need to travel is required. |
| Housing- including Housing Tenure, housing types and property prices (includes Gypsy & Travelers). | <p>Affordability within the Borough is still a significant problem, especially for the young population.</p> <p>There is a limited amount of affordable (rented / part-owned) homes in the Borough including those provided by the Council.</p> <p>The average house price in the Borough has been steadily increasing</p> |
| Education | <p>An increase in housing development could place pressure on the existing schools in terms of school places.</p> <p>High house prices could lead to shortage of lower paid and key workers (i.e. teachers, nurses etc.) living in the area.</p> |

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| <p>Health and Wellbeing including general health, mental health, childhood obesity.</p> | <p>Hospital admissions relating to mental health have increased by significantly in the past few years.</p> <p>Obesity in both adults and infants is an issue for the Borough with both being above the National Average.</p> <p>Health inequality and life expectancy issues within parts of the Borough</p> |
| <p>Water and water quality</p> | <p>An increase in development will place extra pressure on water resources.</p> <p>Development proposals can lead to an increase in impermeable surfaces that will not only exacerbate flood risk from surface water run off but also result in the conveyance of pollutants to watercourses – both of which can have impacts on water quality.</p> <p>Climate change will impact water resources in terms of water supply as well as water quality i.e. hotter drier summers increasing demand for water supply; less frequent rainfall.</p> |
| <p>Renewable energy and energy efficiency</p> | <p>There is a need to increase renewable energy provision in the Borough Development will need to incorporate sustainable construction, energy efficiency and renewable energy, including reducing CO₂ emissions to achieve zero carbon standards</p> |
| <p>Climate Change</p> | <p>There is a need to balance housing and economic growth with reduced carbon emissions as climate change is a significant issue facing the Borough.</p> <p>The need to ensure that development is designed and delivered in ways that mitigates the effects of climate change, but which also allow for adaptation to climate change, including retrofitting, reuse and adaptations of current buildings where possible.</p> <p>There needs to be adaptation measures put in place to ensure developments of the future are able to adapt to climate change and measures to ensure the developments we already have are able to do so.</p> |
| <p>Waste</p> | <p>Recycling rates for the Borough were 49% in 2019/2020 which was higher than the national figure.</p> <p>An increase in development will lead to an increase in construction waste and the need for this to be disposed of properly.</p> <p>Seek to avoid waste generation through demolition and loss of existing buildings by focusing on retrofitting, reuse and adaptation where possible.</p> <p>Increased development will lead to an increase in household waste generation</p> |

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| Soil Quality | There is very little high-quality soil within the Borough |
| Noise | <p>Noise pollution is an issue that may impact on parts of the Borough. Commercial and Industrial uses, rail and traffic are the main source of noise in the Borough. The regulations governing noise nuisance are covered by the Noise Act 1996 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Borough is looking to introduce online procedures for addressing problems in the near future.</p> <p>There is a planning need to ensure noise sensitive developments such as housing, health, social and community services and facilities are not allocated, or permitted, close to significant noise generating uses and nuisances, including infrastructure such as major Trunk and 'A' Roads, motorways and mainline railways. These may create significant noise nuisance that impacts on occupiers/users amenity, health and well-being as well as impacting the rural character and "tranquility" of rural areas within the Borough noted below.</p> <p>Noise sources can arise from the following;</p> <p>"Environmental noise" which includes noise from transportation sources.</p> <p>"Neighbour noise" which includes noise from inside and outside people's homes.</p> <p>"Neighbourhood noise" which includes noise arising from within the community such as industrial and entertainment premises, trade and business premises, construction sites and noise in the street.</p> <p>In addition to the general nuisance impact, noise also can have a detrimental impact on the natural environment and ecology, where noise disturbance can affect wildlife/ecology in various ways.</p> <p>Noise is therefore an issue within the Borough that needs to be covered within the SA.</p> |
| Green Infrastructure, biodiversity and geodiversity | <p>Development could put pressure on the existing sites of ecological and biodiversity importance.</p> <p>Climate change issues along with extreme climate events could lead to destruction of sites of biodiversity/geodiversity importance.</p> <p>Biodiversity is linked to issues related to air quality, soil quality, water quality, natural landscape, health.</p> <p>Geodiversity is linked to issues related to water quality, soil quality and natural landscape.</p> |
| Built and Historic Environment | <p>Short-term visions for the development and demand for new housing and other needs could result in inappropriate development and demolition, which could affect the character of historic areas/buildings within the city. Conserving and enhancing the significance of heritage assets should be considered as a priority</p> <p>New development can have an impact on the historic setting and character of the area. However good design has the potential to enhance and improve local character and setting.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to heritage assets at risk, potentially from neglect, decay, or development pressures, and also the</p> |

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| | <p>potential for addressing assets at risk through local planning policies. conserving and enhancing the significance of heritage assets</p> |
| Culture, sport and recreation | <p>Culture/Sport/Recreation is linked to issues related to health, poverty, community involvement, biodiversity, natural landscape, sense of place and efficient use of land.</p> |
| Crime and safety | <p>In the year ending September 2022, the crime rate in North Warwickshire was lower than average for the Warwickshire force area</p> |
| Transport | <p>Connectivity must support efficient housing development and density. Reducing reliance on cars will also serve to reduce the demand for car parking, releasing land for more productive use, for example new homes, new employment sites and green spaces.</p> <p>Significant transport challenges and opportunities will be faced by HS2. A strategic approach to transport and development planning will maximise the positive outcomes from these.</p> <p>The delivery of goods and services must be approached in a more sustainable way, reducing goods mileage and supporting lower impact last mile delivery options. Development and infrastructure investment must support changing freight and logistics demands</p> <p>Increased trip generation as a result of population growth must be accommodated in a sustainable and equitable way. The transport network must also attract and support economic growth and access to employment, supporting local, regional, national and international investment.</p> |
| Light Pollution | <p>North Warwickshire is a rural area, whose character and distinctiveness arises from the lack of urban developments and characteristics associated with urban landscapes. Lighting is often seen as intrusive, indicative of increasing “urbanisation”.</p> |
| Tranquility | <p>Finding the qualities of places which generate tranquil feelings and protecting those locations and attributes is vital for a country pressured by development. Hartshill Hayes Country Park is shown on the tranquility mapping carried out during 2006 by Northumbria University, commissioned by CPRE. It builds on previous methodology led by individual feelings about tranquil places with a simpler quantitative consultation approach, giving a ‘national’ understanding of the concept of tranquility.</p> <p>Within North Warwickshire the areas least disturbed by the presence of noise and visual intrusion from major infrastructure such as motorways and A roads, urban areas and airports lies south of Baxterley, north Of Meriden covering the central rural area of North Warwickshire. This is shown on the natural England maps indicating change in the extent of intrusion and the resulting fragmentation of the undisturbed countryside from the early 1960s to the early 1990s to 2007</p> |

An SA Framework has been established by drawing out the key issues from the contextual review and baseline analysis. The framework consists of a series of SA topics and supporting objectives, which form the basis against which the Plan (and any reasonable alternatives) will be appraised

| SA Topic | SA Objectives |
|---|---|
| 1. Housing (including Gypsy & Traveler) | 1a) To meet housing needs of the current and future resident and by providing decent affordable homes of right quality and type. |
| 2. Equality, diversity and community development | 2a) To promote safer communities and reduce the fear of crime and antisocial behaviour. |
| | 2b) To reduce Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to address poverty and help improve access to facilities and services for disadvantaged individuals and communities |
| | 2c) Ensure easy and equitable access to services, facilities and Opportunities, including education and employment |
| | 2d) Support, empower and connect communities to create a healthier society. |
| 3. Health and wellbeing | 3a) To improve the health of the population and reduce health inequalities and health issues impacting on life expectancy in parts of the Borough |
| | 3b) To improve access and availability of sports and recreation facilities. |
| | 3c). To improve access and availability to open spaces. |

| SA Topic | SA Objectives |
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| 4. Waste and resource use | 4a) Encourage and enable waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery, building retrofitting and adaptation. |
| | 4b) To ensure a sustainable and efficient use of natural resources such as water and minerals |
| 5. Economy and employment | 5a). Achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy and prosperity for the benefit of all of North Warwickshire residents. |
| | 5b) To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and growth throughout the Borough. |
| | 5c) To improve educational skills of the overall population |
| | 5d) To maintain and enhance the vitality and viability of town and retail centres |
| | 5e) To address loss of rural and urban employment opportunities/assets and maintain employment provision type and flexibility to address technical changes to industries that may impact on employment levels/opportunities (e.g. Automation, robotics and other technological advances) |
| 6. Air quality | 6a). Minimise air pollution levels and create good quality air. |
| | 6b) Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the major urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure |
| 7. Water Quality | Minimise water pollution levels and create good quality water. |
| 8. Land and Soil | 8a) Minimise soil pollution levels and create good quality soil. |
| | 8b) Encourage land use and development that creates and sustain well-designed, high quality distinctive and sustainable places. |
| | 8c) Encourage the efficient use of previously developed land and buildings and encourage efficient use of land. |
| 9. Achieving zero carbon Living | 9a) Minimise North Warwickshire’s contribution to the cause of climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from transport, domestic commercial and industrial sources. |
| | 9b) Promote and ensure high standards of sustainable resource efficient design, construction and maintenance of buildings, retrofitting, reuse and sustainable energy generation. |
| | 9c) Reduce carbon emissions from transport to contribute to the Council’s decarbonisation. |
| 10. Flooding | To reduce vulnerability to climatic events and flooding. |
| 11. Historic Environment | Value, protect, enhance North Warwickshire’s built and historic and archaeological environment and landscape. |
| 12. Natural Landscape | Value, protect and enhance North Warwickshire’s natural landscape. |

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| 13. Biodiversity and geodiversity | 13a). Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of Warwickshire. |
| | 13b) Valuing, enhancing and protecting the geodiversity of North Warwickshire. |

| SA Topic | SA Objectives |
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| 14. Accessibility and transport | <p>14a) Increase use of public transport, cycling and walking as a proportion of total travel and ensure development is primarily focused in the urban areas, making efficient use of existing physical transport infrastructure</p> <p>14b) Ensure development reduces the need to travel and reduce the negative impacts of transport on the environment</p> <p>14c). Reduce carbon emissions from transport to contribute to the Council’s decarbonisation commitment.</p> |
| 15. Light | <p>North Warwickshire is a rural area, whose character and distinctiveness arises from the lack of urban developments and characteristics associated with urban landscapes. Lighting is often seen as intrusive, indicative of increasing “urbanisation”.</p> |
| 16. Tranquility | <p>Finding the qualities of places which generate tranquil feelings and protecting those locations and attributes is vital for a country pressured by development. Hartshill Hayes Country Park is shown on the tranquility mapping carried out during 2006 by Northumbria University, commissioned by CPRE. It builds on previous methodology led by individual feelings about tranquil places with a simpler quantitative consultation approach, giving a ‘national’ understanding of the concept of tranquility.</p> <p>Within North Warwickshire the areas least disturbed by the presence of noise and visual intrusion from major infrastructure such as motorways and A roads, urban areas and airports lies south of Baxterley, north Of Meriden covering the central rural area of North Warwickshire. This is shown on the natural England maps indicating change in the extent of intrusion and the resulting fragmentation of the undisturbed countryside from the early 1960s to the early 1990s to 2007</p> |
| 17. Energy | <p>17a) Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.</p> <p>17b) Ensure development maximizes the potential for sustainable on-site generation while minimizing the negative impacts of energy use and generation on the environment.</p> <p>17c). Seek to reduce carbon emissions from energy production and use by the Council (where relevant) and by development within the Borough to contribute to the Council’s decarbonisation commitment.</p> |

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Local Plan

- 1.1 North Warwickshire Borough Council adopted a Local Plan for the whole of the Borough in 2021. The Local Plan will guide future development of the Borough for a period of 15 years and beyond. The Borough Council is also seeking to prepare subject specific policy documents (development plan documents). All of the documents to be prepared are listed in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The details are provided in Table 1 below

Table 1 NWBC Local Plan and any other Development Plan Documents

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| Responsible Authority | NWBC |
| Plan or programme | North Warwickshire Local Plan and any other Development Plan Documents |
| What prompted the plan or programme | The Local Plan is a Local Development Document prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Plan)(England) Regulations 2012, as amended |
| Plan or programme period | To 2050 |
| Area covered | The Borough of North Warwickshire |
| Purpose of the plan or programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To establish the spatial strategy and set out strategic policies for the Borough; ▪ Identify land allocations for housing, employment and other appropriate forms of development to meet needs to 2050; ▪ To set out development management policies against which development proposals can be determined. |

- 1.2 The Local Plan is informed by an evidence base of the key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough, which secures baseline information and support its policy positions and specific proposals for development.
- 1.3 The Local Plan will be the statutory development plan for the Borough replacing the Local Plan 2021. Together with any neighbourhood plans that have been made, it will provide the basis for determining planning applications and outlines the main criteria that the Council will employ in assessing planning proposals within the Borough.

Sub Regional Context

- 1.4 Strategic policy making authorities are required to cooperate with each other and with other bodies in bring forward policies, which address strategic matters. In this context:
- North Warwickshire forms part of the Coventry & Warwickshire and the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area (North Warwickshire however does not deal with their needs)
 - North Warwickshire will undertake extensive consultation with infrastructure

bodies in relation to physical, social and green infrastructure.

Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.5 An integrate part of bringing the Local Plan forward is the sustainability appraisal, which identifies how sustainable development is being addressed through the Plan.

“Local plans and spatial development strategies should be informed throughout their preparation by a sustainability appraisal that meets the relevant legal requirements. This should demonstrate how the plan has addressed relevant economic, social and environmental objectives (including opportunities for net gains). Significant adverse impacts on these objectives should be avoided and, wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered)”. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021, paragraph 32

- 1.6 The SA Scoping Report is the first stage of undertaking Sustainability Appraisal. It draws together information about North Warwickshire and the wider area to establish a SA Framework against which the effect of the Local Plan proposals and policies will be assessed. This includes:

- Identify environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Plan;
- Sets out ‘baseline information’ on the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of North Warwickshire and its links to the wider area;
- In the context of these reviews, consider key Issues and Problems that the Local Plan should address in the interest of sustainable development;
- Setting out an appropriate framework for carrying out an SA assessment, including objectives against which draft policies and options may be assessed, and indicators against which progress towards meeting those objectives can be monitored in future.
- Identified whether proposals have a positive or negative impact and what mitigations may be available to reduce any negative impacts.

Section 2: Approach to SA

Legislative Framework

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 identifies a number of requirements in relation to sustainable development and SA:
- Under section 19 of the Act “The local planning authority must:
 - a) carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each development plan document;
 - b) prepare a report on the findings of the appraisal.” (the sustainability appraisal).
 - Section 39 requires that in preparing the local plan a council “must exercise the function with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development” having regard under S39 to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The current SA process will be changing and will be replaced by something else at some point.

Under the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, Regulation 22 sets out a list of prescribed documents for the purpose of Section 20(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase 2004 Act including the sustainability appraisal report.

- 2.2 In undertaking the requirement for SA, local planning authorities must also meet the requirements of European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (commonly referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA). The Directive was translated into legislation in the United Kingdom through the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004 (EAPP). The EAPP requires that local authorities undertake an ‘environmental assessment’ of any plans and programmes they prepare that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. The specific requirements are set out in Table 2.

Table 2 – The Sea Directive Requirements

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| <i>The preparation of an environmental report</i> | <p>Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of the contents, main objectives and geographical; scope of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes • The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme; • The environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected • 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 (SPA's) and 92/43/EEC (SAC's); • The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken in account during its preparation • The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape, and the interrelationship between the above factors. (These affects should include secondary, cumulative, |
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| | <p>synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme • An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical difficulties or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information • A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10 • A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings <p>The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment</p> |
| <p>Consultation</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report. • Authorities with environmental responsibility and the public shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental report before the adoption of the plan or programme • Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country |
| <p>Consideration Provision of information on the decision</p> | <p>Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted shall be informed and the following made available to those so informed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan or programme as adopted • A statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • The measures decided concerning monitoring |
| <p>Monitoring</p> | <p>Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation</p> |
| <p>Quality Assurance</p> | <p>Environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive</p> |

- 2.3 There are no statutory requirements on the form of an SA. However, the EAPP requires that an assessment must be in the form of a report and the report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of:
- Implementing the plan or programme.
 - Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. (Reg 12(2)).
 - The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as:
 - biodiversity;
 - population;

- (c) human health;
- (d) fauna;
- (e) flora;
- (f) soil;
- (g) water;
- (h) air;
- (i) climatic factors;
- (j) material assets;
- (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- (l) landscape; and
- (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs to (l).

SEA and SA are similar processes that involve a comparable series of tasks. The main difference is that SEA focuses on environmental effects, whereas SA covers environmental, social and economic matters.

What is the Purpose of Sustainability Appraisal?

- 2.4 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of documents. SA is a systematic process undertaken during preparation of a plan or strategy. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. As such, it provides an opportunity to identify adverse, as well as positive impacts that the plan or strategy might have on these aims and thereby where applicable to identify potential mitigation measures.
- 2.5 The overall aims of the SA process are:
- To ensure that all aspects of sustainable development are fully integrated into the Local Plan throughout its preparation and revision;
 - To provide an assessment of the potential environmental, economic and social effects of the plan;
 - To enable people who have not been involved in the plan making process to understand what information was considered, and why certain decisions were made;
 - To consult on the SA procedure, allowing the public and stakeholders to have an input into the process; and
 - To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive
- 2.6 As stressed in Planning Practice Guidance, both SA and SEA are tools used at the plan making stage to assess the likely effects of the plan when judged against reasonable alternatives. The role of the SA is to provide information on the likely effects of a plan and any reasonable alternatives. This information is utilised to make informed selections. However, it is the Council, as the plan-maker and not the assessment process that ultimately determines the preferred approach within the Plan. For example, a less than positive environmental alternative may be selected but the assessment process will clarify where adverse environmental effects are likely to occur and identify whether mitigation may be possible.
- 2.7 A number of other positive impacts potentially arise from undertaking SA:
- **Improved plans:** SA can make plan making more systematic and contribute to an evidence base by providing meaningful social, economic and environmental information;

- **Providing insights:** The SA can offer a different perspective on a plan by ensuring that the plan-maker looks at it from different viewpoints;
 - **Facilitates communication and transparency:** The SA helps to enhance wider understanding of a plan's social, economic and environmental effects and, through an understanding of those effects, reduce opposition to proposals;
 - **Improved environmental protection** – It identifies environmental effects and help the plan-maker to avoid potential problems by proposing alternative solutions;
 - **Reduced long-term costs:** by helping to avoid unforeseen effects.
- 2.8 The best-known definition of sustainable development comes from Our Common Future (the “Brundtland Report”), prepared by the World Council on Environment and Development in 1987, which defines sustainable development as ‘development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.
- 2.9 Definitions that are more recent have included social inclusion/progress and economic growth/performance within the definition of sustainability. In 2005 the UK Government published Securing the Future- UK Government sustainable development strategy (DEFRA, 2005), which identifies sustainable development as having five key principles. These are:
- Living within Environmental Limits
 - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
 - Achieving a Sustainable Economy
 - Promoting Good Governance
 - Using Sound Science Responsibly
- 2.10 The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) identifies that there are three overarching dimensions to sustainable development economic, social and environmental.
- **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and,
 - **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The Relationship between SA and SEA

- 2.11 The SA includes within it a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The SEA provides the opportunity to identify and address the environmental implications of the Plan. Where alternatives with negative environmental effects are selected for other reasons, the SA has a practical role to play in identifying mitigation measures to avoid

or reduce these effects as far as possible. The SEA Directive requires consideration of 'measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme'.

2.12 The requirements to carry out SEA and SA are distinct, but the Planning Practice Guidance identifies that sustainability appraisal should meet all of the requirements of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020. SA goes further than SEA (which is primarily focused on environmental effects) requiring the examination of all the sustainability- related effects, whether they are social, economic or environmental. Throughout this document, the term SA is used to refer to the joint SA/SEA process.

2.13 Table 3 identifies how the requirements of SEA are met in the SA.

Table 3: SEA Requirements

| | Covered in the SA Report |
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| <p>Preparation of an environmental report that identifies describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme</p> <p>The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 as may reasonably be required, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the process to avoid duplication of the assessment (regulation 12(3)). Information may be provided by reference to relevant information obtained at other levels of decision- making or through other EU legislation (regulation 12 (4)).</p> <p>When deciding on the scope and level of detail of information to be included in the environmental report the consultation bodies should be consulted</p> | |

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| a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes | The main objectives of the Local Plan will be described in the Sustainability Appraisal report. |
| b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme | Section 4 of the Scoping Report summarises the characteristics of the Council areas and sets out baseline data. Section 4 identifies what the implication would be without the implementation of the Local Plan. The likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Local Plan will be assessed and reported in the Sustainability Appraisal report |
| c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected; | Section 4 of the Scoping Report summarises the characteristics of the Council area. Baseline data will be updated as necessary. |
| d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 2009/147/EC (Conservation of Wild Birds) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive).; | These requirements will be considered as part of the SA Report. A Habits Regulation Assessment will be undertaken |
| e) The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation; | Section 3 and the SA Framework contains the key messages from the reviews of plans, policies and programmes. Section 4 of the Scoping Report describes the sustainability issues facing the Council. |
| f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. | The likely significant effects will be assessed and reported in the Sustainability Appraisal report. |
| g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme; | The measures to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects will be reported in the Sustainability Appraisal report. |
| h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information; | The reasons for selecting the alternatives and a description of how the assessment was undertaken will be reported in the Sustainability Appraisal report. |
| i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring | The monitoring framework will be reported in the Sustainability Appraisal report. |

Scoping Methodology

- 2.14 The approach to undertaking a review of the SA is based upon Planning Practice Guidance. It also utilises A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The guidance is designed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive.
- 2.15 The SA is anticipated to be carried out in a series of stages, which includes setting the context and objectives for the sustainability appraisal, developing and assessing the effects of policy options and carrying out consultation on a Sustainability Appraisal Report. The stages of preparation are shown below.
- 2.16 The scoping report covers Stage 1 of the SA process. The Sustainability Appraisal report will cover Stages 2 and 3 of the SA process. Stage 4 represents the consultation stage which the Sustainability Appraisal report will be published alongside the publication draft of the Local Plan in order to seek comments. The remaining Stage 5 will be completed at the adoption stage. Table 4 below shows the 5 stages

Table 4: Stages of SA and SEA production

| Sustainability Appraisal and SEA. | | | | Local Plan |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Stage 1 | Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope. | a | Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives. | Evidence gathering and engagement. |
| | | b | Collect baseline information. | |
| | | c | Identify sustainability Issues and Problems. | |
| | | d | Developing the SA framework. | |
| | | e | Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the SA report. | |
| Stage 2 | Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects. | a | Test the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework. | Consult on the Local Plan (Town & Country Planning (Local Plan) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended Regulation 18). Draft Local Plan. |
| | | b | Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives. | |
| | | c | Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives. | |
| | | d | Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects. | |
| | | e | Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan (DPDs). | |
| Stage 3 | Prepare the SA report. | | | Prepared the publication version of the Local Plan. ↓ |

| | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|--|---|
| Stage 4 | Seek representations on the SA report from consultation bodies and the public. | | | Seek representations on the Local Plan Publications (Regulation 19). ↓ Submit Local Plan and supporting evidence for independent examination. ↓ Outcome of the examination. ↓ Local Plan adopted. |
| Stage 5 | Post adoption reporting and monitoring. | a | Prepare and publish post-adoption statement. | Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan. |
| | | b | Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan. | |
| | | c | Respond to the adverse effects. | |

2.17 The NPPF attaches great importance to Green Belts. The boundary to the Green Belt can be amended through a review of the Local Plan but it should only be altered in exceptional circumstances.

2.18 The Green Belt is designated for five purposes (NPPF)

- a. to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- b. to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- c. to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- d. to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- e. to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

2.19 Planning Practice Guidance on Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal does not specifically address Green Belt in relation to the SA of the Local Plan.

2.20 It is considered that the Green Belt should be taken into account particularly as it is a significant factor in considering the reasonable alternatives and arriving at an appropriate strategy.

Integration with other Assessments

2.21 Various other assessments are also carried out on the Local Plan in addition to SA reports. These are not part of the SA process but nevertheless cover sustainability issues:

- Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is an additional requirement, required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It will be undertaken separately rather than as a component part of the SA.
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) – Undertaking an EIA allows the councils to identify any potential discrimination caused by their policies or the way they work and take steps to make sure that it is removed.
- Health & Wellbeing Impact Assessment (HIA) - if it is deemed necessary a HIA will be undertaken.

Section 3: Identification of Other Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

(Stage 1a - Table 4 Sustainability Appraisal and the Local Plan)

- 3.1 A key aspect of the SA involves reviewing relevant international, national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies to identify their requirements, and assess their relationship to the Local Plan.
- 3.2 The review makes specific reference to any environmental protection objectives, targets or requirements established at the international, European or national level to comply with the SEA Directive.
- 3.3 There is no definitive list of plans that must be reviewed. The EAPP Regulation 12(3), Schedule 2 part 6 identifies that plans and programmes should consider likely significant effects on the environment and identifies a number of issues (See Section 2 paragraph 2.3 c). These issues have been considered in conjunction with the provisions of the NPPF, which sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies three overarching objectives, which are interdependent, an economic objective, a social objective and an environmental object. (See Section 2 paragraph 2.11). The combination of the issues in the EAPP and the NPPF objectives has been utilised in determining relevant plans, policies and programme and the baseline information anticipated to form the basis of the Sustainability Appraisal. The various 'chapters' in the NPPF have been used as broad basis to consider the sustainability aspects. For example, delivering a sufficient supply of homes, Building a strong, competitive economy.
- 3.4 The analysis of sustainability objectives, targets and indicators derived from the plans, policies and programmes provided in Appendix 1 considers both the implications for Local Plan and for developing the SA Framework. Each of the themes identified relates to sustainable development in North Warwickshire. Through the analysis of the baseline data, a number of sustainability issues for North Warwickshire have been identified. The analysis of the implications arising from the plans and programmes and the Issues and Problems in the baseline have been utilised to determine relevant Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. These aspects have been brought together in Table 5, which sets out the key messages from the reviews of plans, policies and programmes, the source and the implications for the SA framework. The key messages list is split into different themes; however, it should be recognised that these themes are interlinked and overlap.
- 3.5 The list of relevant documents will be kept under review during the SA process.
- 3.6 In relation to the SEA requirements, a number of effects on the environment are identified. However, there is no definition in the Directive as to what they encompass. In the context of the Scoping Report, Appendix 2 set out a definition of the various effects. Population is considered to include information on demographics and generic socio-economic issues and can be seen to run across a

substantial number of these key messages set out below.

Table 5: Key Messages

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message or their updates (this is not an exhaustive list) | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Sustainable Development From a planning perspective NPPF identifies sustainable development has having three Three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic objective • Social objective • Environmental objective <p>At a high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Reflects resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly).</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42/187. Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development • 2009 Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS, 2006) • UK Sustainable Development Strategy - Securing the Future • National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) • Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) • NWBC Climate Change Action Plan (Draft July 2022) • Draft Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan (April 2024) • Warwickshire Devolution Framework Agreement (2024) • Draft North Warwickshire Economic Development Strategy (2023) | <p>Sets out the requirement for sustainable development in planning.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to reduce emissions • Not enough electric charging points within the Borough • Reliance on fossil fuels |
| <p>DELIVERING A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF NEW HOMES</p> | | | |
| <p>Housing Identification that not enough housing is being developed to meet housing needs. The NPPF requires that local planning authorities should significantly boost the supply of housing for market and affordable housing' are met.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixing our broken housing market (Housing White Paper) 2017 • NPPF • PPG • UK Climate Change Programme • Self Build and Custom Build Act 2015 | <p>Requires objectives to ensure that it meets the housing requirements of the Borough and, where necessary and appropriate, neighbouring Boroughs and the housing stock is of a high quality and meets the requirements of all sectors of the community.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the level of housing required in North Warwickshire and the interaction between different areas of the Borough To provide sufficient housing of a type and tenure to meet specific needs and to provide a choice and |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>The aims should be to creating 'sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities'.</p> <p>Other aspects identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce homelessness • Opportunities for self build • Reduce the number of empty homes • Improve affordability across the housing market • Increase the supply of houses • Provide a supply of high quality, well designed, energy efficient housing appropriate to needs of the community including family homes, homes to meet the needs of the ageing population and social housing • New homes to be energy efficient, and able to cope with the effects of climate change • Provide adequate amount of land for gypsies and travellers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally Described Space Standard, March 2015 • North Warwickshire Local Plan Review • North Warwickshire Corporate Plan • Strategic Housing Market Assessment, 2020. • North Warwickshire Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment, 2020 • Greater Birmingham Strategic Growth Study (2018) | | <p>mix of sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing in terms of new build has declined in recent years and is not meet the housing need identified by the NPPF Standard Method. • When income levels in North Warwickshire are taken into account, housing affordability is an issue. • Changing demographic structure, including an aging population, will impact future household characteristics and will have implications for the provision of housing requirements, employment opportunities and services. • Given that substantial parts of the Borough are in Green Belt, there are issues in balancing the housing needs of specific areas against the impact on the Green Belt and the countryside. • A substantial number of brownfield sites have been developed in North Warwickshire. The consequence is that limited brownfield sites are available necessitating the utilisation of greenfield sites to meet housing needs. • Reduce the potential impacts on the environment and social |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|--|---|
| | | | <p>infrastructure of North Warwickshire whilst allocating land to provide for housing requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the quality of the existing housing stock |
| BUILDING A STRONGER ECONOMY | | | |
| <p>Business development & the economy Emphasis upon economic growth and productivity from a variety of policies. The NPPF stresses the importance of considering market and economic signals, together with understanding business needs.</p> <p>Planning can make a contribution by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure'. Emphasis is upon the local plan supporting sustainable growth and expansion of business and enterprise.</p> <p>Includes:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Growth Strategy - Europe 2020, Recommendations for the United Kingdom NPPF PPG Industrial Strategy Building a Britain fit for the future 2017 (White Paper) Skills for Growth. BIS National Infrastructure Plan Fixing the foundations: creating a more prosperous nation 2015 Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review 2018 The Digital Economy Act 2017 Digital Connectivity Portal Heritage and the Economy Heritage Counts 2019 An updated report for Historic England June 2019 | <p>Requires objectives to ensure there is sufficient land for business development; to ensure that businesses are located in the correct places and that local communities (especially deprived communities) benefit from them; to ensure that businesses do not cause harm to the communities in which they are situated; and to encourage diversity and high value, high growth, knowledge intensive economic activities, including tourism.</p> <p>Requires objectives to improve employment skills and levels.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting the needs of all current and future populations in terms of business and job opportunities. Accommodating any employment land and other development opportunities as far as possible within an urban area so as to minimise the impact on greenfield sites. Facilitate digital infrastructure to maximise growth opportunities. Providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate current and future development needs in terms of physical green and social infrastructure. The need to encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment particularly in |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure supply of employment land. • Support efficient, competitive and innovative retail, leisure and other sectors. • Support digital infrastructure in the Borough to support growth and technological change. • Regenerate deprived areas through business development. • Ensure location of development makes efficient use of existing infrastructure. • Develop economic capacity and expertise. • Increase economic diversity. • Maximise economic benefit from tourism. • Encourage growth in high value, high growth, high knowledge economic activities. • Ensure that economic growth goes hand-in-hand with high quality environment. • Understand future demands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Warwickshire IDP (2020) • Black Country and southern Staffordshire - Regional Logistics Site Study (2013) • Employment Land Review (2013) • Addendum to Employment Land Review (2016) • Employment Land Review Further Update (2017) • Community Infrastructure Levy Non-Residential Review and Update Viability Report (2018) • HEDNA 2022 • Draft Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan (April 2024) • West Midlands Strategic Employment Sites Study (2021) • Future of Freight Plan • West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy (2019) • Build Back Better, Plan for Growth (2021) • A Roadmap for Business Growth • West Midlands Plan for Growth • Levelling Up White Paper (2022) | | <p>relation to identified sectors, which have the potential for growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating an environment that is attractive to future growth sectors to improve performance in comparison with other locations. • Identifying opportunities for heritage led regeneration. • Economic regeneration is particularly important in any identified areas of deprivation to help alleviate poverty. • To increase incomes and skill levels, particularly in those communities suffering high levels of deprivation. • With the predicted increase in households there is likely to be an need to expand schools or provide new schools. • To supporting the provision of appropriate sized schools |

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| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>for land including type of land and location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the location of industry and commerce brings benefit and not harm to local communities. • Positive approach to employment opportunities in rural areas should be supported, including through support for tourism where appropriate. • Encourage inward investment. <p>Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce worklessness • Improve skills to help reduce unemployment and deprivation | | | <p>and other skill learning facilities at a local level so as to help improve skills and opportunities .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially, using planning to improving employment prospects and training for local residents. • Responding to future trends in employment and supporting the growth of self-employment. |
| <p>Rural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent decline in some rural communities • Promote rural renewal • Development of dynamic, competitive and sustainable economies in the countryside | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 • National Rural Proofing Defra • Rural Economy Growth Review, 2011 and updates • | <p>Requires objectives to ensure sustainable communities in the countryside.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protection and enhancement of biodiversity, particularly statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation interest in North Warwickshire. • Provide for jobs in the rural environment. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|---|---|
| ENSURING THE VITALITY OF TOWN CENTRES | | | |
| Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the vitality of town centres by promoting and enhancing existing centres. • Connectivity within town centres. • Diversity of uses within town centres • Take advantage of economic opportunities related to tourism • Provide centres for the local communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Growth Strategy - Europe 2020, Recommendations for the United Kingdom • NPPF • PPG • Heritage and the Economy • Draft Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan (April 2024) • | Requires objects to support growth and diversity of town centres and local centres. | Issues and Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough has shopping centres that need to be supported in order to keep them vital and viable. • Meeting the needs of all current and future populations in terms of business and job opportunities within town centres. • Providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate current and future development. • Creating an environment that is attractive to future growth sectors to improve performance in comparison with other centres. • Identifying opportunities for heritage led regeneration' or similar alternative. |
| PROMOTE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES | | | |
| Health The 'Marmot Review' of health inequalities in England, which concluded that there is 'overwhelming evidence that | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC (2008) | Requires objectives to: influence Social determinates of health (a person's health status and lifestyle, including economic, environmental and social | Issues and Problems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve health and well being, and to prevent ill health (e.g. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>health and environmental inequalities are inexorably linked and that poor environments contribute significantly to poor health and health inequalities'. Planning for good health can complement planning for biodiversity (green infrastructure) and climate change mitigation (walking/cycling).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve health and access to quality health facilities • More opportunities for walking and cycling • Improve access to open space and leisure opportunities • Understand the economic benefits of better health in the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Act 2010 • NPPF • PPG • Wellbeing and the Historic Environment Threats, Issues and Opportunities for the Historic Environment 2018 Historic England • WCC Promoting Health & Wellbeing Through Spatial Planning • WCC State of Warwickshire Report 2022 • WCC Joint Strategic Needs Assessment • Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2021) | <p>conditions), health issues as a way to promote good planning and design and raise standards, improve health by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, sport and leisure activities and supports sustainable primary care that delivers high quality, efficient, and accessible primary care</p> | <p>through healthy eating and exercise).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide health services and facilities in relation to the demands arising from new development. • Lifestyle indicators are generally worse than the average for England. • North Warwickshire performs poorly in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. • New health, sporting, leisure and recreational facilities should be provided and should encourage walking, cycling and more active lifestyles. • The development of a high quality multifunctional green infrastructure network should be promoted identifying any opportunities for links with and enhancement of |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 • Green Space Strategy 2019 • Leisure Facilities Strategy 2017 | | <p>cultural heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential issue in meeting the needs of an aging population. • The development of accessible cycle networks to facilitate alternative modes of transport. • The development of quality green infrastructure should be promoted as part of development, linking to a green infrastructure network. |
| <p>Education. Education is highlight in relation to life chances, and health/wellbeing. NNPF places emphasis on a choice of school places to meet the needs of communities. Requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of educational facilities. • Improve educational attainment. • Improvement of life chances and health through educational achievement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2018) • WCC Education Strategy (2018) • WCC Career Strategy (2022) • WCC Sufficiency Strategy | <p>Requires objectives that will cover improve educational attainment.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to support the extension and/or rebuilding of schools to meet future education needs from development. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Community safety Reduce crime and the fear of crime from PPP is reflected in the requirements of the NPPF. This can be seen in relation to the importance of crime and safety in relation to good design and in the promotions of healthy communities. The emphasis is that good design should create safe accessible environments where 'crime and disorder, and the fear of crime' are decreased.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG | <p>Requires objectives to reduce crime and the fear of crime and change behaviour that is often linked with crime.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve safety and security for people and property (e.g. through design intervention) and to reduce fear of crime. • Good design of development to minimise conflict between road users. |
| <p>PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT</p> | | | |
| <p>Transport and Accessibility Transport policies are important in 'contributing to sustainability and health objectives'. Stress placed on 'sustainable transport', developments in locations which are or can be made sustainable (making the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling). Emphasis on facilities be located within walking distance of properties and support the transition to a net zero economy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Act 2008 • National Infrastructure Plan • NPPF • PPG • Making Connections DfT • Obesity and the environment: increasing physical activity and active travel, 2013 • Transport Investment Strategy 2017 • The future of transport: a network for 2030 (2004)- being updated | <p>Requires objectives to select the most sustainable sites and enable the development of sustainable transport infrastructure that reduces overall levels of travel and ensures accessibility to key services (e.g. health services, education, employment sites, and leisure facilities), the provision of safe walking and cycling routes, and safe accessible public transport.</p> | <p>Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed accessibility into locational requirements for development and decision making and the access to services (such as health, education and leisure). • The need to improve the quality and range of services available within communities. • Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel. • Reducing the dependency on the private car. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>Transport infrastructure should provide as far as possible a safe environment with minimal conflict between road users, especially traffic and cyclists or pedestrians.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed accessibility in decisions affecting provision, location, design and delivery of services in both urban and rural areas. • Improve social inclusion by making services more accessible. • Tackle crime and fear of crime on public transport. • Improve the quality and safety of pedestrian and cycling networks. • Improve public transport networks. • Encourage more people to walk and cycle. • Reduce impact of travel on the environment. • Maximise the use of existing roads infrastructure and avoid inappropriate development. • Reduce traffic and in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Climate Change Programme • Reducing emissions from road transport: Road to Zero Strategy • Warwickshire Local Transport Plan: Strategy 2011 – 2026 • Strategic Transport Assessment • Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2024 • Decarbonisation of Transport (DfT- 2021) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic congestion is an issue in North Warwickshire reflecting the new development proposed. • Improvements will be required to specific junctions as part of development as otherwise there will be an adverse impact on congestion and journey times. • To facilitate alternative forms of transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle. • Significant new development will need to facilitate bus services to gives choice of transport mode. • To work with partners to provide an integrated and efficient transport system including public transport, walking and cycling network in North Warwickshire. • Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel. • Reducing the dependency on the private car. • To facilitate alternative forms of |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>particular journeys made by car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport. • Reduce traffic noise, pollution and congestion. • Improve the freight network to reduce amount of road freight. • Promote sustainable transport. | | | <p>transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle.</p> |
| SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY COMMUNICATIONS | | | |
| <p>Business development & the economy</p> <p>Substantial emphasis on improvements to the digital network. to achieve full fibre connectivity and 5G mobile broadband.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial Strategy Building a Britain fit for the future 2017 • Future Telecoms Infrastructure Review 2018 • The Digital Economy Act 2017 • NPPF • PPG • IDP | <p>Requires objectives that take account of the need to support improvements to the digital infrastructure.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate digital infrastructure to maximise growth opportunities. |
| MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF LAND | | | |
| <p>Land use</p> <p>Land use involves decisions on crosscutting and multi-layered</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • National design guidance | <p>Requires objectives to ensure that best use of land is made prioritising the re-use of land and</p> | <p>Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting better quality agricultural land from development. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>issues that affect air quality, water quality, access to transportation, economic vitality, and quality of life. A key aspect is to use land to meet economic, social and environmental needs. It will include a substantial number of aspects but in the context of planning this will be reflected in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an array of types and uses of buildings to meet the needs of residents and businesses. • Providing housing is a key aspect • Providing land required for employment purposes. • Protecting land for environmental purposes • Promoting education, health and community services with associated land use requirements. • Maximise the use of brownfield land for housing, business and commercial development. • Prioritise the re-use of existing buildings. • Promote good design. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Landscape Characterisation Historic England. • North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment 2010 • North Warwickshire Monitoring Reports • Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project 2010 • Landscape Character Assessment 2010 • Warwickshire Historic Farmstead Characterisation Project 2010 • Historic Environment Assessment 2019 • The Town & Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 • NPPF • PPG • Increasing Residential Density in Historic Environments 2018. Historic England • North Warwickshire Monitoring Reports | <p>buildings, (brownfield land) and housing development at higher densities.</p> <p>Requires objectives to promote development that, where appropriate brownfield land is utilised as a priority.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the needs of agriculture, recreation & access requirements, the need for alternative sources of energy, flood protection etc. • Providing a framework within which to manage protection of existing habitats and creation of new ones, • The need to safeguard and improve soil resources. • Addressing contamination issues relating to previous land uses. • Past development of brownfield sites means that currently there are limited stocks of vacant brownfield land. By implication, this means that there will be a loss of green field sites and agricultural land. • Reinforcing the role of the town centres. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Emphasis on the reuse of previous developed land and achieving appropriate densities. | • | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there are extensive employment sites in North Warwickshire these are largely currently occupied. • Consequently, there is likely to be a very limited supply of brownfield sites of this nature in the future. • There are extensive 'modern' industrial estates but buildings have not reached the end of their economic life. Consequently, they are not suitable or deliverable in terms of national planning policy • There is limited brownfield land available for development in North Warwickshire with the consequence that development is likely to be on greenfield sites. |
| ACHIEVING WELL DESIGNED PLACES | | | |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Sustainable communities The NPPF promoting sustainable communities with sustainably accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and supports its health and well-being identify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote social cohesion and inclusion in both urban and rural communities. • Support vulnerable groups. • Reduce deprivation, focusing on most deprived areas. • Tackle poverty in urban and rural areas. • Increase social interaction. • Improve social development of children. • Improve quality of life. • Create clean, attractive, quality, safe urban spaces. • Access to quality health, education, housing, transport, shopping and leisure services. • Ensure equality of opportunity in housing, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Equality Act 2010 • Increasing Residential Density in Historic Environments 2018 Historic England • North Warwickshire Community Strategy • North Warwickshire Corporate Plan • North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy, 2013 • North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy • Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Study • Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD • Draft Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan (April 2024) • | <p>Requires objectives to create attractive, safe, sustainable communities.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-designed places can be achieved by taking a proactive and collaborative approach at all stages of the planning process, from policy and plan formulation to development • To ensure that recreation and leisure facilities including open space meets future demand • The need to support green infrastructure (i.e. a strategic network of green spaces and recreational corridors) • There are pockets of deprivation in North Warwickshire. • Reinforce the role of the town centres by improving urban spaces and accessing social infrastructure. <p>(There is a substantial cross over with other key messages such as housing employment, biodiversity and cultural heritage).</p> |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>employment and access to services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that different people have different needs. | | | |
| MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING | | | |
| <p>Climate change The Climate Change Act 2008 has set targets on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the UK by at least 80% by 2050 and 34% by 2020. Zero carbon by 2050.</p> <p>The NPPF emphasises the key role for planning in securing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including in terms of meeting the targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. It also requires taking into account climate change through 'flood risk, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage low or zero carbon communities Minimise the effects of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kyoto Protocol (Doha Amendment) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC, on the Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment EU Directive 2009/28/EC on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources NPPF PPG Climate Change Act 2008 Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England May 2019 Climate Impacts Tool. 2019 (Environment Agency) UK Climate Change Programme Understanding the risks: the UK climate change risk assessment (Gov Website) Groundwater Position Statements Spatial planning for climate resilience and Net Zero | <p>Requires objectives to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change; and to ensure that new development is able to cope with the effects of climate change</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning for the adaptation of and long-term resilience of North Warwickshire in relation to all aspects of climate change. The Local Plan policies provide opportunities to support adaptation to climate change through appropriate design and layout and incorporation of features to facilitate resilience to the effects of climate change. Improving energy efficiency and increasing use of low-carbon and renewable energy. Balancing the potential amenity and landscape impacts and the need for alternative sources of energy. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>climate change on human health and on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new development is able to cope with climate change • Spatial planning should contribute to sustainable communities and the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Code for Sustainable Homes | | |
| <p>Transport and Accessibility</p> <p>Stress placed on ‘sustainable transport’, developments in locations which are or can be made sustainable (making the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling). Emphasis on facilities be located within walking distance of properties.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport networks. • Encourage more people to walk and cycle. • Reduce traffic and in particular journeys made by car. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Obesity and the environment: increasing physical activity and active travel, 2013 • Reducing emissions from road transport: Road to Zero Strategy • Local Transport Plan • A5 Strategy • Decarbonisation of Transport (DfT-2021), • Gear Change A bold vision for cycling and walking (DfT-2021), • Circular 01/22 National Highways (NH 2022), • Warwickshire Local Transport Plan (LTP4) July 2023, | <p>Requires objectives to enable the development of sustainable transport infrastructure that contributes towards reducing climate change.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel. • Reducing the dependency on the private car. • To facilitate alternative forms of transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle. • The implications that over the life of the Plan combustion engines are likely to be increasingly phased out and replaced by ultra-low emission and electric vehicles. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Energy Emphasis upon renewable energy European Commission sets out that the share of renewable energy grows to 20% by 2020 against a 1990 baseline. Consequently emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek secure, clean affordable energy. • Reduce amount of energy consumed. • Generate energy at local levels. • Increase energy efficiency of homes and businesses. • Increase the amount of renewable energy produced. • Invest in the energy infrastructure. • Recover energy from waste. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Act 2011 • Planning and Energy Act 2008 • National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure • NPPF • PPG • Planning for climate change • NWBC Climate and Action Plan | <p>Requires objectives to improve energy efficiency of new development and to encourage alternative ways of generating energy.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving energy efficiency and increasing use of low-carbon and renewable energy. • Balancing the potential amenity and landscape impacts and the need for alternative sources of energy. |
| <p>Flood risk Emphasis on development to be directed away from areas of the highest risk of flooding. For watercourses a sequential test. Emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard land used to manage floodwater • Avoid inappropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Water Framework Directive • EU Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (2007) • Flood and Water Management Act 2010 • NPPF • PPG | <p>Requires objectives to minimise flood risk by considering where development should take place, and by protecting floodplains. Requires objectives to encourage the co-location of both employment and housing where this is feasible</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To take account of the impact of development on water in relation to water quality and flood risk. • To avoid development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 unless exceptional reasons arise. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>development on floodplains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new development does not afford risk elsewhere. • Flood and Water Management Act 2010 highlights the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDS). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Impacts Tool. 2019 (Environment Agency) • Flooding and Historic Buildings 2015 Historic England • Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2013 (or update) • Water Cycle Study 2017 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the impacts of other sources and particularly surface water on flood in relation to development. • Ensuring that development contributes towards reducing flooding risk through improvements to the drainage infrastructure and the use of sustainable urban drainage systems and other efficiency measures such as the use of greywater and rainwater recycling. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTING THE GREEN BELT</p> | | | |
| <p>Biodiversity and habitats Emphasis on the requirement to protect important sites, to plan for green infrastructure and to plan for ecological networks at 'landscape scales'.</p> <p>National policy set out the commitment to 'halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020'.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and promote biodiversity • Conserve threatened species • Ensure that land uses (including agriculture) does | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO World Heritage Convention (1972) • Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC • EU Habitats Directive • EU Birds Directive • The Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats • Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services Defra • Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 | <p>Requires objectives to protect, enhance and improve biodiversity and habitats.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protection and enhancement of biodiversity in North Warwickshire. • Ensuring that the plan proposals have no adverse effect upon the any areas of Special Protection • Safeguarding nationally and locally valued species and habitats. • Enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment potentially through Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping. • Identifying opportunities for tree planting |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>not threaten biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, restore and improve habitats including woodland, and aquatic ecosystems • Create and integrate habitats in urban spaces and in the built environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countryside Act 1968 • Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 • Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 • The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) • Environment Bill 2020 • The Agricultural Bill 2020 • A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018 • NPPF • PPG • Sub Regional Green Infrastructure Study 2011 | | |
| <p>Landscape The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as: “An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.” It recognises that the quality of all landscapes matters – not just those designated as ‘best’ or ‘most valued’.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Landscape Convention 2006 • NPPF • PPG • Countryside Act 1968 • Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 • Assessment of the Meaningful Gap • Coventry & Warwickshire Greenbelt Report | <p>Requires objectives to protect, manage and enhance the landscape.</p> <p>The Green Belt has to consider in relation of the alternatives, policies and site allocations and requires exceptional circumstances if any amendments are proposed to the boundaries.</p> | <p>Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled development could harm local landscape and settlement character. • Protect and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive local character of areas within the Borough; • Maximise the benefits from the landscape character assessment by using landscape character to make choices about the locations for |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>The NPPF identifies that planning should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by 'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the rural and built landscape • Open up access to the countryside • Provide opportunities to value our heritage • Bring improvements to the physical environment through quality design • Mitigation against harm to the landscape <p>The NPPF attached great importance to Green Belt.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland • Historic Landscape Characterisation Historic England. • North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project Assessment. | | <p>development and the design of proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the public realm and promoting high standards of design where regeneration is required. • Potential effects on landscape quality from poor design and layout of new development areas. • A substantial part of North Warwickshire is within the Green Belt where exceptional circumstances are require to justify changes to the Green Belt boundaries. |
| <p>Pollution PPP and reflected in the NPPF identifies that planning policies should be compliant with and contribute towards EU limit values and national objectives for pollutants.</p> <p>Development should be prevented from contributing to,</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directive on ambient air quality management • Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (2010) • EU Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC • Environmental Protection Act 1990- Environmental Act 1995 | <p>Requires objectives to prevent pollution and protect air quality.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining and improving air quality in accordance with National Air Quality Standards and best practice. • Seeking to secure a reduction in emissions from sources which contribute to poor air quality. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.</p> <p>There is a requirement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce the detrimental impact on human health, quality of life and the environment. • Reduce pollution. Ensure that new development does not reduce air quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 • The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland - Volume 2, 2011 • Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 • Environment Bill 2020 • Local Transport Plan. • Air Quality SPD | | |
| <p>Water Requirement to improve water quality with a timetable set out under the Water Framework Directive. Requirement to work with infrastructure providers in relation to water supply. Identify:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Water Framework Directive • EU Directive 91/271/EEC Concerning Urban Waste Water Treatment • Flood & Water Management Act 2010 • Environment Bill 2020 • NPPF • PPG • Water Resources Management Plan 2014. Severn Trent • Future Water The Governments Water Strategy for England | <p>Requires objectives to improve water efficiency, water quality, protect water systems, and to lessen the effects of flood and drought.</p> | <p>Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To safeguard surface and groundwater resources • To improve water quality. • To take account of the impact of development on water in relation to water quality and flood risk. • Reducing the level of water used given the constrained water supply for North Warwickshire. • Consideration should be given to |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve water efficiency • Reduce amount of water used by domestic properties • Reduce water pollution • Enhance and protect aquatic water systems • Promote the use of SUDS where appropriate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water For Life: White Paper (2011) • Hidden infrastructure - The Pressures on Environmental Infrastructure • National Framework for Water Resource 2020. • Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services Defra • Watercycle Study 2017 | | <p>reducing water consumption below Part G of Building Regulations, which specifies that new homes must consume no more than 125 litres of water per person per day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater will need to be effectively managed through development and infrastructure planning. • There is an acute housing shortage in North Warwickshire and to maximise the efficient use of land, innovative options such as co-locating housing and employment should be considered |
| <p>Resources There is also an increase emphasis on protection and preservation of soils. The NPPF requires local planning authorities to take account of the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Safeguarding our soils: A strategy for England, 2011 • Government White Paper – The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature • Standards of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition • Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land. Natural England • Standards of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition DEFRA | <p>Requires objectives to maintain and prevent degradation of soils and protect Best and most versatile agricultural land.</p> | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the needs for protecting better quality agriculture land and development requirements. • The need to safeguard and improve soil resources. |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--|---|---|
| CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT | | | |
| <p>Historic Environment</p> <p>Heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Taking account of 'the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits' of conservation. Emphasises that new development can make a positive contribution to local character distinctiveness.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the rural and built landscape • Provide opportunities to value our heritage • Protect historic buildings, Conservation Areas and the historic environment in general • Protect our archaeological and geological heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (1992) • Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 S.66, S69, S70 and S72 • Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. • NPPF • PPG • The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans Historic England Advice Note 3. Historic England • Heritage at Risk Register • North Warwickshire Conservations Area Appraisals • Historic Environment Assessment. • Building a Stronger Economy' • 'Ensuring the Vitality of Town Centres • The Economic Value of the Heritage Sector • Historic England (HE) Championing Heritage Improving Lives Future Strategy (2021)' • Historic England (HE) Championing Heritage Improving Lives Future Strategy (2021) | <p>Requires objectives to protect, manage and enhance the built heritage; to protect and enhance historic landscapes and the archaeological heritage and to encourage people to enjoy their local heritage.</p> | <p>Sustainability Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and enhancement of North Warwickshire's heritage and archaeological assets and their setting. • 13 heritage assets are identified on the Heritage at Risk Register • The protection of non-designated heritage assets within North Warwickshire including the Historic Canal network • There is a need to actively promote the character and distinctiveness of the Conservation Areas. • Promote the conservation and enhance of the heritage assets within the Borough town centres to support the local economy. • Using the Conservation Area appraisals, to inform choices about development and the design of proposals within and adjacent to those areas. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culture and Heritage Capital | | |
|--|--|--|--|

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|--|---|---|--|
| FACILITATING THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS | | | |
| <p>Resources Under NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance Borough councils have an important role in safeguarding minerals and should take into account minerals safeguarding areas in any decision making.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPPF • PPG • Minerals Planning - Warwickshire County Council • Investing in Britain's future. HM Treasury | Requires objectives to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources of national and local importance. | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding development on safeguarded mineral resources where this needlessly sterilises the minerals resource. |
| ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE AND EFFICIENT APPROACH TO RESOURCE USE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT | | | |
| <p>Waste National Policy emphasises: waste management in relation to the waste hierarchy; ensuring that waste management is considered alongside other planning matters such as housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce amount of municipal and commercial waste produced • Recycle, compost or re-use waste • Minimise harm to the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Waste Framework Directive • EU Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste (1999) • Environment Bill 2020 • NPPF • PPG • Review of Waste Policy 2011 Defra • Waste Management Plan for England 2013. • National Planning Policy for Waste 2014 • Our Waste, Our Resources: A strategy for England 2018 • WCC Waste Core Strategy 2013 | Requires objectives to reduce or re-use waste, and to prevent harm to human health and the environment from waste. | <p>Issues and Problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To follow the 'waste hierarchy' and in particular to reduce the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used and recycled. • New development needs to include provision for waste recycling facilities. • Existing landfill sites have only a limited life |

| Key messages from review of relevant plans, policies and programmes | Source of message | Implications for the SA Framework | Issues in North Warwickshire from the evidence base |
|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| <p>environment and human health from waste treatment and handling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposal of waste to be considered the last option. • Ensuring the design and layout of new residential/commercial development facilitates waste management. | | | |

Section 4: Baseline data and characteristics of North Warwickshire Borough & identifying sustainability issues (Stage A2 & A3)

- 4.1 The SA requires the collection of baseline information to describe the social, economic and environmental characteristics of North Warwickshire. This provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the policies within the Local Plan. The baseline information will also help to identify sustainability issues, potential alternatives and if necessary, mitigation measures.
- 4.2 Understanding geographical differences and constraints across the Borough assists in developing alternatives related to the needs, character and roles of different areas, and in preparing strategies that are spatially specific in the distribution of development and the management of change. To consider alternatives there is a requirement to understand the environment, community and economy of the different areas within the Borough, the interconnection between them and their interaction with the wider area.
- 4.3 Not all information is currently available, but the data will continue to be refined and updated as work on the SA report proceeds.
- 4.4 The Local Plan cannot be a means to tackle all issues. Table 6 sets out a summary of the role that it is anticipated that the Local Plan can have in tackling identified issues. It is stressed that it is not exhaustive.

Table 6: Sustainability Issues & the Local Plan

| Key issue | Potential influence of the Local Plan | Possible role of the Local Plan |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Social | | |
| Crime levels | | The North Warwickshire Local Plan will be able to contribute to safer communities by guiding development which minimises the risk and perception of crime for users of the development. Providing public spaces that are inviting to use, well overlooked and well maintained. Reinvigorating the use of the town centre for all users. |
| Levels of deprivation across parts of the Borough | | The Local Plan will be able to encourage investment to regenerate deprived areas, creating additional employment opportunities and improved physical environment. |

| Key issue | Potential influence of the Local Plan | Possible role of the Local Plan |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Population levels, including aging population | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist housing for retired people, both “sheltered” housing and less specialised housing for the “young” retired; • Nursing homes for very elderly or infirm people; • Additions to private homes for older people; • The provision of private housing suitable for older people • The North Warwickshire Local Plan will be able to contribute to this issue by ensuring an appropriate mix of residential development potentially including the following types of development. |
| House prices compared to low average income | | The North Warwickshire Local Plan will need to identify the objectively assessed need for housing in the Borough and to play a role in assisting with the provision of new homes to meet local needs for affordable and other housing requirements. |
| Homelessness | | Whilst meeting the general housing target is important, the North Warwickshire Local Plan will also have to work to support successful housing markets where new housing development is integrated with existing communities. New housing will also have to meet local needs in terms of affordability, location, size and type. |
| Supply of affordable houses | | |
| Employment Provision | | Seek the provision of high-quality jobs in a range of sectors and types of employment. |
| Average life expectancy and infant mortality rate | | The key issues are increasing the availability of and improving access to health facilities, as well as to other facilities (cultural, leisure and recreational) which contribute to well being. |
| Healthy Lifestyles | | <p>The Local Plan should provide policies which support healthy behaviours and reductions in health inequalities. It should enhance the physical and mental health of the community and, where appropriate, encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active healthy lifestyles that are made easy through the pattern of development, good urban design, good access to local services and facilities; green open space and safe places for active play and food growing, and is accessible by walking and cycling and public transport. • The creation of healthy living environments for people of all ages which supports social interaction. It meets the needs of children and young people to grow and develop, as well as being adaptable to the needs of an increasingly elderly population and those with dementia and other sensory or mobility impairments. |
| New residential development accessible to facilities | Major | Key sustainability issues for the North Warwickshire Local Plan will be making essential services and job opportunities easily accessible to new residential development – either by foot or public transport. This emphasises the role of the town centres together with providing opportunities to make linked trips and providing high trip generating uses in areas where there is a choice of transport modes will also be important. |

| Economic | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Key issue | Potential influence of the Local Plan | Possible role of the Local Plan |
| Average take-up rate for employment land development | | North Warwickshire Local Plan will be supporting business growth and development. This will need initiatives to attract inward investment, support for business development and innovation, the provision of quality sites and infrastructure for business and awareness of wider strategic needs. |
| Unemployment rates | | The rate of unemployment is lower than the average in England (3.6% compared to 5%) Need to provide jobs and improve income levels for local people who are currently on low incomes, by widening the , variety, choice and quality of local jobs |
| Worklessness rates | | |
| Average annual income | | |
| Academic achievement | | |
| Knowledge intensive workforce | | Meeting the needs for well-designed and appropriately located education and training facilities, which help to provide a diverse range of learning opportunities. |
| Retail vacancy rate | | North Warwickshire Local Plan will be supporting business growth and development, particularly in town centres. This will need initiatives to support for business development. The Local Plan will need to incorporate flexibility to allow alternative uses in appropriate circumstances. |
| Environmental | | |
| | | |
| Reliance on the car rather than public transport | | North Warwickshire Local Plan will be making essential services and job opportunities easily accessible to people's homes – either by foot or public transport. Providing opportunities to make linked trips and providing high trip generating uses in areas where there is a choice of transport modes will also be important. |
| Level of development on previously development land | | Reusing previously developed land and vacant buildings, whilst minimising new development on Greenfield sites will be an important sustainability issue to be covered by the North Warwickshire Local Plan. Particularly important will be ensuring that new developments make the most efficient use of land and are located in the most sustainable sites possible acknowledging that this may require the release of greenfield sites.. |
| Household/ Employment waste recycled | | Issues for the North Warwickshire Local Plan will include minimising waste production and supporting recovery of waste through recycling, composting or energy recovery. Access to facilities which encourage this may also need to be improved. |

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| Air quality | | The North Warwickshire Local Plan will have to confront issues relating to air pollution such as helping to reduce the air pollution levels of new developments and current activities, as well as locating sensitive developments where they won't be unacceptably affected by air pollution. In addition to this, it will be very important that the framework makes the link between travel and pollution, by promoting development in easily accessible areas. |
|-------------|--|--|

| Key issue | Potential influence of the Local Plan | Possible role of the Local Plan |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| State of SSSI's and Local Wildlife Sites. | | The protection and enhancement of SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites will be an issue for the North Warwickshire Local Plan. However, there is no direct statutory control the Council has over these aspects. Consequently, this would be a matter of allocation of appropriate sites with identified enhancement measures and implemented through Section 106 agreements/conditions in relation to proposed development. |
| Enhance and promote biodiversity | | Local plan policies will require a substantial role in achieving improvements to biodiversity, particularly in relation to proposed development. |
| Enhance and promote green infrastructure, access to green space and the countryside | | Local plan policies will require a substantial role in achieving improvements to biodiversity, particularly in relation to proposed development. Local plan policies will require development to enhance green corridors and green links. |
| Historic environment, heritage assets and their setting | | The North Warwickshire Local Plan will have an important role to play in conserving or enhancing heritage assets and their setting, including North Warwickshire's industrial heritage. |
| Taking the impact of climate change. | | The local plan has a role in tackling climate change through a range of measures including the location and layout of development, reuse of waste materials, a move towards zero carbon, multi-functional green infrastructure, protecting and enhancing habitats that provide carbon sinks and reduce demand on water resources. |
| Flooding and water quality | | The North Warwickshire Local Plan will need to promote development, which is not in areas at risk from flooding and support sustainable urban drainage systems as a method of reducing surface water runoff and minimise the risk of flooding elsewhere. Water quality needs to be, at a minimum, maintained over the short term and improved over the Plan period. |

- 4.5 Information on North Warwickshire is brought together in a number of sources and will include primary and secondary sources. These include:
- North Warwickshire Annual Monitoring Report
 - The Local Plan evidence
- 4.6 The baseline analysis includes identifying 'Issues and Problems' together with the potential implications of not having a new Local Plan. It is stressed that there is a significant cross over between the different baseline areas identified.

Summary of the Characteristics of North Warwickshire

- 4.7 North Warwickshire is a rural Borough with over 50 covering 110 square miles/28,526 ha/285 km². The rural nature of the Borough is very important. This is created by the number of rivers – Blythe, Tame, Cole, Anker - Kingsbury Water Park and the canal system, as well as the number of other natural features and the predominantly mixed agricultural and woodland uses operating throughout the Borough. The Borough has an open rural character which is unique compared to many of the surrounding urban areas.
- 4.8 Settlements range in size from Atherstone, and Mancetter, with a population of 10,000 to small hamlets. Atherstone with Mancetter, Coleshill and Polesworth with Dordon are the three market towns and are important to the health of the surrounding rural economy as they provide many services and facilities to the outlying hinterland
- 4.9 The Borough lies between Birmingham, Solihull, Tamworth, Coventry, Nuneaton and Hinckley, all of which are growing areas. Growth will be supported in the Borough in the plan period to assist with the need to provide housing for the Coventry & Warwickshire and the Greater Birmingham housing market areas. In that context the Council commits to providing a minimum of 9598 dwellings and 100 hectares of employment land. The Borough therefore has pressure for growth from all around. This is not only in terms of land being sought in this Borough but in terms of the environmental implications of such growth. For example, traffic passing through the Borough especially along the A5.
- 4.10 The economy of the Borough, since the closure of the coal mines, has seen an increase in employment land, particularly logistics, but a decrease in manufacturing. Large brownfield sites, such as Hams Hall, Birch Coppice, and Kingsbury Link, have been used for development, mainly B8 (storage and distribution uses) the former two sites also benefit from intermodal rail freight interchanges. The Borough is the location for many national and international companies including Aldi, TNT, 3M, BMW, Sainsbury, Subaru and more recently Ocado.
- 4.11 There are a number of other older industrial estates in Atherstone, Mancetter, Arley and Coleshill that serve the local and sub-regional employment needs of the Borough comprising mostly of smaller companies. Over 90% of firms in the Borough employ 10 or less employees. Over 50% of workers commute into and out of the Borough. With companies locating in the Borough, it is important for local people to have the necessary skills to take up the local job opportunities as well as having the skills to start up in business.
- 4.12 Major roads of national and regional significance pass through the Borough (M6, M6 Toll, A5, M42, and A446) and they form part of the Strategic Road Network. The A5 and A446 although part of this network, are not dual carriageway along their entire length and has speed limits as low as 40 mph in some parts. The Borough Council is working with Warwickshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council, Highways England from the East and West Midlands, as well as other local authorities along its route, to investigate the issues of growth and how improvements to the route can take place. A Strategy has been prepared for the

- A5 and the Borough Council will work with partners including the private sector to deal with issues along its route. Funding has been secured to dual the A5 between Dordon and Grendon. The capacity of the A5 and A446 will be an on-going concern as major developments are taking place along its route mainly outside the Borough which may impact on how development takes place in the Borough. Such developments include the MIRA Technology Park and sustainable urban extensions in Hinckley & Bosworth and Birmingham; DIRFT in Daventry and Rugby; growth in Nuneaton & Bedworth; HS2 interchange station; UK Central; growth in Birmingham as well as growth in Tamworth, Lichfield and beyond.
- 4.13 Rail also plays an important role in the Borough with the Trent Valley line/ West Coast mainline and the Cross-Country line. Coleshill Parkway opened in 2008 and services have been improved to Atherstone. There are two intermodal rail freight facilities at Hams Hall and Birch Coppice. The improvement of rails services and facilities will be a key issue if growth is going to be delivered.
- 4.14 In January 2012 the Secretary of State announced the route for the first phase of HS2 (High Speed Rail) between London and the West Midlands. This travels through the Borough northwards from the NEC along the Tame Valley up to Middleton and then on to Bassett's Pole. A route also comes out of and goes into Birmingham to the south of Water Orton. The second phase of the route to Manchester was published and has also been safeguarded. The full impact of the proposals will not be known for some time, but increased traffic, especially through the rural countryside close to the new railway station and monorail depot to the east of the M42 near to the NEC, is likely. The construction of the railway will be an enormous project which will impact the Borough for a number of years. HS2 Ltd has powers to stop development being built if it interferes with the construction programme of the line. This has to be a key consideration in terms of where development takes place within this Plan period.
- 4.15 Improved public transport connections will be extremely important to mitigate this impact as well as substantial landscaping and absorptive noise barriers along its route. Other mitigation measures, including community benefits will be needed and will be progressed through discussions with HS2 Ltd and the Department of Transport. There will be pressure for development expanding out of the new HS2 railway station at the NEC.
- 4.16 The Borough Council recognises that when HS2 takes place, it will impact on a number of properties. The Council will work with owners to mitigate the loss of properties wherever possible.
- 4.17 In addition to the above transport corridors there is 7km of the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal and 17km of the Coventry Canal within the Borough. The canal system has many uses from regeneration to tourism to being important biodiversity corridors. They are an important recreation and tourism resource.
- 4.18 There are three main airports close to the Borough boundary – Birmingham International, East Midlands and Coventry Airports (freight only). Implications on North Warwickshire of any expansion plans for the airports will be considered particularly in relation to the increase in the amount of traffic. However, the

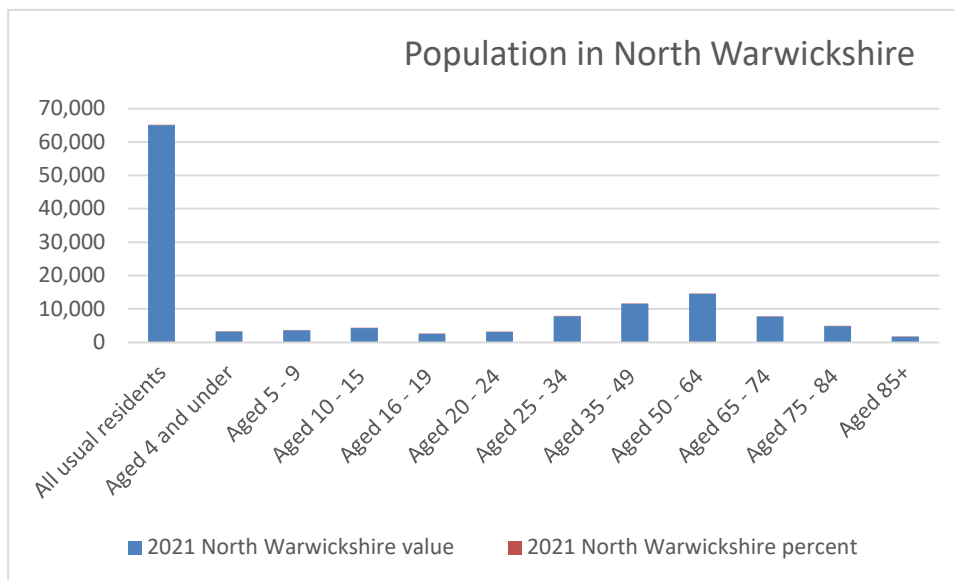
opportunities of improved access to jobs and services will also be exploited. Development within the Borough will need to consider the constraints imposed by their close proximity.

- 4.19 Individually the schemes and developments above will have an impact on the Borough but collectively it means that there is pressure from around the Borough. In terms of the Birmingham Airport there are expansion plans which may include a new runway. Their plans are in their infancy. In addition, UK Central and Arden Cross are being developed in the Solihull MBC area. Pressure on the western and southern boundaries are expected but cannot yet be quantified and thus mitigated.
- 4.20 The Borough's own objectively assessed housing need and the need to consider delivering further growth for neighbours means that growth is much greater than ever experienced in the Borough before. This will bring many challenges. In particular, due to the rural nature of the Borough making quality places that are integrated into the existing fabric of settlements wherever possible will be important. Making settlements work will be just as important as delivering a specific site as this will lead to their long-lasting success.
- 4.21 The Borough has historically been seen as a good place to be, particularly for logistics companies, due to its location. Broadening the employment base is very important to the Borough Council. MIRA Technology Park is directly adjacent to the Borough with access off the A5 in this Borough. Its primary focus is research and development. It provides the opportunity to extend the opportunities within the area. The Borough Council will work with partners to ensure that those living in North Warwickshire have the right opportunities, training and skills to take advantage of and access the additional jobs. The way that buildings will be built and integrated into the landscape and existing settlements will also be an important consideration too.
- 4.22 The Borough has a special and important natural environment shaped by its landscape and mining legacy. It has four major river corridors – the Tame, Blythe, Cole and Anker - and holds the largest and most important area of inter-connected wetlands in the sub-region along the Tame Valley. Cumulatively this area forms a migratory bird route of regional significance. The Borough also has notable concentrations of heathland, ancient woodlands and acid grasslands associated with post-industrial habitats, which are otherwise scarce within the county. The natural environment provides many vital ecosystem services to the Borough, such as natural flood defence, carbon sequestration and the maintenance of biodiversity and air quality. These services help to underpin the local economy and make a valuable contribution to the quality of life of its residents.
- 4.23 North Warwickshire has a high level of energy consumption with 61% being used by transport (particularly caused by the high levels of petroleum consumption), 25% by industrial uses and 13% by domestic
- 4.24 With a number of mineral reserves within the Borough there are a number of quarries. Early consideration of beneficial after uses of mineral sites needs to be undertaken. Where development is proposed on land with mineral reserves consideration must be given to the extraction of the mineral before development

takes place in accordance with national guidance. In accordance with the Warwickshire Minerals Plan 2020, the Council will not support surface mining operations especially where it will have a direct effect on local residents and an adverse environmental impact.

- 4.25 North Warwickshire contains a number of major hazard sites and pipelines. Whilst they are subject to stringent controls under existing health and safety legislation, it is considered prudent to control the kinds of development permitted in the vicinity of these installations. There are therefore consultation zones for each major hazard site and pipeline. In determining whether or not to grant planning permission for a proposed development within these consultation zones, the Borough Council will consult the Health and Safety Executive to determine the risks for the proposed development.
- 4.26 As mentioned above the Borough of North Warwickshire is made up of a number of different settlements each with their own characteristics but sometimes showing similar issues.
- 4.27 There are a number of other settlements, without a development boundary, that do not have the same range of services and facilities but provide significantly to community life within the Borough. With the emphasis in the past for development to be targeted at the main settlements (Atherstone/ Mancetter and Polesworth/Dordon, as identified by the Warwickshire Structure Plan, 1989) it put the smaller villages in a difficult position in that they were losing services and facilities without the support of the planning policies, to recognise their importance to the rural nature of the Borough. Local requirements have changed as the residents of the countryside have changed, but there are many people who live in the smaller settlements and the countryside, who have difficulty accessing services/facilities and affordable housing. Local planning policies should allow for these needs to be catered for in a sensitive and innovative way. Such settlements include Middleton, Corley, Lea Marston and Furnace End.
- 4.28 With the Borough covering over 110 square miles and with over 50 settlements ranging in size from the largest conjoined settlement of Atherstone and Mancetter having a population of 10,000 to places with a few houses, means that the countryside plays an important role in the Borough. Many small settlements do not have a development boundary but are important to the local communities. The countryside gives the rural context in which all other things operate. Its landscape is diverse and varied.
- 4.29 There are three major private estates of Packington, Blythe and Merevale, which have influenced the landscape of the Borough. Agriculture is a major influence on the character of the Borough.
- 4.30 Within the countryside there are 7 golf courses, including The Belfry and the Forest of Arden; major tourist attractions, such as Kingsbury Water Park; as well as more local facilities. A thriving rural economy is important to the Borough. However, a balance needs to be struck between allowing development that is appropriate in terms of scale and character, whilst protecting and emphasising the rural context of the Borough

- 4.31 The Borough Council is seeking to provide a variety of types and tenures of housing throughout the Borough but will specifically seek the type and tenure to reflect the local settlement. Information for this can be found in a variety of sources including the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) and Local Housing Needs Studies
- 4.32 In North Warwickshire, the population size has increased by 4.8%, from around 62,000 in 2011 to 65,000 in 2021. This is lower than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800 (ONS). 96% of residents in North Warwickshire are white and 95% of residents were born in the UK. 55% of residents are Christians, whilst 38% have no religion at all. There is a very small percentage of North Warwickshire that are Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh

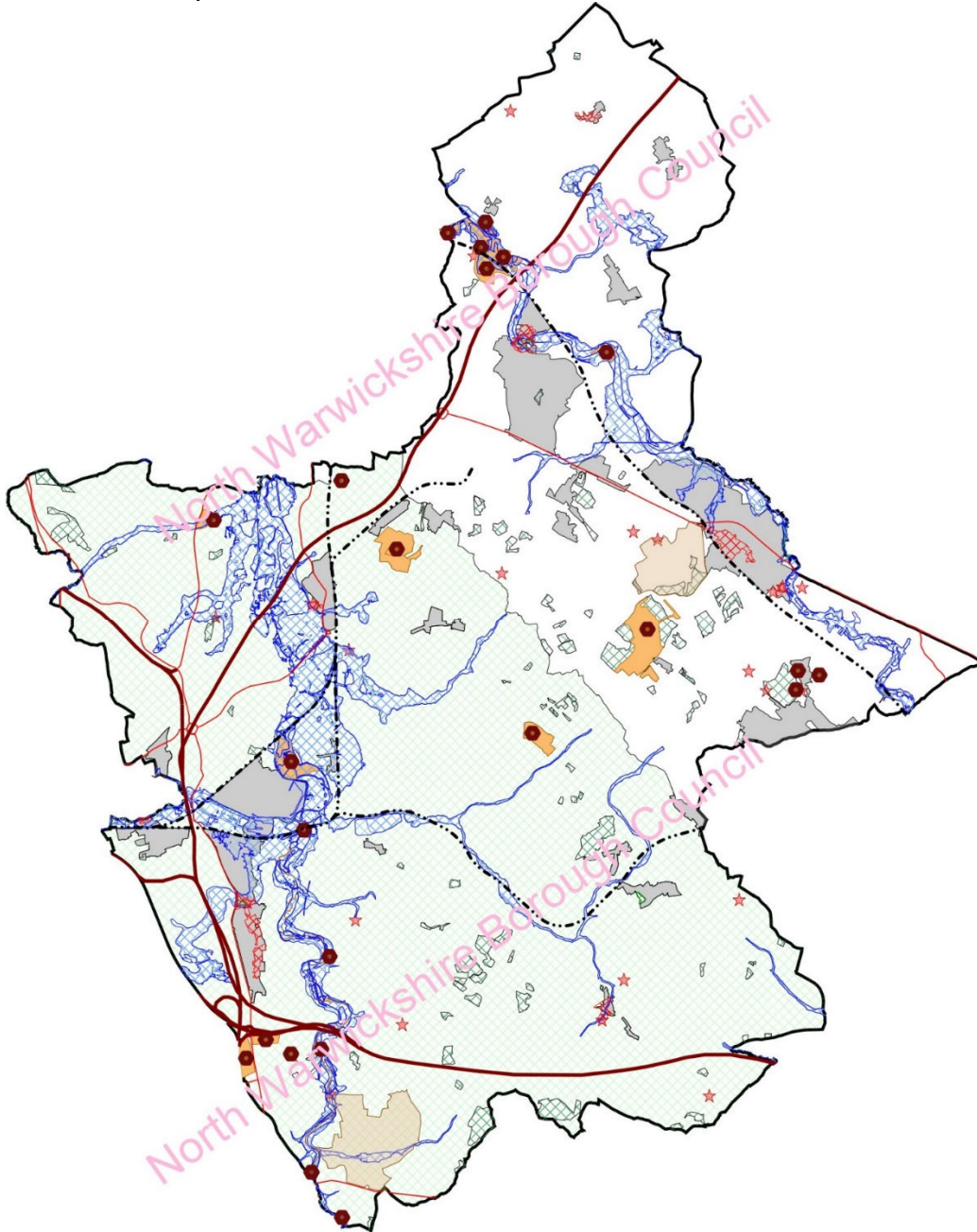


- 4.33 The Government is seeking to encourage and enable the provision of serviced plots for self-build and custom build to support development opportunities for individuals, association of individuals and small to medium sized self-build and custom build developers. The Government’s aim is to make this form of housing a mainstream housing option to diversify the housing market and help meet housing needs.
- 4.34 Development proposals will therefore be encouraged to address the demand for serviced self-build and custom-build plots. Evidence of the demand for plots will be found in the Council’s Self Build and Custom Build Register as well as indications of demand from other secondary data sources, such as, information from the Self Build Portal and enquiries for building plots from individuals and local estate agents.
- 4.35 The 2021 Census data for North Warwickshire records proportionally more people “limited a lot” by health or disability at 7.7% than the County average of 4.9%, with fewer residents at 80% rating their health as good or very good when compared to the County average of 82.4%. Similarly, North Warwickshire performs less well than the national and county averages against a range of health indicators, and

with the trend towards more aged (65+) and one person households this along with the lower performing health indicators carries implications for the demand for appropriate housing and delivery of a range of services

- 4.36 As the population ages the role of carers will grow with implications for their support and needs as well as those under care. These key messages highlighted through the Census health indicators and County Council's profiles for North Warwickshire identify and support the need for development to provide an element of special needs housing and that the size, and suitability of that housing should be adaptable to also reflect the potential longer term health care implications and any potential carer accommodation needs that may arise.
- 4.37 Evidence suggests that developments should provide for special needs accommodation for the elderly and for those with mobility issues. The Borough has an ageing population. It is clear from the data available that the Borough has an ageing population. This evidence indicates that the type of housing being developed in the Borough must reflect this need.

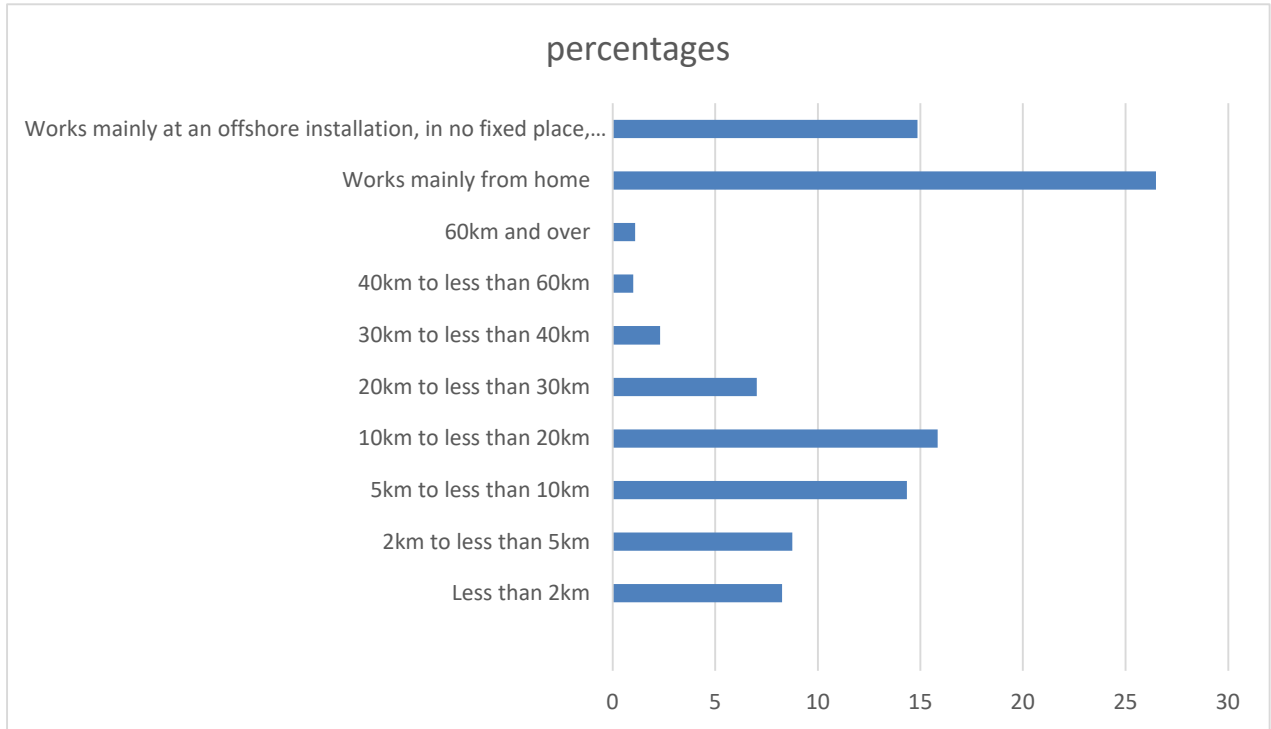
Plan 3: Plan for the Borough of North Warwickshire (This can be viewed in detail on our website)



- 4.38 North Warwickshire comes under both the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing market Area (HMA) and there is an overlap with the Birmingham Housing Market Area.
- 4.39 In 2021, North Warwickshire had a jobs density of 1.23% compared to the national average of 0.85% (Nomis). 26.5% of people aged 16 or over work mainly at or from home and 81.7% of people in North Warwickshire are employed compared to 78.8% of England (Nomis)
- 4.40 59% of people in North Warwickshire travel to work by car which is above the national average of 45%. Just over 27% of people travel more than 10KM to work which could indicate they travel outside of the Borough to their place of work.

26.5% of the Borough now work from home on a permanent basis, this has risen significantly since the 2011 Census and could be largely down to Covid.

Graph:



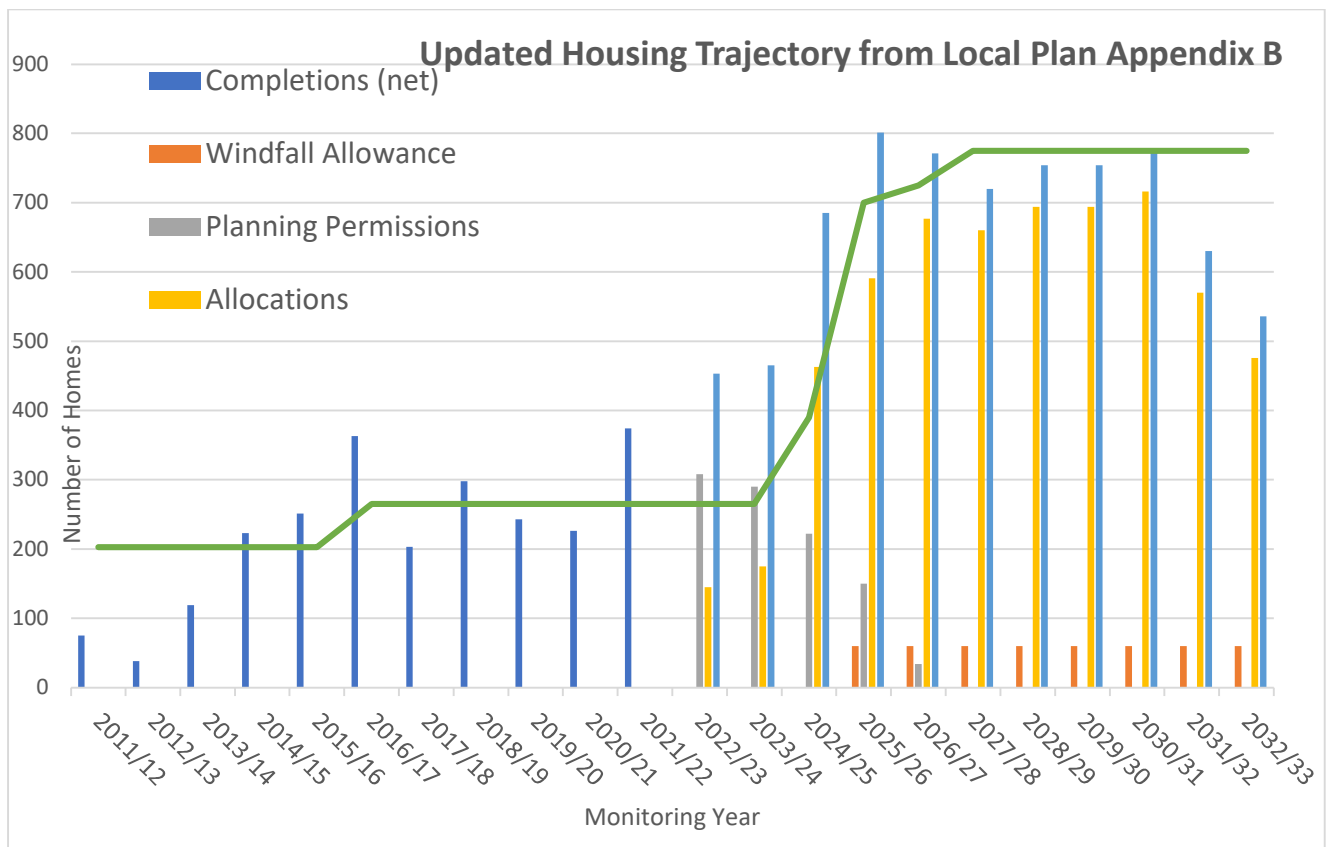
4.41 Across the Housing Market Area, North Warwickshire has a population of 65,000 (2021 Census). Of this, there is an above national average of people between the ages of 16 and 65.

Issues and problems

- Population growth will increase the demand for housing and services and put additional requirements on local infrastructure.
- An increasing percentage of the population is anticipated to be over 65, this will have implications for service provision.

DELIVERING A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF NEW HOMES

- 4.42 In North Warwickshire, house prices are still amongst the lowest in the region although prices have continued to rise in recent years with an average price of £273,968 in 2022 which is £68,329 lower than the £342,297 average property price in England. North Warwickshire's average property price growth rate of -3.3% is 1.8% higher than the -5.1% average price growth rate for England (Varbes)
- 4.43 There are currently 2594 council owned properties in North Warwickshire and this figure is declining due to the Right to Buy and the impact of Coronavirus on development to increase our stock.
- 4.44 The NPPF requires that the Council should identify and update annual a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against their housing requirement.



- 4.45 The Monitoring Report identifies that completion rates for new build have been fairly consistent in recent years (although 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 was down due to COVID).

Table 7 Housing Completion Rates 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2023

| Period completed (1st April - 31st March) | New Build Net Additions | | Net additions through permitted development | Demolitions | Total Net Completions |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------------------|
| | | Through Conversion/ Change of Use | | | |
| 2019 - 2020 | 228 | 20 | 1 | 6 | 243 |
| 2020 - 2021 | 210 | 15 | 3 | 2 | 226 |
| 2021 - 2022 | 358 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 374 |
| 2022 - 2023 | 154 | 155 | 00 | 33 | 1664 |
| 2019 to 2023 | 950 | 64 | 7 | 12 | 1007 |

*

4.46 The overall average (median) income for North Warwickshire in 2021 was £28,983 which is lower than the national average. Using a 25% affordability threshold just under two-thirds of households with a current need are estimated to be likely to have insufficient income to afford market housing. (See SHMA on Affordable Housing Need).

Issues and Problems

- Understand the level of housing required in North Warwickshire and the interaction between different areas of the Borough, the relationship with the HMA and pressures generated by employment growth.
- To provide sufficient housing of a type and tenure to meet specific needs.
- Changing demographic structure, including an aging population, will impact future household characteristics and will have implications for the provision of housing requirements, employment opportunities and services.
- Given that substantial parts of the Borough are in Green Belt, there are issues in balancing the housing needs of specific areas against the impact on the Green Belt and the countryside.
- A substantial number of brownfield sites have been developed in North Warwickshire. The consequence is that limited brownfield sites are available necessitating the use of greenfield sites to meet housing needs.
- Reduce the potential impacts on the environment and social infrastructure of North Warwickshire whilst allocating land to provide for housing requirements.
- Improving the quality of the existing housing stock.

Building a Stronger Competitive Economy and Supporting High Quality

Communications

- 4.47 The unemployment rate in North Warwickshire was 2.7% in 2021 which is lower than the national average at 4.1%.
- 4.48 A number of people in the Borough work in semi-skilled and unskilled occupations and furthermore, the Borough has a low educational base. 22% of North Warwickshire have no qualifications at all (Nomis) There is a need to increase the skills and education as low-level skills creates a barrier to higher tech and higher value business locating in the area.
- 4.49 The socio-economic profile of the Borough is weighted towards skilled and unskilled manual trades such as wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles (17.4%), manufacturing (11.1%) and construction (10.3%) (Nomis)
- 4.50 As a result of historical, cultural and socio-economic factors some areas of North Warwickshire demonstrate income levels that are lower than average compared to neighbouring areas or regional figures.
- 4.51 The Borough's working age population has grown. However, whilst the working population is growing, it is also becoming older. Consequently, over time there needs to be a greater focus on retaining older workers in the labour market to ensure that a shortfall in the supply of workers does not prevent the Borough from realising its economic potential.
- 4.52 With regard to education, levels of GCSE achievement in North Warwickshire are lower than the national average with 40.7% in 2019 achieving grade 5 or above in Maths and English which is lower than the national average. North Warwickshire also (11.8%) had persistent higher absence rates in 2018/19 than the national average. The concern is that too many residents currently lack skills at the right level to respond to labour market changes and will thus struggle to compete effectively.
- 4.53 The employment land requirements and the current supply of land is set out below and sets out the current position.

Table:

| | over 0.4 hectares | under 0.4 hectares | Total |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Total Completions Since 2019/20 – 2021/2022</i> | | | |
| <i>2019/20</i> | 0 | 0.39 | |
| <i>2020/21</i> | 24.25 | 0.47 | |
| <i>2021/22</i> | 42.79 | 0.25 | |
| <i>Allocations In Local Plan</i> | 57.2 | 0 | |
| <i>Outstanding Sites with Planning Permissions as at 2021/22</i> | 25.06 | 0.81 | |
| Total | 149.3 | 1.92 | 151.22 |
| <i>Loss of employment land</i> | 0 | 0.26 | 0.26 |
| Overall Total | | | 150.96 |

Issues and problems

- Meeting the needs of all current and future populations in terms of business and job opportunities.
- Avoid overreliance on specific sectors which may decline or become over prominent over time.
- Accommodating any employment land and other development opportunities as far as possible within an urban area so as to minimise the impact on greenfield sites.
- Facilitate digital infrastructure to maximise growth opportunities.
- Providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate current and future development needs in terms of physical green and social infrastructure.
- The need to encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment particularly in relation to identified sectors, which have the potential for growth.
- Creating an environment that is attractive to future growth sectors to improve performance in comparison with other locations.
- Identifying opportunities for heritage led regeneration.
- There are pockets of deprivation particularly within the urban area. Economic regeneration is particularly important in these areas of the towns to help alleviate poverty.
- To increase incomes and skill levels, particularly in those communities suffering high levels of deprivation.
- The concern is that too many residents currently lack skills at the right level to respond to these labour market changes and will thus struggle to compete effectively.
- With the increase in households there is a need to expand schools or provide new schools
- To supporting the provision of appropriate sized schools/colleges and other skill learning facilities at a local level to help improve skills and opportunities.
- Potentially, using planning to improving employment prospects and training for local residents.
- Responding to future trends in employment and supporting the growth of self-employment

TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE VITALITY OF THE MARKET TOWNS

- 4.54 There are 3 Market Towns in North Warwickshire – Atherstone with Mancetter, Polesworth with Dordon and Coleshill. Improvement and vitality will be achieved by making the best use of land and buildings, facilitating regeneration and building on their historic strengths.
- 4.55 This will be achieved by:
- making the best use of land and buildings
 - using regeneration opportunities when they arise
 - building on their historic strengths
 - protecting a range of facilities and services
 - protecting their conservation and heritage assets
 - focussing retail uses towards the Market Towns
- 4.56 Atherstone with Mancetter is extremely important to the vitality of the Borough as a whole. It has continued to struggle within the overall economic climate. It has a variety of shops, large employment areas, historical areas as well as recreational facilities, providing a wide range of services and facilities. However due to the easy access to surrounding larger towns and cities these services and facilities are constantly under pressure. Coleshill is identified as the smallest of the three market towns in North Warwickshire Borough. Morrisons supermarket provides a strong anchor store within the centre and there is an Aldi on the industrial estate. Polesworth with Dordon is the final Market Town and lies to the north of the Borough. Polesworth and Dordon have a close geographical relationship with Tamworth, for a range of services and facilities.
- 4.57 Residents also use the services and facilities in other neighbouring settlements such as Nuneaton, Coventry and Birmingham. This puts the services and facilities in the Market Towns under pressure. They still retain some key services, but these are generally small in scale
- 4.58 Ease of access and parking are key factors in influencing visitation rates. Atherstone has car parking situated at various points around the centre, but parking at Coleshill and Polesworth/Dordon is fairly limited. The bus station on Station Street in Atherstone links closely with the Town Centre Core retail area
- 4.59 We currently have 198 commercial properties listed as vacant within the Borough and Coleshill has the largest number of these properties

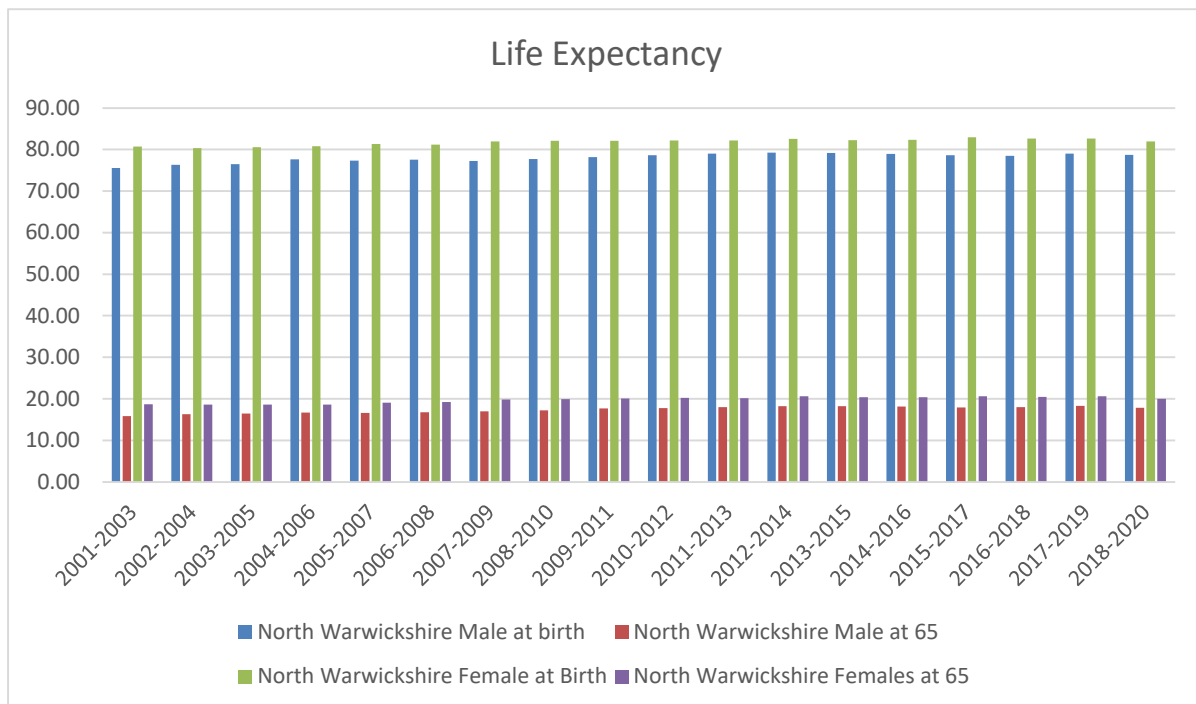
Issues and problems

- The Borough has shopping centres that need to be supported in order to keep them vital and viable.
- Meeting the needs of all current and future populations in terms of business and job opportunities within town centres.
- Providing the necessary infrastructure to accommodate current and future development.
- Creating an environment that is attractive to future growth sectors to improve performance in comparison with other centres.
- Identifying opportunities for heritage led regeneration_

PROMOTE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- 4.60 The health of people in North Warwickshire is generally lower than the England average with only 5.8% stating they have bad/very bad health, this figure has decreased slightly from the 2011 Census
- 4.61 Life expectancy at 65 can also be considered. In terms of life expectancy at 65, a male in North Warwickshire could expect to live a further 17.9 years beyond 65. This figure is slightly below the national average (18.7 years). This is similar for females, a female in North Warwickshire could expect to live a further 20 years (ONS)
- 4.62 Obesity in adults in North Warwickshire is 69%, above the national average of 60.3%. Year 6 children is slightly higher than the National average at 23.3% but obesity amongst reception children is the same as the national average (Public Health England).

North Warwickshire Life Expectancy (ONS)



- 4.63 Green infrastructure has a multi-functional role including improvement to health and wellbeing, improved flood risk management, enhancing biodiversity and adaption to climate change.
- 4.64 The local approach to green infrastructure and biodiversity is set out in the Council's Sub Regional Green Infrastructure (2011).

- 4.65 North Warwickshire's Green Space Strategy provides evidence on the existing green space network and its recreational values. It provides a basis for improving the quality and potential uses of green spaces to cater for increasing future demand arising from growth and the changing needs of the community. The Strategy sets out locally-derived standards for the provision of green spaces and identifies deficiencies in the quantity, quality or accessibility of green spaces.
- 4.66 The North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 includes provisions for new facilities through the development process. It sets out anticipated requirements for various sport on an area basis up to 2031.

Issues and Problems

- To improve health and wellbeing, and to prevent ill health (e.g. through healthy eating and exercise).
- Health inequalities exist between the most and least deprived areas of the Borough
- To provide health services and facilities in relation to the demands arising from new development
- New health, sporting, leisure and recreational facilities should be provided encouraging walking, cycling and more active lifestyles.
- The development of a high quality multifunctional green infrastructure network should be promoted identifying any opportunities for links with and enhancement of cultural heritage.
- Potential issue in meeting the needs of an aging population.
- The development of accessible cycle networks to facilitate alternative modes of transport.
- The development of quality green infrastructure should be promoted as part of development, linking to a green infrastructure network.
- New health, sporting, leisure and recreational facilities should be provided and should encourage walking, cycling and more active lifestyles.
- To improve safety and security for people and property (e.g. through design intervention) and to reduce fear of crime

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

- 4.67 Major roads of national and regional significance pass through the Borough (M6, M6Toll, A5, M42, and A446) and they form part of the Strategic Road Network. The A5 and A446 although part of this network, are not dual carriageway along their entire length and has speed limits as low as 40 mph in some parts. A Strategy has been prepared for the A5 and the Borough Council will work with partners including the private sector to deal with issues along its route. The capacity of the A5 and A446 will be an on-going concern as major developments are taking place along its route mainly outside the Borough which may impact on how development takes place in the Borough. Such developments include the MIRA Technology Park and sustainable urban extensions in Hinckley & Bosworth and Birmingham; DIRFT in Daventry and Rugby; growth in Nuneaton & Bedworth; HS2 interchange station; UK Central; growth in Birmingham as well as growth in Tamworth, Lichfield and beyond.
- 4.68 Rail also plays an important role in the Borough with the Trent Valley line/ West Coast mainline and the Cross-Country line. During 2008 a new station called Coleshill Parkway opened and services have been improved to Atherstone. There are two intermodal rail freight facilities at Hams Hall and Birch Coppice.

4.69 The Warwickshire Local Transport Plan sets out the transport strategy for the whole of Warwickshire (LTP4).

Issues and Problems

- Embed accessibility into locational requirements for development and decision making and the access to services (such as health, education and leisure).
- The need to improve the quality and range of services available within communities.
- Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel.
- Reducing the dependency on the private car.
- Traffic congestion is an issue in North Warwickshire
- Improvements will be required to specific junctions as part of development as otherwise there will be an adverse impact on congestion and journey times.
- To facilitate alternative forms of transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle.
- Significant new development will need to facilitate bus services to give choice of transport mode.
- To work with partners to provide an integrated and efficient transport system including public transport, walking and cycling network in North Warwickshire.
- Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel, reducing the dependency on the private car.
- To facilitate alternative forms of transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle
- To address the need to reduce carbon emissions. The implications that over the life of the Plan combustion engines are likely to be increasingly phased out and replaced by ultra-low emission and electric vehicles requiring the provision of net zero infrastructure, including charging and storage facilities.

MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF LAND & ACHIEVING WELL DESIGNED PLACES

4.70 Land use involves decisions on crosscutting and multi-layered issues that affect a wider variety of aspects including brownfield land, recreation, biodiversity, flooding, an, density of housing development. It is anticipated that these aspects are covered in the various other section of the baseline.

4.71 Similarly design potential has an impact on all aspects of place making. and cross into the Issues and Problems identified in the other sections of the baseline.

4.72 Brownfield (previously developed) land is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework as Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes:

- land that is or was last occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings;
- land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill, where provision for restoration has been made through development management procedures;
- land in built-up areas such as residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously developed but where the remains of the
- permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the

landscape.

- 4.73 For a brownfield site to be allocated it must be deliverable. This will be a site not in current use, or a site in use (though not for housing) or under utilised where the local authority has evidence that the owner would be willing to make the land or buildings available for new housing, provided planning permission can be obtained. The site also needs to be free of constraints. In this context:
- It will not be suitable for housing if any land has severe physical, environmental or policy constraints, unless the constraints can realistically be mitigated while retaining the viability of redevelopment.
 - Contaminated land should also be excluded if there is clear evidence that the cost of remediation would be out of proportion to its potential value, making redevelopment unviable.
 - Land in the Green Belt is subject to a national policy to keep land permanently open. Consequently, exceptional circumstances will be necessary to justify changes to the Green Belt.
- 4.74 Wherever possible, the opportunity should be taken to take forward brownfield sites. However, for North Warwickshire this needs to be seen in the context that:
- A large number of brownfield sites have already been developed for housing or employment.
 - An industrial building or warehouse and the associated land will only be put forward by landowners for redevelopment when the building reaches the end of its economic life.
 - There are no significant areas identified of derelict land within the urban areas that is available for housing.
 - There are a limited number of small sites identified on the Council's Brownfield Register.
- 4.75 The North Warwickshire Local Plan 2021 seek housing developments to be at a density of at least 30 dwellings per hectare. However, this should not compromise the quality of proposals and it attaches considerable importance to maintaining and improving the quality of the local environment. Within in the town centres in the Market Towns as defined on the Policies Map can accommodate a higher density of housing development. For this reason, higher densities, of 50 dwelling per hectare (dph) or more, may be considered appropriate in the defined town centre areas
- 4.76 Planning applications within the Borough have been considered against these requirements. However, it is stressed these are minimum net requirements and individual housing developments may exceed these requirements.
- 4.77 National planning policy puts a substantial emphasis on achieving well design places both in the NPPF and in Planning Practice Guidance. This has been supported at a national level by National Design Guidance .The NPPF seeks positive strategies in plans that address the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to character and distinctiveness, as well as opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

4.78 At a local level the North Warwickshire Local Plan policies set out broad design principles in various policies

Issues and Problems

- While there are extensive employment sites in North Warwickshire these are largely currently occupied.
- There are extensive 'modern' industrial estates, but buildings have not reached the end of their economic life. Consequently, they are no suitable or deliverable in terms of national planning policy.
- There is limited brownfield land available for development in North Warwickshire with the consequence that development will likely to be predominantly on greenfield sites.
- Well-designed places can be achieved by taking a proactive and collaborative approach at all stages of the planning process, from policy and plan formulation to development but Local Plan design and density policies are increasing out of date in relation to national guidance.

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FLOODING (INCLUDING WATER QUALITY)

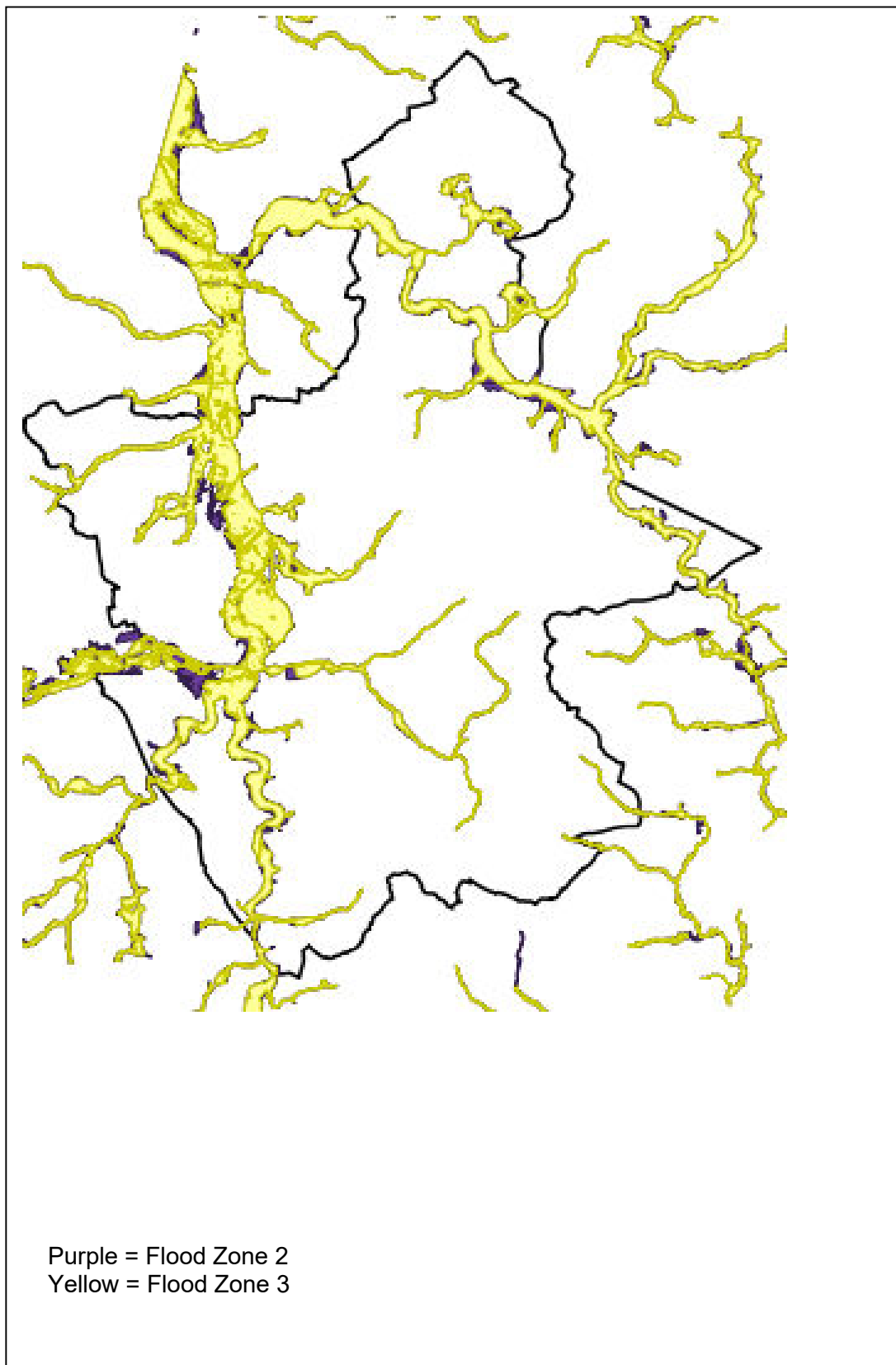
- 4.79 Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge facing the world today. Rising global temperatures will bring changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, the effects will be felt here in the UK and internationally. Current projections indicate that the Midlands will experience hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Potentially, this could result in more frequent drought and flood events.
- 4.80 It is emphasised that in relation to climate change there are a number of cross overs with different sections of the SA Report. The local plan has a role in tackling climate change through a range of measures including the location and layout of development, reuse of waste materials, retention, reuse, repair and retrofit of heritage assets, a move towards zero carbon, multi-functional green infrastructure, protecting and enhancing habitats that provide carbon sinks reduce and reduce demand on water resources.
- 4.81 There are no longer any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Borough.
- 4.82 Severn Trent Water forecasts a shortfall of water supply against demand if no interventions are made. Their Water Resources Management Plan identifies various demand management and supply side measures together with additional investment to ensure water resources are maintained. Supply and demand forecasts are made for the next 25 years to enable Severn Trent Water to determine whether they have enough water to meet customer requirements. The plan takes into account various aspects including climate change scenarios, demand scenarios for population changes and protecting the environment in the long-term by not putting at risk the future ecological status of the water bodies. Severn Trent identifies that this should not constrain growth but there may be time implications for developments in upgrading water infrastructure. The Plan emphasises that the plan protects the environment in the long-term by not putting at risk the future ecological status of the water bodies in our region (as defined by the Water Framework Directive).
- 4.83 Foul water service provision is provided through a number of Wastewater Treatment Works. In the past issues have been identified within the Borough but immediate

capacity issues have been alleviated. The 'no deterioration' policy of the Water Framework Directive requires that current environmental conditions are maintained or improved

- 4.84 The Water Framework Directive has resulted in a number of River Basin Management Plans covering the whole country. Two specifically relate to North Warwickshire. Humber River Basin Management Plan covers the majority of the Borough and a smaller area north of Coventry is covered by the Severn River Management Plan. The Rivers Tame, Blythe and Anker are all subject to pollution. Particular attention will be paid to remediation measures to benefit the River Blythe Site of Special Scientific Interest, which is currently under serious threat from pollution run-off.
- 4.85 The Borough Council will consider the impact of flooding in its consideration of development within or adjoining floodplains. Any development within Flood Zones Two and Three will need to provide a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment to demonstrate that it will be safe and will not increase flood risk elsewhere. In Flood Zone 1, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving: sites of 1 hectare or more; land which has been identified by the Environment Agency as having critical drainage problems; land identified in a strategic flood risk assessment as being at increased flood risk in future; or land that may be subject to other sources of flooding, where its development would introduce a more vulnerable use. It should take into account all sources of flood risk and climate change. Up to date indicative Flood Maps for Planning can be obtained from the Environment Agency and the Government's website
- 4.86 Effective flood protection requires proper maintenance of watercourses and their associated infrastructure as well as the control of water discharge through drainage systems. Ponds and other wetland features form an important function that should where possible be protected and enhanced. Managing flood risk is thus based on minimising the risk of flooding by avoiding development in high risk areas; restricting discharge to greenfield runoff rates and ensuring development is designed so as to minimise surface water flooding risks, including the retention of existing natural wetland features and the safeguarding of land adjacent to these features. Sustainable drainage systems are an important feature in ensuring flood risk is effectively managed and thus all developments are expected to include the use of such systems unless demonstrated that they would be inappropriate. Sufficient space should thus be allowed for and around them in all developments. All such systems should aim to protect and enhance water quality by reducing the risk of diffuse pollution by treating such possibilities at source including where necessary through multiple different treatment measures. All of these systems should be designed in accordance with relevant national standards and long-term operation and maintenance arrangements should be put in place for the lifetime of the development. Flood alleviation requires a holistic approach to water management. Rivers and streams need to be allowed to function via natural processes and to connect with the flood plain in order to increase and maintain capacity and to store flood water. Artificial surface water infrastructure needs to be well designed and be properly maintained whilst the ecosystem that helps manage water also need to be protected to allow greater ground water storage, to prevent rapid surface run-off and soil erosion. In these ways natural flood management and the re-naturalisation of water courses and their flood plains can help to reduce

flood risk and water pollution; increase biodiversity and contribute to improving public health.

Map: North Warwickshire Flood Zones 2 and 3



Issues & Problems

- Planning for the adaptation of and long-term resilience of North Warwickshire in relation to all aspects of climate change.
- The Local Plan policies provide opportunities to support adaptation to climate change through appropriate design and layout and incorporation of features to facilitate resilience to the effects of climate change.
- Improving energy efficiency and increasing use of low-carbon and renewable energy.
- Balancing the potential amenity and landscape impacts and the need for alternative sources of energy.
- Ensure that new development has good access to facilities and alternative means of travel.
- Reducing the dependency on the private car.
- To facilitate alternative forms of transport including encouraging more people to walk and cycle.
- To take account of the impact of development on water in relation to water quality and flood risk.
- To avoid development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 unless exceptional reasons arise.
- Water supply will need to be considered and consideration should be given to reducing water consumption below Part G of Building Regulations which specifies that new homes must consume no more than 125 litres of water per person per day.
- Waste water will need to be effectively managed through development and infrastructure planning.
- Consideration of Nutrient Neutrality against all plans and policies

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTING THE GREEN BELT

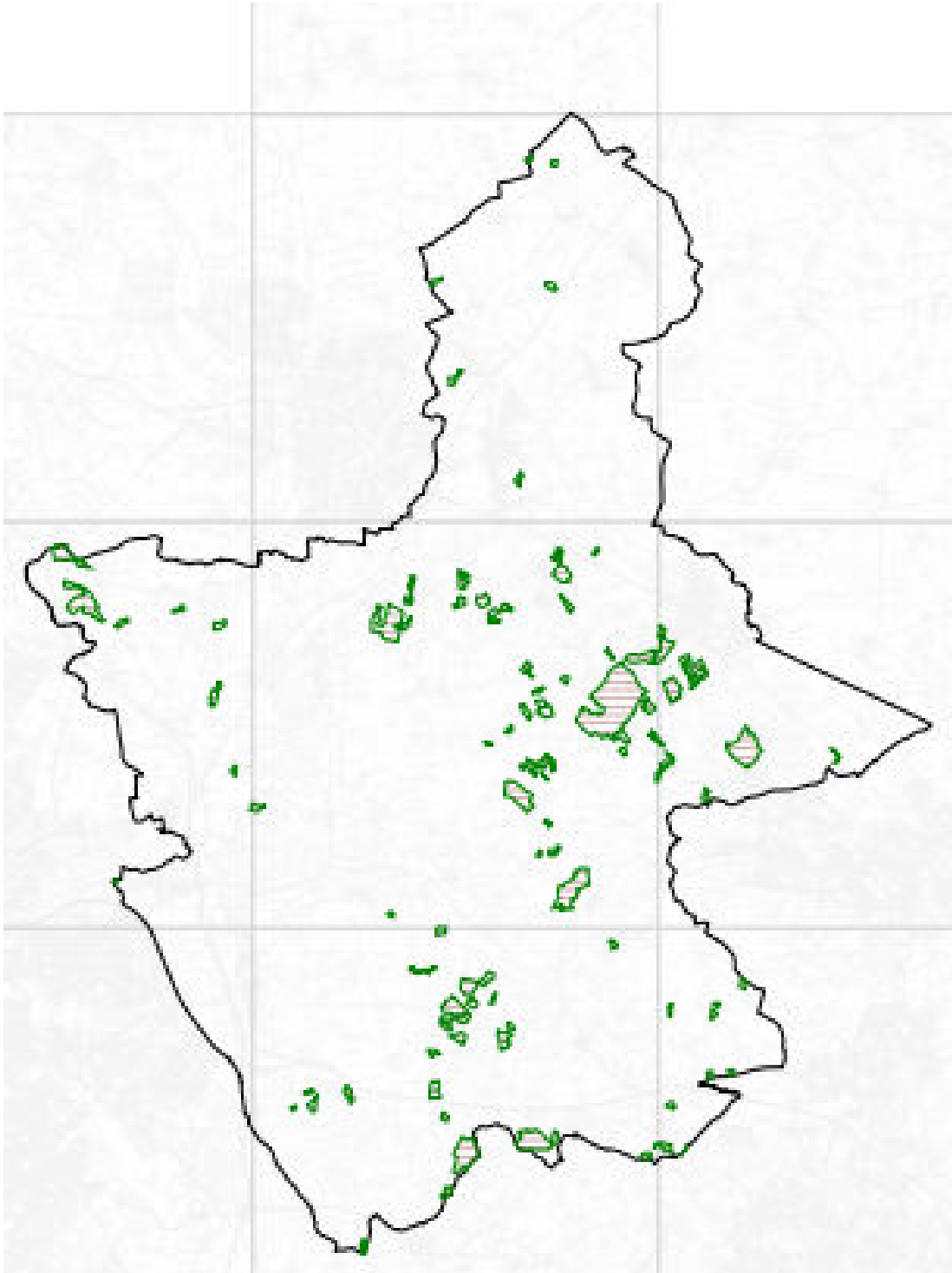
Biodiversity & Geological Significance

- 4.87 North Warwickshire is recognised as a biodiverse area in Warwickshire, due largely to its varied geological context of limestone, sandstone and coal. The Borough supports a broad range of habitats, including heathland, ancient woodland, acid grasslands and fields rich in wildflowers. The rivers and streams within the Borough provide habitat for significant populations of water vole and native crayfish.
- 4.88 North Warwickshire has 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), representing some of the County's richest habitats, see below.
- Alvecote Pools
 - Bentley Park Wood
 - Birches Barn Meadows
 - Boon's Quarry
 - Coleshill and Bannerley Pools
 - Hoar Park Wood
 - Illing's Trenches
 - Kingsbury Brickworks
 - Kingsbury Wood
 - Middleton Pool

- River Blythe
- Whitacre Heath
- Woodlands Quarry

4.89 Ancient Woodland have been identified by Natural England within North Warwickshire (see plan below)

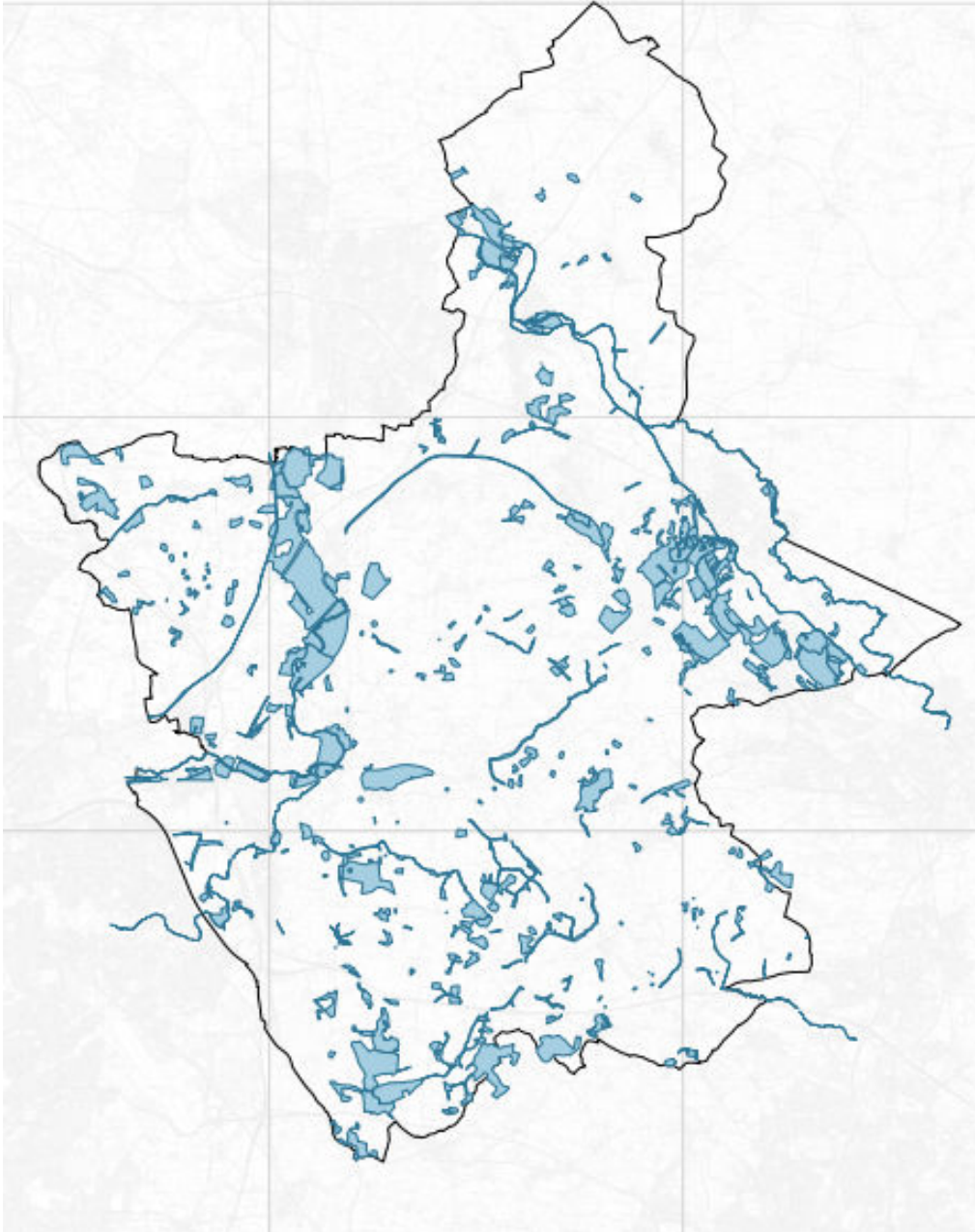
Map: Ancient Woodland Sites in North Warwickshire



4.90 Local Wildlife Sites are locally designated wildlife sites incorporated into the planning system for protection. They represent sites that are of at least County-wide importance, and form a crucial framework of 'stepping stones' for the migration and dispersal of species. These sites are identified and surveyed by the Warwickshire County Council and are subject to regular review. Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are sites mainly under the control of the local authority, designated in consultation with Natural England to encourage public access and enjoyment of the natural environment. North Warwickshire currently has 5 LNR identified below.

- Dafferns Wood, New Arley
- Riverside, Atherstone (proposed to be designated)
- Kingsbury Meadow, Kingsbury
- Abbey Green Park, Polesworth
- Cole End Park, Coleshill

Map: Local Designated Wildlife Sites in North Warwickshire

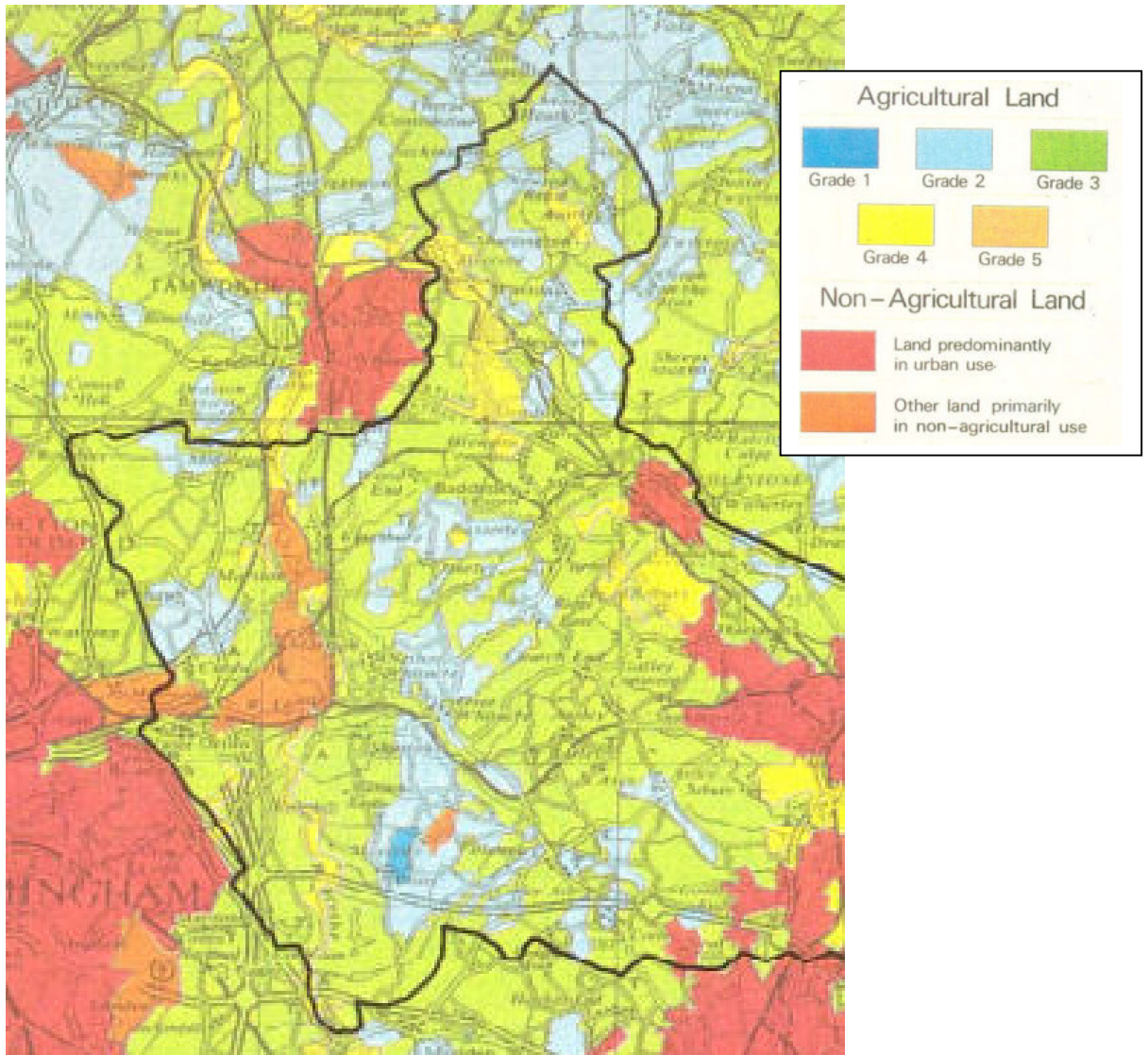


Agricultural Land

4.91 The table below (7) sets out the grades of agricultural land. The NPPF identifies ‘Best and most versatile agricultural land’ as land in grades 1, 2, and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification. There is no Grade 1 land in North Warwickshire, most of it is Grade 3.

Table 7

| Grade | Description |
|---|---|
| 1 | Land with no or very minor limitations. A very wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can be grown and commonly includes: top fruit, soft fruit, salad crops and inter harvested vegetables. Yields are high and less variable than on land of lower quality. (Excellent quality agricultural land with no or very minor limitations to agricultural use.) |
| 2 | Land with minor limitations which affect crop yield, cultivations or harvesting. A wide range of agricultural and horticultural crops can usually be grown. On some land in the grade there may be reduced flexibility due to difficulties with the production of the more demanding crops, such as winter harvested vegetables and arable root crops. The level of yield is generally high but may be lower or more variable than grade 1. (Very good quality agricultural land with minor limitations, which affect crop yield, cultivation or harvesting.) |
| 3 Subgrade 3a Subgrade 3b | <p>Land with moderate limitations which affect the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or the level of yield. Where more demanding crops are grown yields are generally lower or more variable than on land in grades 1 and 2.</p> <p>Land capable of consistently producing moderate to high yields of a narrow range of arable crops, especially cereals, or moderate yields of crops including: cereals, grass, oilseed rape, potatoes, sugar beet and less demanding horticultural crops</p> <p>Land capable of producing moderate yields of a narrow range of crops, principally: cereals and grass, lower yields of a wider range of crops, high yields of grass which can be grazed or harvested over most of the year</p> |
| 4 | Land with severe limitations which significantly restrict the range of crops and/or level of yields. It is mainly suited to grass with occasional arable crops (for example cereals and forage crops) the yields of which are variable. In moist climates, yields of grass may be moderate to high but there may be difficulties using the land. The grade also includes arable land that is very dry because of drought. |
| 5 | Land with very severe limitations which restrict use to permanent pasture or rough grazing, except for occasional pioneer forage crops. |



Agricultural Land Classification in North Warwickshire

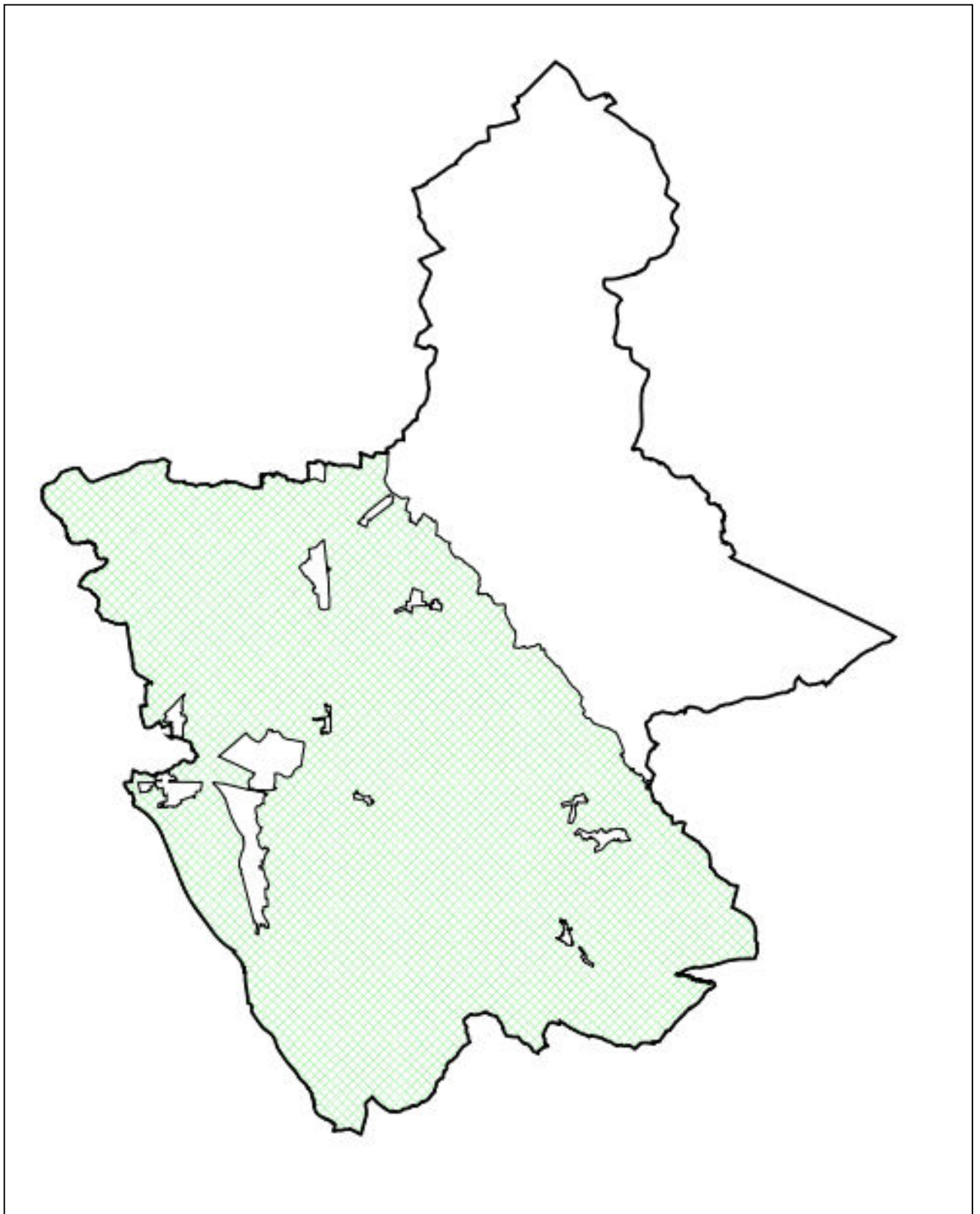
Landscape

4.92 The Borough has a special and important natural environment shaped by its landscape and mining legacy. It has four major river corridors – the Tame, Blythe, Cole and Anker - and holds the largest and most important area of inter-connected wetlands in the subregion along the Tame Valley. Cumulatively this area forms a migratory bird route of regional significance. The Borough also has notable concentrations of heathland, ancient woodlands and acid grasslands associated with post-industrial habitats, which are otherwise scarce within the county

4.93 There are no Air Quality Management Areas in NWBC.

4.94 Approximately two thirds of North Warwickshire is within the Green Belt.

Map **Green Belt North Warwickshire**



Issues & problems

- The protection and enhancement of biodiversity, particularly statutory and non statutory sites of nature conservation interest in North Warwickshire.
- Safeguarding nationally and locally valued species/habitats.
- Enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment potentially through Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping.
- Uncontrolled development could harm local landscape and settlement character.
- Protect and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive local character of areas within the Borough;
- Maximise the benefits from the landscape character assessment by using landscape character to make choices about the locations for development and the design of proposals
- Potential effects on landscape quality from poor design and layout of new development areas.
- Balancing the needs for protecting better quality agriculture land and development requirements.
- The need to safeguard and improve soil resources.
- Addressing contamination issues relating to previous land uses.
- Past development of brownfield sites means that currently there are limited brownfield sites. By implication, this means that there will be a loss of greenfield sites and agricultural land.
- Maintaining and improving air quality in accordance with National Air Quality Standards and best practice
- Seeking to secure a reduction in emissions from sources which contribute to poor air quality.
- A substantial part of the Borough of North Warwickshire is identified as being within the Green Belt where exception circumstances are required to justify changes to the Green Belt boundaries
- Consideration of Nutrient Neutrality against all plans and policies

CONSERVING AND ENHANCING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- 4.95 The Council is committed to protecting, conserving and where opportunities arise, enhancing the historic environment of the Borough. The historic environment is all aspects of the environment which have resulted from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped planted or managed flora. Those elements of the historic environment that hold significance are called heritage assets.
- 4.96 North Warwickshire benefits from a variety of formally designated historic assets including:
- Conservation Areas;
 - Listed Buildings;
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
 - Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
 - North Warwickshire's Historic Canal Network
- 4.97 North Warwickshire's has designated Conservation Areas in Atherstone, Mancetter, Coleshill, Fillongley, Kingsbury, Newton Regis, Water Orton and Polesworth and there is a proposal to include a Conservation Area in Caldecote
- 4.98 Listed Buildings are buildings that appear on the Secretary of State's 'List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest', prepared by the Department of Culture,

Media and Sport. Listed buildings are graded to show their relative architectural or historic interest, as follows

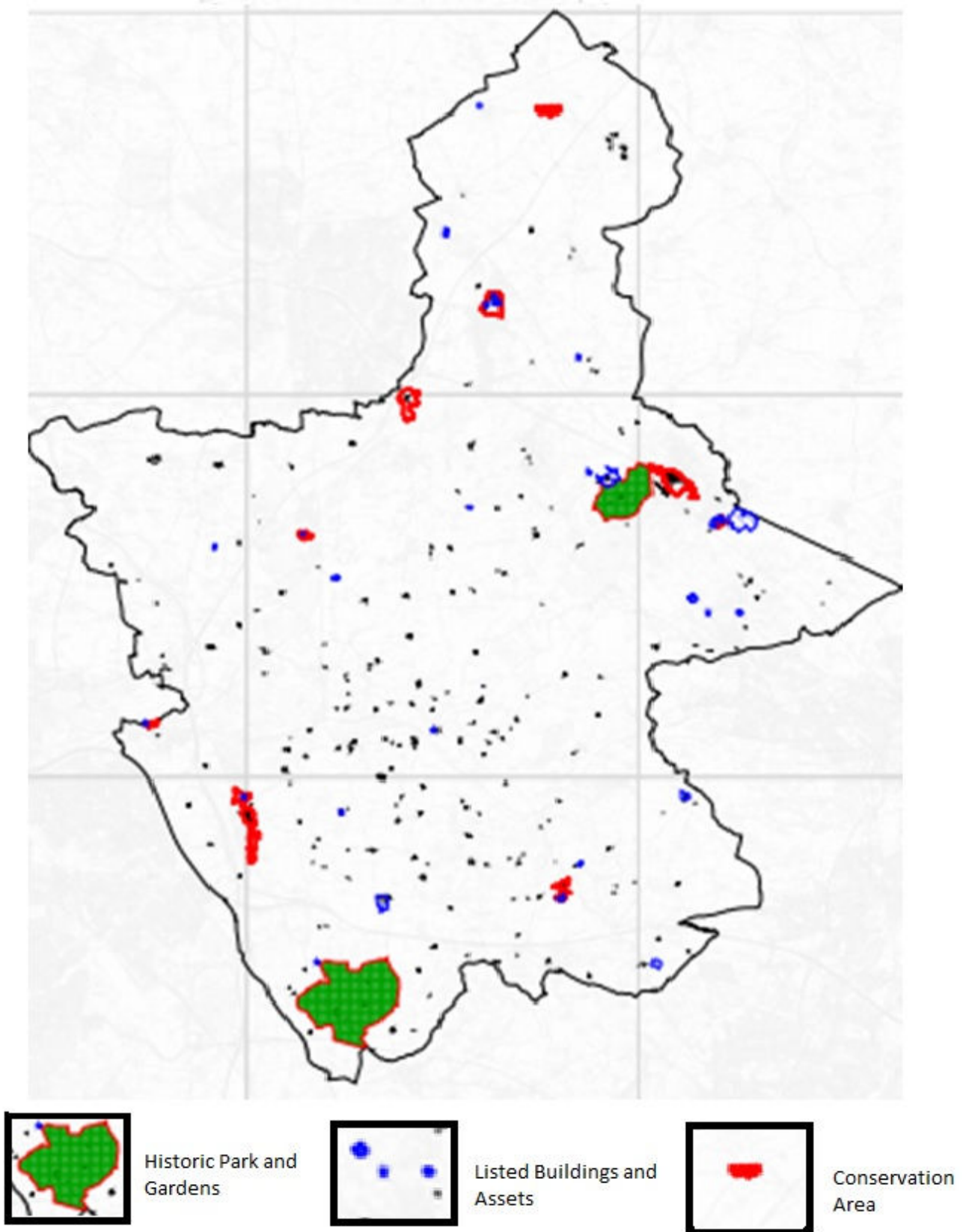
- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest (there are 7 in North Warwickshire);
- Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest (55 in North Warwickshire);
- Grade II buildings are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

4.99 There are 583 Listed Buildings in North Warwickshire, 4 of which were identified on the Heritage at Risk Register in 2023.

4.100 North Warwickshire also has some non-designated heritage assets which are buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets.

4.101 There are 27 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) in North Warwickshire, 9 of which appear on the Heritage at Risk Register 2023, along with 3 registered parks and gardens.

Map : Designated Heritage Assets in North Warwickshire



Issues and Problems

- The conservation and enhancement of North Warwickshire’s historical and archaeological assets and their setting.
- 13 heritage assets are identified on the Heritage Risk Register 2023.
- The protection of non-designated heritage assets within North Warwickshire.
- There is a need to actively promote the character and distinctiveness of the Conservation Areas.
- Promote the conservation and enhance of the heritage assets within the Borough town centres to support the local economy.
- Using the Conservation Area appraisals, to inform choices about development and the design of proposals within and adjacent to those areas.

MINERALS & WASTE

- 4.102 Minerals and Waste Local Plans are brought forward by Warwickshire County Council (WCC). Nevertheless, there are some implications for North Warwickshire’s Local Plan. WCC Minerals Plan was adopted in July 2022 and the Waste Core Strategy was adopted in 2013
- 4.103 The Waste Core Strategy by Warwickshire County Council sets out the importance of the Waste Hierarchy. It identifies that existing landfill sites have only a limited life and stresses the importance of waste prevention, re-use, recycling and recovery to minimise what goes to landfill.
- 4.104 The NPPF stresses the importance of safeguarding mineral resources by defining Minerals Safeguarding Areas so that specific minerals are not sterilised by non-mineral development where this should be avoided.

Issues and Problems

- To follow the ‘waste hierarchy’ and in particular to reduce the growth in waste and increase the amount of waste which is re-used and recycled.
- New development needs to include provision for waste recycling facilities.
- Existing landfill sites have only a limited life
- Avoiding development on safeguarded mineral resources where this needlessly sterilises the minerals resource.

Section 5: Developing the SA framework (Stage A4)

(Stage 1d - Table 4 Sustainability Appraisal and the Local Plan)

SA Objectives

- 5.1 This section looks at developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework which contains a list of objectives based on the review of other relevant plans, policies and programmes (stage 1a), the analysis of the baseline data (stage 1b) and the identification of sustainability issues (stage 1c).
- 5.2 The SA Framework will be used to test the sustainability of the emerging Local Plan including assess the reasonable alternative options for the policies, potential sites and policies.
- 5.3 Following the review of plans, policies and programmes, taking into account the analysis of the baseline data and the identification of sustainability issues, it is considered that a lot of the objectives set out in the Scoping Report of 2006 remain appropriate.
- 5.4 The SA objectives are based on the principles in the NPPF but have been adapted to address the key sustainability issues most relevant to North Warwickshire. The NPPF identifies that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environment. In Table 10 the objectives have been identified as falling into one of these three dimensions. However, it should be recognised that in practice these objectives will cross over the dimensions. For example, Objective 6 Biodiversity is identified as environmental but it can be seen that it will have health impact (social) and economic impact such as in relation to tourism or agricultural production. Housing development is identified as social, but it also has an economic impact in relation to the construction industry and to the creation of jobs.

Table 8 Sustainability appraisal objectives and SEA Theme

| Sustainable appraisal objectives | SA/SEA Theme | SA Dimension |
|---|--|----------------|
| 1. To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of North Warwickshire. | Population/ Human health/ Material assets | Social. |
| 2. To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. | Population/ Human health/ Material assets. | Social. |
| 3. To conserve and enhance North Warwickshire's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. | Cultural Heritage/ Human health/ Material assets | Environmental. |
| 4. To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime. | Population/ Human health. | Social. |

| Sustainable appraisal objectives | SA/SEA Theme | SA Dimension |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 5. To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of North Warwickshire. | Population/ Human health/ Material assets. | Social. |
| 6. To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure. | Biodiversity/ Human health/ Fauna/ Flora/ Climatic factors/ Landscape/ Material assets. | Environmental. |
| 7. To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of North Warwickshire's landscape/townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. | Biodiversity/ Human health/ Fauna/ Flora/ Landscape/ Cultural heritage/ Material assets. | Environmental. |
| 8. To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land. | Soil/ Fauna/ Flora/ Material assets | Environmental. |
| 9. To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution. | Air/ Human health/ Material assets. | Environmental. |
| 10. To conserve and improve water quality and quantity. | Water/ Climatic factors. | Environmental |
| 11. To minimise waste, and increase the re-use and recycling of waste materials, developing resilience to climate change. | Climatic factors/ Landscape/ Material assets. | Environmental. |
| 12. To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment. | Water/ Climatic factors/ Material assets | Environmental. |
| 13. To adapt and develop resilience to climate change by minimising energy usage and to develop North Warwickshire's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources. | Climatic factors/ Material assets | Environmental. |
| 14. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys. | Population/ Human health/ Climatic factors/Landscape/ Material assets | Social. |
| 15. To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learning and skills to meet the needs of the Borough. | Population/ Human Health/ Material assets. | Economic |
| 16. To improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy. | Population/ Human Health/ Material assets. | Economic. |
| 17. Increase the vitality and viability of North Warwickshire's town centres. | Population/ Material assets. | Economic. |

SA Assessment

5.5 Table 10 sets out the relationship between the following:

- SEA link – Identifies the relationship between the SEA themes and the SA Objectives.
- Objective – The Objective derived from the analysis of plans programmes and policies and the baseline issues set out in Table Five. Table 8 sets the Sustainability Objectives and their relationship with the EAPP issues and the NPPF objectives.
- Decision Making Criteria - Assessment questions provide a systematic way of interrogating plan options. Relevant topics can be used to develop an appropriately focused assessment. Questions can be developed on the basis of the analysis of relevant objectives. Table 9 includes decision making criteria linked to specific objectives. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not a proposal or option works towards the SA objective.
- Site Allocation Appraisal – This identifies potential means of identify the impact of a specific site in relation to the Objectives and decision making criteria. In this context major development is identified as follows:
 - For housing, development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5 hectares or more.
 - For non-residential development it means additional floorspace of 1,000m² or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.
- Open Space –The National Planning Policy Framework identifies that all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity. The following typology illustrates the broad range of open space of public value:
 - Parks and gardens – including urban parks, country parks, forest parks and formal gardens;
 - Outdoor sports facilities;
 - Amenity green space including play areas, kickabout areas, skateboard parks etc.
 - Green corridors – including river and canal banks, amenity footpaths and cycleways.
 - Natural and semi-natural urban green spaces – including woodlands, urban forestry, grasslands (eg. meadows),
 - Allotments and community gardens;
- Indicators – Identifies potential indicators for monitoring purpose.

Definitions of Significance

5.6 LUC prepared North Warwickshire’s SA in 2017. It included a recommendation that the Council adopt topic-specific definitions which constitutes a significant effect, a minor effect, or a neutral effect for each of the SA objectives. These definitions of significance will help to ensure a consistent approach to interpreting the significance of effects and will help in understand the decisions made by the assessor.

- 5.7 The matrix provides an assessment ranging from a significance 'score' ++ (significant positive effect) to - - (significantly negative effect). However, the significance of any effect is a matter of judgement, making best use of available evidence and requires no more than a clear and reasonable justification. Where uncertainties exist or where it is considered that insufficient information exists to enable an accurate assessment to be made this will be reflected in the assessment.
- 5.8 Each option for the Local Plan will be assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement made with regards to the likely effect that the option would have on that objective. These judgements will be recorded using the colour coded symbol, as set out in Table 9 below. The scores will be presented in a matrix, along with a brief justification of the judgement made.

Table 9 Matrix to be utilised by the Sustainability Appraisal

| Key | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Significant positive effect | ++ |
| Minor Positive Effect | + |
| Neutral | 0 |
| Uncertain effects | ? |
| Minor negative effect | - |
| Significant negative effect | -- |

- 5.9 During Stage 2 of the SA (appraising the effects of the Plan), the SA framework will allow the potential impacts of each of the options for the Local Plan to be assessed against the SA objectives.
- 5.10 **Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic effects** - In undertaking assessments there will be significant direct effect related to alternatives. However, there also may be cumulative or synergistic effects and there will also be interrelationships between effects. The SEA Directive, and its implementing regulations, requires that secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are considered as part of the assessment.
- 5.11 **Uncertainty** - The SA will also identify technical difficulties in undertaking the SEA such as uncertain encountered during the completion of the report which has influenced the findings of the assessment.
- 5.12 **Mitigation** - Identifying effective mitigation measures is also a fundamental part of the SEA. Where significant negative effects have been identified, appropriate mitigation measures should be identified.

| Type of Effect | Definition |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Secondary (or indirect) | Effects may be interrelated. For example, pollution in an area will not only impact on water quality but will also impact on biodiversity. |
| Cumulative | Effects that occur where several individual activities which each may have an insignificant effect, combine to have a significant effect. Cumulative effects can occur from different actions within a plan and can arise over space or time. It may only be possible to take a comprehensive overview of cumulative effects once all aspects of a plan have been assessed. |
| Synergistic | Effects that interact to produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual effects. For example, this can occur where the toxicity of two chemicals is greatly increased when they are combined. |

5.13

Trends - As part of any assessment it will also be necessary to take into account trends and their impacts. For example, climate change is predicted to increase flooding over time and needs to be taken into account in any assessment. However, this has to be seen in the context that some interactions arising from external factors, are beyond the control of the plan, and consequently it is not realistic to take these into taken into account in looking at the effects of the plan.

Alternatives

5.14 Planning Practice Guidance makes it clear that the sustainability appraisal must consider all reasonable alternatives and assess them in the same level of detail as the option the plan-maker proposes to take forward in the Local Plan (the preferred approach). It also identifies that reasonable alternatives are the different realistic options considered by the plan-maker in developing the policies in its plan.

5.15 The SA should report the social, environmental and economic effects of the Local Plan options predicting and evaluated their significance. Prediction of effects involves identifying what changes might occur to the sustainability baseline over time – these changes will need to be evaluated for their likely significance, in terms of their probability, duration, frequency, and the geographical area likely to be affected.

5.16 An important element of Sustainability Appraisal is monitoring the significant social, economic and environmental effects for any unforeseen adverse effects. Ideally there should be a clear link between the significant effects predicted within an Appraisal and the indicators selected to monitor the likely effects. The detail within the

monitoring programme should reflect the severity and likelihood of the predicted effects. In some cases this may involve a series of specific or targeted measures to monitor a particularly significant issue e.g. erosion of green space. Other potential effects could be monitored in existing monitoring mechanisms e.g. effects of planning policies within development plan monitoring. Further information is set out in Table 10.

5.17 The SA Framework has been matched with:

- Policy criteria questions which comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not a reasonable alternative option or a proposed policy works towards the SA objective.
- Site allocation criteria questions and includes a scoring system as shown. These criteria comprise the key questions that will be asked to ascertain whether or not a reasonable alternative option or a proposed site allocation works towards the SA.

5.18 The SA Framework set out in Table 10 will be used to appraise the key components of the Plan. This can be seen to have a number of broad aspects:

- The Local Plan will set out the spatial strategy for the Borough in terms of the quantum and broad distribution of future development. The spatial strategy, including considering reasonable alternatives, which will be appraised against the SA objectives that comprise the SA Framework using as a basis the appraisal matrix. Commentary will be provided.
- The plan policies (including strategic and detailed development management policies) will be appraised using the SA Framework and the matrix. The definitions of significance outlined in Table 10 will be used to guide the assessment of the strategic options and the policies. Commentary will be provided including any mitigation or enhancements measures to enhance the performance of the policies.
- In relation to sites, it is anticipated that the Council will review and screen out those sites, based on constraints and on the identification of those sites that do not generally support its chosen preferred options for the spatial strategy of the Local Plan. The remaining potential site allocation options will then be appraised against the SA objectives that comprise the SA Framework using tailored appraisal criteria with associated thresholds of significance to determine the type and magnitude of effect against each SA objective.

Table 10 The Sustainability Framework

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| SA: Social Dimension SEA Theme - Population, Human health, Material assets | 1. Housing To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of North Warwickshire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide sufficient new homes taking into account need and demand? • Will it support the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable, to meet the needs of all sectors in the community? • Will it create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities? • Will it promote high standards of design and construction? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? • For a heritage asset will it help to reduce the number of vacant buildings through adaptive re-use? • Will it meet the needs of the travelling community? | <p>The development of houses is anticipated to have a positive effect in relation to this Objective. Major site offer the potential opportunity to bring forward affordable housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major sites (>1 ha) with have a significant positive effect (++). • Small sites (≤ 1 ha) will have a minor positive effect (+). • The allocation of a gypsy and traveller sites will have a significant positive effect (++). <p>Major development is identified as :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small sites are defined in paragraph 68(a) of the 2019 NPPF as being 1 ha or less. Therefore, major sites have been identified as sites that are larger than 1 ha. • Employment the provision of a site of 10 ha or more <p>Mitigation – Considered whether constraints such as power lines, mines shaft, topography which impact on housing can potentially be mitigated against.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average property price against average workplace earnings • Household size and composition • Household projections • Number of Affordable housing completions per annum • Average property price against average workplace earnings • Number of Housing completions (type and size) per annum • Local Authority stock declared non decent • Vacant dwellings by tenure <p>Number of households on the housing register</p> |
| SA : Social Dimension SEA Theme: Population/ Human health/ Material | 2. Health To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase life expectancy? • Will it reduce health inequalities • Will it improve access to services? | <p>Access Access to both services and open space has positive health impact. In this context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • :If the site within 800 m of a GP Facilities and open space this will have a significant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults taking part in sport • Health inequalities • Life expectancy |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| assets. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value? • Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity? • Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel and food choices? | <p>positive effect (++).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site within 800 m or 10 minutes walking of a GP Facilities this will have a minor positive effect (+). • If the site within 800 m of an open space this will have a minor positive effect (+). • If the site is within 2,000m of a GP facility and/or open space (0). • If the site is in excess of 2,000m and less than 5,000m from a GP Facility and/or open space (-). • If the site is 5,000m or greater from a GP Facility and/or open space (- -). <p>Suitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site is located in proximity to suitable neighbour uses which could have a significant positive effect on human health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to open space • Access to sports facilities • New/enhanced health facilities |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | | <p>(++).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site is located in proximity to suitable neighbour uses which could have a positive effect on human health (+). • If site is not located in close proximity to either suitable or unsuitable neighbour uses (0). • Development located in close proximity to an unsuitable neighbour use, which has a potentially negative effect on health (-). • Development located in close proximity to an unsuitable neighbour use, which has a potentially significant negative effect on health (- -). <p>If the proposal results in a loss of open space this will have a minor or significant negative impact.</p> <p>Open space is anticipated to include: urban parks, country parks, formal gardens, outdoor sport facilities, amenity green space, green corridors (including river banks, footpaths, woodlands, allotments and community gardens</p> | |
| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Cultural Heritage/ Human health/ Material assets.</p> | <p>3.Historic Environment</p> <p>To conserve and enhance North Warwickshire’s historic environment, heritage assets and their settings.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it conserve and/or enhance designated heritage assets and non designated heritage assets, the historic environment and the setting of heritage assets? • Will it respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness? • Will it consider opportunities to focus on heritage assets at risk from neglect, decay, or | <p>The NPPF identifies that significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting. It is acknowledged that the potential effects on the setting of an individual heritage asset will vary dependent on the nature of the asset or what mitigation can be achieved to avoid adverse effects or even achieve positive effects. Professional judgement will be required in assessments in relation to the nature of the heritage asset with the following criteria being utilised as a basis to assess sites:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums & local heritage – number and attendance? • Historic Parks and Gardens – number. • Listed Buildings/Buildings at risk/locally listed building. • Scheduled ancient monuments –number and % at risk • Percentage of |

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| | | <p>development pressures and consider opportunities for their enhancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead to the repair and adaptive reuse of a heritage asset?• Will it increase social benefit | | |
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| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | <p>(e.g. education, participation, citizenship, health and wellbeing) derived from the historic environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural activities? • Will it increase the economic benefit from the historic environment? • Will it ensure that repair/ maintenance is sympathetic to local character? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that have potential for a designated heritage asset(s) (or its setting) to be enhanced or its significance better revealed will have a significant positive effect (++) (e.g. through removal from an 'at risk' register or reuse of a redundant building). Sites that have this potential but to a lesser degree will have a minor positive effect (+) • Sites which have potential for a non-designated heritage asset(s) or its setting to be enhanced will have a minor positive effect (+). • Sites which are unlikely to impact on a designated or non-designated heritage asset or its setting (0). • Sites with potential for less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset(s), including development in its setting, will have a minor negative effect (-) • Sites which include a non-designated heritage asset or part of its setting that cannot be enhanced will have a minor negative impact (-) • Sites which may have the potential for substantial harm or loss to a designated heritage asset(s), including development in its setting, will have a significant negative effect (--). | <p>conservation areas where appraisals have been completed.</p> |
| <p>SA: Social Dimension SEA Theme: Population/ Human health.</p> | <p>4.Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it help to create a safe environment? • Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? • Will it contribute to a safe secure environment? | <p>This is not anticipated to be applicable at site level as it is not dependent on location but the design of the development. It will reflect layout, lighting etc and these issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites. It is anticipated that all sites will have a</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fatalities / serious injuries from road accidents • Secure by design schemes • General crime levels in |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | the fear of crime. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it design out crime? | neutral effect (N) | the area |
| <p>SA: Social Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Population/ Human health/ Material assets.</p> | <p>5.Social Inclusion Deprivation</p> <p>To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas and the rest of North Warwickshire.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it address the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the underlying indicators? Promote effective integration with existing communities? Provide for affordable housing? Provide for an appropriate housing mix? Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure? Will it improve accessibility to shopping facilities? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the site meets any two of the following requirements it will result in a significant positive effect (++). Otherwise a single element will result in a minor positive effect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the site within 800 m or 10 minutes walking of "Access to Services" comprising a primary school, or GP surgery, or bus stop or post office it will have a minor positive effect (+). Housing sites that result in affordable housing will have a minor positive effect (+). The employment land studies identify benefits from employment sites being located close to deprived areas. Where employment sources are within 800 metres or 10 minutes walk of a deprived area this will have a minor positive effect (+). If the site is in excess of 2,000m but within 5,000m from all services/a town centre (-). If the site is in excess of 5,000m or greater from all services/town centre (--). If the development would contribute to the provision of key services and facilities (++). If the development would contribute to the provision of additional services and facilities (+). Development which would not provide additional services or facilities will have a neutral score. (0). Development that reduces any of these services will have a negative score. (-). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average score for Indices of Multiple Deprivation Number of Jobseeker's Allowance claimants Percentage of people of working age that are economically active |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | | <p>Whilst sites being within close proximity of a range of services is beneficial, sites being out of range of services would have clear negatives. Sites can be located away from existing services; however can also provide new services and facilities, which would provide positives depending on the number, nature and need for the new local services to be provided.</p> | |
| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Biodiversity/ Human health/ Fauna/ Flora/ Climatic factors/ Landscape/ Material assets.</p> | <p>6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure</p> <p>To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue Infrastructure</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it protect SPAs SAC and SSSI? • Will it protect, maintain and enhance or provide mitigation for sites designated for their local nature conservation interest? • Does the plan seek to prevent habitat & wildlife corridor fragmentation? • Does it provide opportunities for provision & enhancement of priority habitat or species? • Does it provide opportunities for provision & enhancement of green space / green infrastructure? • Will it lead to a loss of or damage to a designated geological site? • Will it provide opportunities for people to access the natural environment? • Will it conserve and enhance biodiversity taking into account the impacts of climate change? | <p>The potential effects on the interest feature of a SSSI or a local designated biodiversity site will vary dependent on the nature of the biodiversity site or what mitigation can be achieved to avoid adverse effects or even achieve positive effects. Therefore, this will need to take into account why the site is designated. In broad terms the following will be used in relation to sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the site include a SSSI or Local Wildlife Site with an anticipated negative impact - a significant negative effect (- -) • Is the site within Impact Risk Zones for SSSI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Within the Impact Risk Zone for all planning applications significant negative effect (- -) ➢ Within the Impact Risk Zone for residential development between 10 & 49 dwellings outside existing settlements minor negative impact (-) ➢ Within the Impact Risk Zone for residential development between 50 & 99 dwellings outside existing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net loss/gain Local/National nature reserves • Net loss/gain Local wildlife sites (Biological SINCs) • Net loss/gain SSSIs • Open space managed to green flag award standard • New and enhanced open space • Species at risk by development • Number of sites with mitigation work included in the project? |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote carbon sequestration? <p>N.B. International or European designated site will be informed by a screening and, if necessary, a Habitat Regulations Assessment of their potential effects.</p> | <p>settlements minor negative impact (-).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the Impact Risk Zone for residential development of 100 dwellings or more outside existing settlements minor negative impact. (-). Is the site next to a local wildlife site and anticipated to have a negative impact - it will have a minor negative impact (-). Any proposal that impacts on ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees will have a significant negative effect (-). If it involves the loss of a Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitat or Priority Species then it may have either a minor or significant negative impact. (-) or (-). Will it enhance or inhibit connectivity of habitats. This will have either a minor or a significant positive or negative effect. (-) or (-). If the site is within 400 m of an exclusion zone around the Sherwood Forest 'possible potential' SPA (ppSPA) it will have a significant negative effect (-). Will the site have an adverse effect on the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), or possible potential Special Protection Areas (SPA) (-). where sites exceed the minimum BNG requirements they will be given a significant positive effect (++) <p>Mitigation – Potential mitigations may include proposals to enhance a site for biodiversity</p> | |

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| SA: Environmental Dimension | 7.Landscape To protect enhance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it maintain and/or enhance the local distinctiveness and character | The Landscape Character Assessment identifies the Strength of Landscape Character and the Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessment • Local Landscape |
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| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| SEA Theme: Biodiversity/ Human health/ Fauna/ Flora/ Landscape/ Cultural heritage/ Material assets. | and manage the character and appearance of North Warwickshire's landscape /townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. | <p>of landscape?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside? • Will it promote development that is in scale and proportionate to host settlement? • Will it promote sites that are well planned or soft landscaped in such a way as to positively enhance the environment? • Will it protect the strategic function of the Green Belt? | <p>Condition. This Assessment together with specific site appraisals, where appropriate, will be utilised in assessing the landscape quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If development will have a significant adverse effect on landscape/townscape character, and/or designated landscape and/or site is located in the Green Belt (-). • If development will have a minor adverse effect on landscape/townscape character (-). • If the proposal will protect and enhance the landscape quality it will have either a minor (+) or significant positive (++) effect. <p>Green Belt – Approximately 41% of land within North Warwickshire is designated as Green Belt land and the 2019 NPPF places considerable importance on the Green Belt (para 137 and 138).</p> <p>(N.B. The Character Assessments are undertaken in broad terms. Therefore, these assessments may be modified by individual site assessments).</p> | Character Assessment |
| SA: Environmental Dimension SEA Theme: Soil/ Fauna/ Flora/ Material assets | 8.Natural Resources To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it use land that has been previously developed (brownfield land)? • Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land? • Will it prevent soil degradation & contamination? • Will it impact on a minerals safeguarded area? | <p>The emphasis is on the development of brown field sites and avoiding the loss of best quality agricultural land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major sites (> 1 ha) on brownfield land will have a significant positive effect (++). • Small sites (≤ 1 ha) on brownfield land will have a minor positive effect (+). <p>Major/Small Sites – In accordance with the NPPF para 68 and to keep internally</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenfield land lost • Employment and housing developed on PDL • Loss of high quality agricultural land. |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | | <p>consistent within the SA Framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site meets any two of the following requirements it will result in a significant negative effect (- -). Otherwise a single element will result in a minor negative effect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development is on greenfield land (-). • Development will result in the loss of the best quality agricultural (where known) (-). • Development is within a Minerals Safeguarded Area, excluding urban areas identified by the North Warwickshire Local Plan Review 2002 (-). | |
| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Air/ Human health/ Material assets</p> | <p>9. Air & noise pollution</p> <p>To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it limit or reduce emissions of air pollutants & improve air quality? • Will it limit or reduce noise pollution? | <p>The Council does not currently have any Air Quality Management Areas identified. If development sites result in increased vehicle traffic and are anticipated to result in an AQMA being designated the site will be regarded as having a significant negative effect (- -).</p> <p>Assumed that any development will have a minor negative effect (-) unless there is evidence to the contrary.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide emissions • Households in Air Quality Management Areas • Number of days moderate/high air pollution |

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| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Water/ Climatic factors</p> | <p>10. Water Quality</p> <p>To conserve and improve water quality and quantity.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce water consumption? • Will it maintain or enhance water quality? • Will it implement SUDs, where appropriate, to avoid run off of polluted water to water courses or aquifers? | <p>This is not anticipated to be applicable at site level as it is not dependent on location but the design of the development.</p> <p>All sites will have potentially have an effect but the effect cannot be typically determined. However, if it is identified that the proposed site will harm a protected aquifer, river quality or other water resources it could have a minor or significant negative effect.</p> <p>If it is identified that a development will specifically improve water quality this would be scored as a minor or significant positive effect.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological/chemistry levels in rivers, canals and freshwater bodies – water bodies classified as having a good ecological status under Water Framework Directive. • Water usage in the Borough. • Proportionate of schemes that have SUDs incorporated. |
| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Climatic factors/ Landscape/ Material assets.</p> | <p>11. Waste</p> <p>To minimise waste and increase the re-use, retrofitting and recycling of waste materials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it move management of waste up the waste hierarchy? • Will it help in increase waste recovery and recycling? • Will it reduce waste in the construction industry? | <p>All new development may offer opportunities for incorporating sustainable waste management practices. Consequently, this is not anticipated to be applicable at site level as it is not dependent on location but the design of the development. It is anticipated that all sites will have a neutral effect (N). However, if a site does offer additional opportunities or waste management then it may be regarded as have a minor or significant positive effect.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling rates in the area? • Tonnage of the household waste going to landfill. • Recycling levels of construction industry. |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Water/ Climatic factors/ Material assets</p> | <p>12. Climate Change and Flood Risk</p> <p>To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it manage or reduce flooding? • Will it attenuate the flow and run off of water? • Does it avoid locations within Flood Zones 2 and 3? • Will it promote Sustainable Drainage systems? • Will it impact on of ground and surface water flooding? • In relation to heritage assets does it integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into the historic environment sensitively? • Will it support mitigation and adaption measures that increase biodiversity resilience? | <p>Developments in certain locations may be more vulnerable to flooding. The Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment identifies that in general terms there is no requirement for development in Flood Zones 2 or 3. An additional factor that needs to be taken into account is the risk of flooding from other sources such as surface water or reservoirs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are entirely or partly within Flood Zones 2 or 3 will have a significant negative effect (--) • Site where there is surface water flooding with have a minor negative effect (-) unless the majority of the site is flooded, which will have a significant negative effect (--) • Sites at risk of flooding from other sources may have a minor or significant negative effect dependent on their anticipate impact. (-) or (--) <p>Mitigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not anticipated that surface water flood will prevent development unless this is specifically identified by the Local Flood Authority. <p>Does development enable opportunities to reduce flood risk.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood risk house numbers in area. • Developments incorporating SUDS into their design. • Planning applications granted contrary to advice of EA or Lead Local Flood Authority. |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| <p>SA: Environmental Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Climatic factors/ Material assets</p> | <p>13.Climate Change and Energy Efficiency</p> <p>To adapt to climate change by minimising energy usage and to develop North Warwickshire’s renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable Sources and locating sites in the most sustainable locations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve energy efficiency of new buildings? • Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? • Will it increase carbon admissions. • Will it encourage the use of clean, low carbon, energy efficient technologies? • will the development facilitate the transition to a net zero economy and raise the standard for new buildings? | <p>This is not anticipated to be applicable at site level as it is not always dependent on location but the design of the development. It is anticipated that all sites will have a neutral effect (N)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy use – renewables and non-renewable products • Renewable energy capacity installed by type and KW • Energy trends at LA level. |
| <p>SA: Social Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Population/ Human health/ Climatic factors/ Landscape/ Material assets</p> | <p>14.Travel and Accessibility</p> <p>To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? • Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? • Will it potentially reduce journeys undertaken by car by encouraging alternative modes of transport? • Will it give rise to a significant net increase in private car journeys? | <p>Good access and access to public transport as key aspects of travel choice and accessibility particularly for housing sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site within 800 m or 10 minutes walk of a bus stop/railway station together with any one from a primary school, GP surgery and post office being within 800 m or 10 minutes walk it will have a significant positive effect (++). • If the site within 800 m or 10 minutes walk of a bus stop/railway station it will have a minor positive effect (+). • If the site is not within 800 m or 10 minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of major residential developments located within 30 mins public transport time of health, education, retail and employment facilities • Development of transport infrastructure that assists car use reduction • Levels of bus and light rail patronage |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it have access to pedestrian & cycle routes for localised leisure opportunities? • | <p>walking of a bus stop/railway station it will have a minor negative effect (-).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the site is not within 800 m or 10 minutes walking of a bus stop or any other services comprising a primary school, GP surgery and Post Office it will have a significant negative effect (- -) <p>For employment sites there is less emphasis on access to local services. The emphasis is on alternative forms of transport. Sites with access to a bus stop will have a minor positive effect those without access will have a minor negative effect.</p> <p>Mitigation may include that the site is of a sufficient size to justify new/changed bus route or includes new facilities such as school, retail outlets, health facilities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New major non-residential development with travel plans • People using car and non-car modes of travel to work • Congestion – average journey time per mile during the morning peak |
| <p>SA: Economic Dimension</p> <p>SEA Theme: Population/ Human Health/ Material assets</p> | <p>15. Employment To create high quality employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the Borough.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide employment opportunities for local people? • Will it provide land and buildings of a type required by businesses? • Will it support and improve education/training facilities to meet local needs? • Will it contribute towards meeting skill shortages? • Will it improve access to employment by means other than single occupancy car? | <p>It is recognised that there is some cross over between this Objective and Objective 16, Economy. The effect of both these objectives will be to increase employment opportunities.</p> <p>The allocation of employment sites in relation to this option is anticipated to be positive (+). However, if the employment site is within 800 m or 10 minutes walking distance, or readily accessible via sustainable modes of transportation separated from vehicular traffic within a similar timeframe, of a residential area it will have a significant positive effect (++)</p> <p>Development of housing sites facilitates the local economy, but this is not the main</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average gross weekly pay (male and female) • Benefit claimants • Shops vacancies • Businesses per 1000 population • 15 year olds achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade A* - C • 19 year olds qualified to NVQ level 2 or equivalent • 21 year olds qualified to NVQ level 3 or equivalent • Working age population |

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| | | | <p>emphasis of this Objective. Therefore housing site will have a minor positive effect (+). However, the loss of an active exiting employment sites or employment allocation will have a significant negative impact (- -).</p> | |
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| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| SA: Economic Dimension SEA Theme: Population/ Human Health/ Material assets | 16. Economy To Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? • Will it make land and property available to encourage investment and enterprise taking into account current and future working environments? • Will it provide supporting infrastructure? • Will it provide business clusters? • For a heritage asset will it promote heritage-led regeneration? | <p>In general it is anticipated that larger employment sites will provide more opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (10 ha or more) may have a significant positive effect (++). • Small sites (less than 10 ha) will have a minor positive effect. (+). <p>The loss of active employment sites is anticipated to have a negative impact on the economy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large active exiting employment sites (10 ha or more) will have a significant negative effect (--) • The loss of a small exiting employment sites (less than 10 ha) will have a minor negative effect (-). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment land available • Completed business development floorspace • Land developed for employment • Employment land lost • Profile of employment by sector • Percentage of vacant employment floorspace |
| SA: Economic Dimension SEA Theme: Population/ Material assets | 17. Town Centres Increase the vitality and viability of North Warwickshire's town centres. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve the vitality of existing town? • Will it improve the viability of existing town centres? • Will it provide for the needs of the local community? • Will it make the town centre a place to attract visitors? | <p>The emphasis is upon encouraging development of North Warwickshire town centres. Development that are identified as 'main town centre uses' in the NPPF (Annex Two: Glossary) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a significant positive effect if within the town centre (++). • Have a minor positive effect if within the edge of the town centre as set out in the NPPF Appendix Two: Glossary. (+). • Main town centre uses outside the town centre or edge of centre will have a minor negative effect (-). • Large main town centre uses (as defined | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential development in town centres • New floor space developed in town centres • Vacancy rates in town centres • Changes to retail, food, drink and entertainment uses • Expansion of retail units. |

| SA/SEA Theme | Objective | Decision making criteria | Land Allocation Appraisal | Potential Indicators |
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| | | | <p>by the North Warwickshire Retail Study) outside the town centre or edge of centre will have a significant negative effect (-).</p> <p>The NPPF identifies main town centre uses. In addition, the town centre masterplans identify that housing development is considered to facilitate the town centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If housing development is within the town centre or edge of centre it will have a significant positive effect. (++) • If the retail study identifies that the housing development is located in an area where the largest percentage share for main food shop is a specific town centre this will have a minor positive effect on the town centre. (+) | |

Table 11: Consideration of Significance for Strategic Options and Policies

| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| <p>1. Housing</p> <p>To ensure that the housing stock meets the housing needs of North Warwickshire.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide sufficient new homes taking into account need and demand? • Will it support the range of housing types and sizes, including affordable, to meet the needs of all sectors in the community? • Will it create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities? • Will it promote high standards of design and construction? • Will it reduce the number of unfit homes? • For a heritage asset will it help to reduce the number of vacant buildings through adaptive re- use? • Will it meet the needs of the travelling community? | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would provide a significant increase to housing supply and would provide access to decent, affordable housing for residents with different needs.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would deliver sufficient pitches to meet the requirements for Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople.</p> |
| | | + | Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would provide an increase to housing supply and would provide access to decent, affordable housing for residents with different needs.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would make use of/improve existing buildings or unfit, empty homes.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would promote high quality design.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would promote a range of housing types.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would deliver pitches to meet the requirements for Gypsies and Travellers and Showpeople.</p> |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would reduce the amount of affordable, decent housing available. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would significantly reduce the amount of affordable, decent housing available. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| <p>2. Health</p> <p>To improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase life expectancy? • Will it reduce health inequalities? • Will it improve access to services? • Will it protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would have strong and sustained impacts on healthy lifestyles and improve well-being through physical activity, recreational activity, improved environmental quality, etc. Different groups within the society are taken into consideration.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly help to ensure sites are located in close proximity to a range of important health services and suitable neighbouring uses.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would provide a significant amount of new health services, open space and/or other physical activity.</p> |

| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| | recreational value? • Will it increase the opportunities for recreational physical activity? • Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including travel and food choices? | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would promote healthy lifestyles and improve well-being through physical activity, recreational activity, improved environmental quality, etc. Different groups within the society are taken into consideration. The policy/proposal would aid in ensuring sites that would be within close proximity to a GP's facility and/or open space. The policy/proposal would aid in the creation of sites that have suitable neighbouring uses. The policy/proposal would provide a health facility and/or some amount of open space. The policy/proposal would encourage physical activity by supporting the creation of other, physical recreational activities besides open space. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. It is anticipated that the policy/proposal will neither cause nor prevent the delivery of healthier communities. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would encourage unhealthy lifestyles and/or potentially reduce life expectancy. The policy/proposal would reduce the accessibility of services, health services and open space. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a significant loss in services, health services and/or open space. The policy/proposal would result in the creation of a development that has the potential to significantly negatively affect its surroundings. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 3.Historic Environment To conserve and enhance North Warwickshire's historic environment, heritage assets and their settings. | • Will it conserve and/or enhance designated heritage assets and none designated heritage assets, the historic environment and the setting of heritage assets? • Will it respect, maintain and strengthen local character and distinctiveness? • Lead to the repair and adaptive reuse of a | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would protect and enhance the sites, areas and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural interest with national designations (including their setting). The policy/proposal will make use of historic buildings, spaces and places through sensitive adaption and re-use allowing these distinctive assets to be accessed. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would protect and enhance the sites, areas and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural interest with regional or local designations (including their setting). The policy/proposal will increase access of historical/cultural/archaeological/architectural buildings/spaces/places. |

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| | heritage asset? • Will it increase social benefit (e.g. education, participation, citizenship, health and wellbeing) | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
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| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| | <p>derived from the historic environment?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it provide better opportunities for people to access and understand local heritage and to participate in cultural activities? • Will it increase the economic benefit from the historic environment? • Will it ensure that repair/maintenance is sympathetic to local character? | - | Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would lead to deterioration of the sites, areas and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural interest with regional or local designation.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would temporarily restrict access to historical/cultural/archaeological/architectural buildings/spaces/places.</p> |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would lead to deterioration of the sites, areas and features of historic, cultural, archaeological and architectural interest with national designation or result in the destruction of heritage assets (national, regional, local).</p> <p>The policy/proposal would permanently restrict access to historical/cultural/archaeological/architectural buildings/spaces/places.</p> |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
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| 4.Community Safety To improve community safety, reduce crime and the fear of crime. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it help to create a safe environment? • Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? • Will it contribute to a safe secure environment? • Does it design out crime? | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would significantly help to reduce crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly help to encourage social inclusion.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly contribute towards road safety for all users.</p> |
| | | + | Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would help to reduce crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would help to encourage social inclusion.</p> |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. It is anticipated that the policy will neither cause nor prevent the delivery of safer communities. |
| | | - | Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would increase crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would reduce social inclusion and road safety.</p> |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would significantly increase crime/fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly reduce social cohesion and road safety.</p> |
| | | | | |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |

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| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 5.Social Inclusion Deprivation To improve social inclusion and to close the gap between the most deprived areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it address the Indices of Multiple Deprivation and the underlying indicators? • Promote effective integration with existing communities? • Provide for affordable housing? • Provide for an appropriate | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would provide a significant amount of affordable housing.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would provide a significant amount of housing that is comprised of various housing types.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would contribute to the creation of new key services and/or facilities (e.g. health, educational and/or leisure).</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly improve social and environmental conditions within</p> |

| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| and the rest of North Warwickshire. | housing mix? • Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities, including health, education and leisure? • Will it improve accessibility to shopping facilities? | | | deprived areas and support regeneration. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would contribute to the creation of additional services (e.g. shopping/commercial facilities). The policy/proposal would provide an amount of affordable housing. The policy/proposal would provide an amount of housing that is comprised of various housing types. The policy/proposal would improve social and environmental conditions within deprived areas. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. It is anticipated that the policy will neither cause nor prevent the delivery of safer communities. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in the loss of affordable housing and/or a reduction in the variety of housing types available. The policy/proposal would result in a loss of additional services (e.g. shopping/commercial facilities). The policy/proposal would reduce the accessibility, availability and quality of existing community facilities and services. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a significant loss of affordable housing and/or a reduction in the variety of housing types available. The policy/proposal would result in the loss of key services (e.g. health, educational and/or leisure). The policy/proposal would result in new residential development being inaccessible to existing services and facilities. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 6. Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure To conserve, enhance and increase biodiversity levels and Green & Blue | • Will it protect SPAs SAC and SSSI? • Will it protect, maintain and enhance or provide mitigation for sites designated for their local nature conservation interest? • Does the plan seek to | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would have a positive effect on European or national designated sites, habitats or species e.g. enhancing habitats, creating additional habitat or increasing protected species population. The policy/proposal would create new habitat and link it with existing habitats or significantly improve existing habitats to support local biodiversity. The policy/proposal would have major positive effects on protected geologically important sites. |

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| Infrastructure | prevent habitat & wildlife corridor fragmentation? | | | The policy/proposal would significantly enhance the County's green infrastructure network. |
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| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it provide opportunities for provision & enhancement of priority habitat or species? Does it provide opportunities for provision & enhancement of green space / green infrastructure? Will it lead to a loss of or damage to a designated geological site? Will it conserve and enhance biodiversity taking into account the impacts of climate change? Will it promote carbon sequestration? | + | Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would have a positive effect on regional or local designated sites, habitats or species.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would improve existing habitats to support local biodiversity. The policy/proposal would have positive effects on protected geologically important sites. The policy/proposal would enhance the County's green infrastructure network.</p> |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would have negative effects on regional or local designated sites, habitats or species e.g. short term loss of habitats, loss of species and temporary effects on the functioning of ecosystems.</p> <p>The proposed policy would lead to short-term disturbance of existing habitat but would not have long-term effects on local biodiversity.</p> <p>The proposed policy would have minor negative effects on protected geologically important sites.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would adversely affect the County's green infrastructure network.</p> |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | <p>The policy/proposal would have negative effects on European or national designated sites, habitats and/or protected species (i.e. on the interest features and integrity of the site, by preventing any of the conservation objectives from being achieved or resulting in a long term decreases in the population of a priority species). These effects could not be reasonably mitigated.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would result in significant, long term negative effects on non-designated sites (e.g. through significant loss of habitat leading to a long term loss of ecosystem structure and function).</p> <p>The policy/proposal would have significant negative effects on protected geologically important sites.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would have a significant adverse effect on the County's green infrastructure network.</p> |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 7.Landscape To protect enhance and manage the character and appearance of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain and/or enhance the local distinctiveness and character of landscape? Will it recognise and protect | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would offer potential to significantly enhance landscape/townscape character.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would ensure the long term protection of the Green Belt.</p> |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would offer potential to enhance landscape/townscape character. |

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| North Warwickshire's landscape /townscape, | the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside? • Will it promote development that | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
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| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in scale and proportionate to host settlement? Will it promote sites that are well planned or soft landscaped in such a way as to positively enhance the environment? Will it protect the strategic function of the Green Belt? | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would have an adverse effect on landscape/townscape character. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would have a significant adverse effect on landscape/townscape character. The policy/proposal would result in inappropriate development in the Green Belt or affect the permanence of the Green Belt boundary. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 8.Natural Resources To minimise the loss of natural resources including soils, greenfield land and the best quality agricultural land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it use land that has been previously developed (brownfield land)? Will it protect and enhance the best and most versatile agricultural land? Will it prevent soil degradation & contamination? Will it impact on a minerals safeguarded area? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would encourage significant development on previously developed land (PDL). The policy/proposal would result in existing land / soil contamination being removed. The policy/proposal would avoid the sterilisation of mineral resources. The policy/proposal would ensure a sufficient supply of minerals. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would encourage development on PDL. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in development on greenfield land or would create conflicts in land-use. The policy/proposal would result in the loss of agricultural land. The policy/proposal would increase the demand for local resources. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. The policy/proposal would result in significant development on greenfield land. The policy/proposal would result in land contamination. The policy/proposal would result in the sterilisation of mineral resources. The policy/proposal would significantly increase the demand for local resources. The policy/proposal would result in inappropriate development within a Minerals Safeguarding Area. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
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| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 9. Air & noise pollution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it limit or reduce emissions of air pollutants & improve air | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would significantly improve air quality. The policy/proposal would significantly reduce noise pollution. |

| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
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| To reduce air pollution and the proportion of the local population subject to noise pollution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quality? Will it limit or reduce noise pollution? | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would improve air quality. The policy/proposal would reduce noise pollution. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would reduce air quality. The policy/proposal would increase noise pollution. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would significantly reduce air quality. The policy/proposal would significantly increase noise pollution. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 10. Water Quality To conserve and improve water quality and quantity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce water consumption? Will it maintain or enhance water quality? Will it implement SUDs, where appropriate, to avoid run off of polluted water to water courses or aquifers? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would significantly aid in reducing water consumption. The policy/proposal would significantly enhance water quality (by reducing wastewater, surface water runoff and pollutant discharge so that the quality) and enable all WFD targets to be met. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal encourages the use of SUDs. The policy/proposal would aid in reducing water consumption. The policy/proposal would enhance water quality. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would lead to an increase in water consumption. The policy/proposal would decrease water quality by for example, increasing the amount of waste water, surface water runoff and pollutant discharge. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would significantly increase water consumption. The policy/proposal would significantly negatively affect water quality. The policy/proposal would lead to deterioration of the current WFD classification. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |

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| <p>11.Waste To minimise waste and increase the re-use and recycling of</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it move management of waste up the waste hierarchy? • Will it help in increase waste recovery and recycling? | <p>++</p> | <p>Significant Positive</p> | <p>The policy/proposal would reduce the amount of waste generated through prevention, minimisation and re-use. The policy/proposal would significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill through recycling and energy recovery.</p> |
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| waste materials. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce waste in the construction industry? | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would reduce the amount of waste going to landfill through recycling and energy recovery. The policy/proposal would encourage the use of sustainable materials. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in an increased amount of waste going to landfill. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a significantly increased amount of waste going to landfill. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| <p>12. Climate Change and Flood Risk</p> <p>To adapt to climate change by reducing and manage the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to people, property and the environment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it manage or reduce flooding? Will it attenuate the flow and run off of water? Does it avoid locations within Flood Zones 2 and 3? Will it promote Sustainable Drainage systems? Will it impact on of ground and surface water flooding? In relation to heritage assets does it integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into the historic environment sensitively? Will it support mitigation and adaption measures that increase biodiversity resilience? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would significantly reduce flood risk to new or existing infrastructure or communities (currently located within the 1 in 100 year floodplain). |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would reduce flood risk to new or existing infrastructure or communities (currently located 1 in 1000 year floodplain). |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in an increased flood risk within the 1 to 1000 year floodplain. The policy/proposal would result in development being located within Flood Zone 2. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in an increased flood risk within the 1 to 100 year floodplain. The policy/proposal would result in development being located within Flood Zone 3. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |

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| <p>13. Climate Change and Energy Efficiency</p> <p>To adapt to climate change by minimise energy usage and to develop North Warwickshire's renewable energy resource, reducing dependency on non-renewable sources.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it improve energy efficiency of new buildings? • Will it support the generation and use of renewable energy? | ++ | Significant Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would significantly reduce energy consumption or increase the amount of renewable energy being used/generated.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly encourage the use of clean, low carbon forms of energy.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from North Warwickshire.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase carbon admissions. • Will it encourage the use of clean, low carbon, energy efficient technologies? | + | Positive | <p>The policy/proposal would reduce energy consumption or increase the amount of renewable energy being used/generated.</p> <p>The policy/proposal would encourage the use of clean, low carbon forms of energy. The policy/proposal would reduce greenhouse gas emissions from North Warwickshire.</p> |

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| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in developments that increase unsustainable energy use. The policy/proposal would increase greenhouse gas emissions from North Warwickshire. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result developments that significantly increase unsustainable energy use. The policy/proposal would significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions from North Warwickshire. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 14.Travel and Accessibility To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it utilise and enhance existing transport infrastructure? Will it help to develop a transport network that minimises the impact on the environment? Will it potentially reduce journeys undertaken by car by encouraging alternative modes of transport? Will it give rise to a significant net increase in private car journeys? Will it have access to pedestrian & cycle routes for localised leisure opportunities? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would significantly improve existing transport infrastructure and/or create new, high quality and sustainable infrastructure (i.e. cycle routes, bus routes etc). The policy/proposal would significantly reduce need for travel. The policy/proposal would create opportunities/incentives for the use of sustainable travel/transport of people/goods. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would improve existing transport infrastructure and/or create new, high quality and sustainable infrastructure (i.e. cycle routes, bus routes etc). The policy/proposal would reduce need for travel. The policy/proposal would encourage the use of sustainable travel/transport of people/goods. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would negatively affect existing transport infrastructure and/or encourage the use of the car. The policy/proposal would increase the need to travel by less sustainable forms of transport, increasing road traffic and congestion. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would significantly negative affect existing transport infrastructure e.g. loss of public transport facilities. The policy/proposal would significantly increase the need to travel by less sustainable forms of transport. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| | | 15.Employment To create high quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide employment opportunities for local people? | ++ |

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| employment opportunities including opportunities for increased learn and skills to meet the needs of the Borough. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide land and buildings of a type required by businesses? Will it support and improve education/training facilities to meet local needs? Will it contribute towards meeting skill shortages? Will it improve access to employment by means other than single occupancy car? | | | economy in the County and reducing out-commuting (e.g. it would deliver over 1ha of employment land). The policy/proposal would significantly encourage education/training related development to allow for skill shortages/local needs to be addressed. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would encourage investment in businesses, people and infrastructure which would lead to a more diversified economy, maximising viability of the economy in the County and reducing out-commuting (e.g. it would deliver under 1ha of employment land). The policy/proposal would provide an amount of education/training related development to allow for skill shortages/local needs to be addressed. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a loss of employment land (e.g. it would result in under 1ha of employment land being lost). The policy/proposal would result in the loss of an amount of education/training related development, allowing for skill shortages/local needs to be exacerbated. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a significant loss of employment land (e.g. it would result in over 1ha of employment land being lost). The policy/proposal would result in a significant loss of an amount of education/training related development, allowing for skill shortages/local needs to be exacerbated. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |
| 16. Economy To Improve the efficiency, competitiveness and adaptability of the local economy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve business development and enhance competitiveness? Will it make land and property available to encourage investment and enterprise taking into account current and future working environments? Will it provide supporting infrastructure? Will it provide business clusters? For a heritage asset will it promote heritage-led regeneration? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would encourage a significant amount of employment land that is enhanced by supporting infrastructure. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would encourage an amount of employment land that is enhanced by supporting infrastructure. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would result in the loss of a small amount of employment land and/or deliver employment land that is not supported by necessary infrastructure. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would result in a significant loss of employment land and deliver employment land that is not supported by necessary infrastructure. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |

| SA Objective | Guide Questions | Effect | Description | Illustrative Guidance |
|---|---|--------|----------------------|---|
| 17. Town Centres Increase the vitality and viability of North Warwickshire's town centres. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve the vitality of existing town? Will it improve the viability of existing town centres? Will it provide for the needs of the local community? Will it make the town centre a place to attract visitors? | ++ | Significant Positive | The policy/proposal would significantly improve the vitality of town centres and/or make them more attractive to potential tourists. |
| | | + | Positive | The policy/proposal would improve the vitality of town centres and/or make them more attractive to potential tourists. |
| | | 0 | Neutral | The policy/proposal would not have any effect on the achievement of the objective. |
| | | - | Negative | The policy/proposal would reduce the vitality of town centres and/or make them less attractive to potential tourists. |
| | | -- | Significant Negative | The policy/proposal would significantly reduce the vitality of town centres and/or make them significantly less attractive to potential tourists. |
| | | ~ | No Relationship | There is no clear relationship between the policy/proposal and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible. |
| | | ? | Uncertain | The policy/proposal has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependent on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made. |

5.19 Table 11 identifies the relationship between the SEA Topics set out in the EAPP 2004 Regulations the SA Objectives.

Table 11: Relationship between the SEA Topics and the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

| SEA Topic | Sustainability Appraisal Objective |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Biodiversity | 6,7, |
| Population | 1,2,4,5,14,15,16,17 |
| Human Health | 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,14,15,16 |
| Fauna | 6,7,8 |
| Flora | 6,7,8 |
| Soils | 8, |
| Water | 10,12 |
| Air | 9 |
| Climatic Factors | 6,10,11,12,13,14 |
| Material Assets | 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 |
| Cultural heritage, including lectural and archaeological Heritage | 3,7, |
| Landscape | 6,7,11,14 |

Note - The SEA addresses a number of topics but there is no definition in the Directive as to what they encompass.

Compatibility

- 5.20 A number of SA objectives have been identified as having a potential impact on each other. Even though potential incompatibilities exist, it is not necessary to re-write the SA objectives on these grounds. It is recognised that there may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved; the compatibility assessment should clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation can be considered.
- 5.21 Even though potential incompatibilities exist, it is not necessary to re-write the SA objectives on these grounds. As stated in the ODPM SEA guidance of September 2005 *“There may be tensions between objectives that cannot be resolved; the compatibility assessment should clarify these so that subsequent decisions are well based, and mitigation can be considered”*
- 5.22 The Council undertook a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and an Employment Land Review. There is a crossover between them, and the SA objectives as illustrated below:

Table 12: The interaction between the SA of Housing Sites and the SHLAA and Employment Land

| SA Objective | Issues taken into account in the SHLAA |
|--|---|
| SA Objective – Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specifically examines the sites and its potential suitability for housing against a number of criteria. |
| SA Objective – Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential loss of existing recreation and open space (e.g. amenity greenspace, allotments, playing fields etc.). Access to open space. Access to services including a GP. |
| SA Objective – Historic Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for adverse effects on listing buildings, archaeology and scheduled monuments. |
| SA Objective - Community Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a focus of the SHLAA. |
| SA Objective - Social Inclusion and Deprivation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a focus of the SHLAA |
| SA Objective Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on local wildlife sites, hedgerows, designated European wildlife sites, UK BAP habitat sites. Proximity and potential for effects on SSSI. Presence of natural features including trees. |
| SA Objective - Landscape | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on landscape character or quality of undesignated landscapes. Potential effects on conservation areas. Potential effect on built heritage. The ability of a landscape to absorb change, informed by the Council's landscape assessments. |
| SA Objective - Natural Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topography constraints. The risk of ground contamination on the potential development site. Agricultural land quality. |
| SA Objective – Air and noise pollution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a focus of the SHLAA. |
| SA - Water Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a focus of the SHLAA. |
| SA Objective - Waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not a focus of the SHLAA. |
| SA Objective – Climate Change and Flood Risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines the potential flood risk. |

| SA Objective | Issues taken into account in the SHLAA |
|--|---|
| SA - Climate Change and Energy Efficiency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a focus of the SHLAA. |
| SA Objective- Transport and Accessibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distance of the site to keys amenities (for example Primary School, GP, Bus stop). • The physical accessibility of the site. • The proximity of sites to transport nodes and to Borough shopping. |
| SA Objective - Employment and SA Objective Economy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes into account whether the site is within 30 minutes by public transport of employment. |
| SA Objective – Town Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proximity of sites to Borough shopping centres. |

Section 6: Consultation

- 6.1 A consultation of the SA Scoping Report was undertaken from 15th February – 9th May 2024.
- 6.2 In accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 the consultation was sent to the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. Under Regulation 12 (6)
- 6.3 In addition to the statutory consultees, the consultation was sent to other relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- 6.4 Where appropriate, the consultation responses have been integrated into this version of the SA Scoping Report. The summary of responses is available on the Council's website.

Next steps

- 6.5 This version of the SA Scoping Report will be utilised to undertake an appraisal of the policy options and the potential development sites set out in the Local Plan or any other Development Plan Documents. An SA Report will be produced (which will include an assessment of the options appraised) alongside the preferred options for the Local Plan, which will then be subject to public consultation. The Final SA Report will be published alongside the (pre-submission) version of the Local Plan. It will detail how the initial options were refined as part of the SA process.
- 6.6 It is anticipated that the SA questions and indicators will be refined as the Sustainable Appraisal progresses to take into account the latest information.

Appendix 1: Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

| Plan/Programme/Policy | Objectives and Requirements | How to incorporate into the Local Plan | Implications for the SA |
|---|---|--|--|
| International | | | |
| IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014) | To limit and/or reduce all greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change | The Local Plan should support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases. | Include sustainability objectives to support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases. |
| Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002) | Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. Renewable energy and energy efficiency. Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production. | Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the principles of the Declaration. | Include sustainability objectives to enhance the natural environment and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. |
| Aarhus Convention (1998) and 2021 Amendments | Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The right of everyone to receive environmental information The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general. | Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the principles of the Convention. | Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. |
| European | | | |
| SEA Directive 2001 Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment | Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. | The policies included in the Local Plan, and reasonable alternative options, must be subject to SEA as the Plan is prepared. | Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisal where an integrated SA/SEA is being undertaken <i>Relates to the overall SA process.</i> |
| The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010 (currently being updated) Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) | This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole. | Take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objective for reducing pollution |
| Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 (currently being updated in draft form) on the | The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units. It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy | Should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency. |

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| energy performance of buildings Directive 2018/044 and 2012/27 | performance and minimum requirements for energy performance. | | |
| The Birds Directive 2009 Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended | The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures: Creation of protected areas. Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones. Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes. Creation of biotopes. | Allocated sites and development management policies should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development. Avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances affecting birds. | Include sustainability objectives for the protection of birds. |
| The Waste Framework Directive 2008 Directive 2008/98/EC on waste | Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy. | Include sustainability objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling. |
| The Air Quality Directive 2008 Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe | Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives to maintain and enhance air quality. |
| The Floods Directive 2007 Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks | Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk. |
| The Water Framework Directive 2000 Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy | Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF | Include sustainability objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality. |
| The Landfill Directive 1999 Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste | Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy. | Include sustainability objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste. |
| The Drinking Water Directive 1998 Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption | Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance water quality. |
| The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994 Directive | Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as | Include sustainability objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling. |

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| 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste | | more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy. | |
| The Habitats Directive 1992 Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora | Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna. | Allocate sites and develop policies that have been selected taking into account HRA findings along with other factors. The Plan must be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment in line with the Directive | Include sustainability objectives to protect and maintain the natural environment and important landscape features. |
| The Nitrates Directive 1991 Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources. | Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution. |
| The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991 Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment | Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution. |
| European Spatial Development Perspective (1999) | Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government. | Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Spatial Development Perspective as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF | Include sustainability objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage. |
| EU Eighth Environmental Action Plan | The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are: (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; (b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; (c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment- related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; (d) to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation; (e) to improve the evidence base for environment policy; (f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; (i) to increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges. | Develop policies that take account of the Environmental Action Plan as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF. | Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency. |

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| European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002) | The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning. | Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention. | Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage. |
| European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) <i>Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention</i> | Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites. | Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention. | Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage. |
| National | | | |
| Localism Act (2011) | The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The Localism Act includes a number of important packages. In relation to planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums. | The Local Plan will need to reflect the principles of Localism as identified in the document. The Local Plan will need to incorporate the concept of Neighbourhood Planning, with the intention of giving neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which people live. | To ensure the concepts of the Localism Act are embedded within the SA framework. |
| National Planning Policy Framework | Presumption in favour of sustainable development. Delivering sustainable development by: | Development plan has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making. | Sustainability appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors. |
| | Building a strong, competitive economy. | Set out clear economic visions for that particular area. | Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy. |
| | Ensuring vitality of town centres. | Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres. |
| | Promoting sustainable transport | To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure. | Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport. |
| | Supporting high quality communications infrastructure. | Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks. | Include a sustainability objective relating to improving communication. |
| | Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. | Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations. | Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality. |
| | Requiring good design. | Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit. | Include a sustainability objective relating to good design and creating well designed places. |
| | Making effective use of land | Promote an effective use of land while safeguarding and improving the | Include a sustainability objective relating to the effective use of land. |

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| | | environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. | |
| | Promoting healthy and safe communities. | Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion. | Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being. |
| | Protecting Green Belt Land. | To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the coalescence of towns. |
| | Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change. | Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of flooding | Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaption. |
| | Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. | Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. |
| | Conserving and enhancing the historic environment | Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features. |
| | Facilitating the use of sustainable materials. | Encourage prior extraction of minerals where practicable and environmentally feasible. | Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable mineral extraction. |
| Housing and Planning Act (2016) | The Act makes widespread changes to housing policy at the national level. Measures introduced in the Act relate to starter homes and permitting the sale of higher value local authority homes. Starter homes are the new affordable housing product designed by the government to specifically meet the housing needs of younger generations and to allow them to access home- ownership. The overarching aim of the Act is to promote home ownership and increase levels of house building. | The NW Local Plan will need to take account of the provisions of the Act in relation to housing provision. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the provision of an appropriate range of housing within the District. |
| Housing White Paper (DCLG, 2017) Fixing our broken housing market | The emphasis of the Paper is on four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Planning Authorities planning for the right homes in the right places. Building homes faster. Diversifying the housing market. Helping people right now to invest in affordable homes. | The Local Plan will need to take account of the changes proposed in the White Paper. Greater clarity required in respect of Objectively Assessed Housing Need, delivery rates, the process of plan making, generation of new communities | Include sustainability objectives relating to housing provision, community facilities and services. |
| National Planning Practice Guidance | The National Planning Practice Guidance provides technical guidance on topic areas in order to support | The NW Local Plan will need to reflect the guidance set out within the NPPG. | The principles and requirements of national policy will need to be |
| National Planning Policy for Waste (2014) | Sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. Replaces Planning Policy Statement 10. | The Local Plan should be in conformity with national waste planning policy. | Include a sustainability objective relating to waste generation and management. |

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| <p>Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015)</p> | <p>The Governments planning policy for Traveller sites which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local planning authorities make their own assessment of need. • Work collaboratively to meet need through identification of land setting pitch and plot targets. • Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • Protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • Promote more private Traveller site provision. • Reduce number of unauthorised developments. • Include fair, inclusive and realistic policies in Local Plans. • Increase the number of sites in appropriate locations. • Reduce tension between Travellers and settled communities in planning decisions. • Ensure accessibility to services and facilities. • Protect the local environment and amenity. | <p>The Local Plan should include any policies and site allocations needed to support Gypsy and Travellers.</p> | <p>Ensure the requirements of national planning guidance are reflected in the SA Framework.</p> |
| <p>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (HM Government 2018)</p> | <p>The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to tackle a wide range of environmental pressures. The 25 Year Environment Plan identifies six areas around which action will be focused. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using and managing land sustainably. • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. • Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. • Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste. • Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans. • Protecting and improving the global environment | <p>Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of the natural environment and ensure that site allocations take account of the goals of the Environment Plan</p> | <p>Include sustainability objectives that relate to the protection of the natural environment.</p> |
| <p>Clean Air Strategy 2019</p> | <p>The Clean Air Strategy sets out actions to improve air quality by reducing pollution from a wide range of sources and will inform the detailed National Air Pollution Control Programme.</p> | <p>Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.</p> | <p>Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.</p> |
| <p>Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities (DEFRA 2017)</p> | <p>The Plan provides an overview of actions that the UK Government plans to take to achieve reduction of harmful air pollution, particularly nitrogen dioxide. Proposes reducing air pollution is via charging Clean Air Zones</p> | <p>Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.</p> | <p>Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.</p> |

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| | (CAZs) – areas in which emission standards determine whether a vehicle’s owner must pay a charge to enter. | | |
| The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (HM Government 2022) | <p>The Climate Change Act requires the Government to compile every five years its assessment of the risks and opportunities arising for the UK from climate change. It identifies six urgent climate change risks for the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure. • Risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry, with impacts on freshwater ecology. • Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity. • Risks to domestic and international food production and trade. • New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals. | The Local Plan should acknowledge the six priority areas identified and ensure that policies and site allocations help to address such matters, rather than increasing the risks. | Include sustainability objectives relating to the six urgent climate change risks identified in the assessment. |
| The Clean Growth Strategy (Government 2017) | Under the Climate Change Act, the Government is required to publish a set of policies and proposals that will enable the legally-binding carbon budgets, on track to the 2050 target, to be met. The Clean Growth Strategy sets out a range of policies and proposals, as well as possible long-term pathways for UK emissions in two ways – by decreasing emissions and by increasing economic growth. | The Local Plan should support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport. | Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources. |
| Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future (Government 2017) | The Government sets out the approach to building an industrial strategy that addresses long term challenges to the UK economy by improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. It identifies five foundations of productivity: Ideas; people; Infrastructure; Business Environment; and Places. | The policies will need to encourage economic growth across the whole plan area and take account of changing economic conditions and requirements to support businesses and enterprises. | The SA will need to consider objectives in relation to economic growth and development. |
| Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011) | <p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the housing market moving again • Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future • Support choice and quality for tenants | The Local Plan needs to include policies that help in the delivery of housing. | Include a sustainability objective relating to housing provision. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve environmental standards and design quality. The new strategy addresses concerns across the housing market making it easier to secure mortgages on new home, improving fairness in social housing and ensuring homes that have been left empty for years and are lived in once again. <p>There is the target to deliver up to 100,000 new homes by freeing up public sector land with Build Now, pay later deals.</p> | | |
| UK Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future (Government 2005) | <p>The Strategy sets out 5 principles for sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance ; and • Using sound science responsibly. <p>The strategy sets four priorities for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; • Sustainable communities <p>The strategy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of community engagement; • Forums to help people live sustainable lifestyles; • Open and innovative ways for stakeholders to influence decision; educating and training | <p>The Local Plan should seek to deliver sustainable communities.</p> <p>These are places which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents • People want to live and work in • Are sensitive to their environment • Contribute to a high quality of life • Are safe and inclusive • Are well planned, built and run; and • Offer equality of opportunity and good services for all | To ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are embedded within the SA framework. |
| English Heritage Historic England Corporate Plan 2022 | <p>The plan sets out purposes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings. • Promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas; and • Promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings. | The Local Plan should contain a planning framework which safeguards the historic environment. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the historic environment. |
| National Policy Statement Overarching Energy Policy Statement (2011) currently being updated | This policy document sets out government policy for the delivery of major planning applications for energy development. These will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than local | The Local Plan will need to be consistent with the National Policy Statement. | Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency. |

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| | authorities in which the development occurs. The document also specifies the criteria for waste management, traffic and transport, water quality and quantity, noise and vibration, open spaces and green infrastructure, the landscape, visual impact, dust flood risk, historic environment, odour, light, smoke/steam, insects, coastal change, aviation, biodiversity and geodiversity. | | |
| Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020) | The white paper addresses the transformation of our energy system, promoting high-skilled jobs and clean, resilient economic growth and delivery of net-zero emissions by 2050 | The Local Plan and its policies need to promote development that is energy efficient and increases the use and/ or availability of renewable energy. | Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency. |
| The Carbon Plan 2022 | The Carbon Plan sets out the government's plans for achieving the emissions reductions it committed to. Emissions in the UK must, by law, be cut by at least 80% of 1990 by 2050. The UK was first to set its ambition in law and the Plan sets out progress to date. | The Local Plan will need to include policies that reflect the targets within the Carbon Plan. | Include a sustainability objective relating to greenhouse gas emissions. |
| Safeguarding our Soils- A Strategy for England (2011) | Current practices focus on protecting English soils and the important ecosystem services they provide. Research is focused on addressing evidence gaps to adapt and refine these policies in order to strengthen protection and their resilience as the climate changes. A Soil Strategy for England sets out the current policy context on soils and a number of core objectives for policy and research. | The Local Plan will need to include policies on the safeguarding of soils. | Include a sustainability objective relating to soils. |
| The Growth Plan 2022 | The Growth Plan 2022 makes growth the government's central economic mission, setting a target of reaching a 2.5% trend rate. Sustainable growth will lead to higher wages, greater opportunities and provide sustainable funding for public services | The Local Plan policies will need to reflect the ambitions set out within the Growth Plan 2022 | Include a sustainability objective relating to economic growth. |
| Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011) | The new, ambitious biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how the UK is implementing its international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade (including rivers and lakes) and at sea. | The Local Plan will need to contain policies that protect biodiversity. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. |
| Lifetime Neighbourhoods (2011) | This document is a national strategy for housing in an ageing society. It seeks to support residents to develop lifetime neighbourhoods in terms of resident empowerment, access, services and amenities, built and natural environment, social networks/well-being and housing. | The policies and site allocations will need to reflect the requirements set out within the national strategy. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the creation of sustainable communities. |

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| <p>UK Bioenergy Strategy (2012) new strategy should have been published in 2022 but hasn't been yet</p> | <p>This strategy is based on four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy. In summary the four principles state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond. • Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of the overall energy goals. • Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy. • At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity. | <p>The principles of the Bioenergy Strategy 2012 will need to be reflected within Local Plan policies.</p> | <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change.</p> |
| <p>Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)</p> | <p>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there. The vision for 2030 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps; • Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; • Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and • Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users | <p>Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</p> | <p>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment.</p> |
| <p>The Climate Change Act (2008)</p> | <p>The Climate Change Act 2008 established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK's leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol. The Climate Change Act includes the following:</p> | <p>The Local Plan policies must reflect the objectives of The Climate Change Act, in order to contribute to reducing UK carbon emissions.</p> | <p>Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change.</p> |

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| | <p>2050 target. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels.. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK's total emissions.</p> <p>Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding 'carbon budgets'. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027.</p> | | |
| Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century: White Paper (2007) | <p>The proposals in this White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving our heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future. They are based around three core principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a unified approach to the historic environment; • Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and • Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system | The Local Plan policies will need to ensure that they protect the Boroughs heritage assets. | Include a sustainability objective relating to cultural heritage. |
| The Air Quality Strategy for England (2007) | <p>This Air Quality Strategy sets out air quality objectives and policy options to further improve air quality in the UK from today into the long term.</p> <p>As well as direct benefits to public health, these options are intended to provide important benefits to quality of life and help to protect our environment</p> | The Local Plan policies will need to work towards further improving air quality in the UK. | Include a sustainability objective relating to air quality. |
| A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2011) | This Strategy seeks to protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment and lead on the integration of these with other policies across Government and internationally. | The Local Plan should minimise loss of biodiversity when allocating sites for development. | Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity. |
| Energy Act (2011) | <p>The Act is underpinned by three policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tackling barriers to investment in energy efficiency; • enhancing energy security; and • facilitating investment in low carbon energy supplies. | Policies and site allocations will have to ensure a positive contribution in meeting the climate change challenge by capitalising on renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and adaptation measures which reduce the threat of climate change. | Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change. |
| Water for Life and Livelihoods: A Strategy for River Basin Planning | This document set out the Environment Agency's strategy to implement the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) by managing water based on river basin planning. The document aims to | Local Plan policies should promote efficient use of water in new developments and good management of water resources | Consideration of water related issues within the SA framework. |

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| (Environment Agency, 2006) | reduce pollution, prevent deterioration and improve the condition of aquatic ecosystems including wetlands. | | |
| National Infrastructure Plan (2016) | The Infrastructure Plan allows for long term public funding certainty for key infrastructure areas such as: roads, rail, flood defences and science. | The Local Plan objectives and policies should support the delivery of infrastructure to support new development. | To ensure that infrastructure delivery is embedded within the SA framework. |
| Waste Management Plan for England (2013) | The Waste Management Plan follows the EU principal of waste hierarchy. This requires that prevention of waste, preparing for reuse and recycling should be given priority order in any waste legislation and policy. From this principal a key objective of The Plan is to reduce the level of waste going to landfill and to encourage recycling. The Plan also requires that larger amounts of hazardous waste should be disposed of at specially managed waste facilities. | The Local Plan policies will be required to incorporate the objectives of the national waste policy. In order to encourage the reduction of waste and the reuse of materials. | The objectives of the national waste policy will be required to be embedded within the SA framework. |
| Flood and Water Management Act (2010) | The Act aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather. It provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer. | The Local Plan should protect existing and future development as well as residents from flood risk. | The overview of flood risk management in England which is provided in the Act will need to be reflected in the Framework of the SA. |

Appendix 2: The requirements of SEA in relation to the SA Scoping Report Review

Definitions

The SEA addresses a number of topics but there is no definition in the Directive as to what they encompass. In the context of the Scoping Report Review, it is taken the various topics include the following:

- Biodiversity - Biodiversity includes all species of plants and animals and the natural systems that support them. The viability and productivity of soils, waters, the climate and other life support systems depends upon the interactions between complex groups of species and their environment. Biodiversity is important in its own right with national and international responsibilities and procedures in place to protect and enhance it. It plays an important role in underpinning our quality of life and giving a 'sense of place'. Biodiversity can be seen as underpinning economic development and prosperity.
- Population - In the absence of detailed SEA guidance on the content of the population topic, 'population' is considered to include information on demographics and generic socio-economic issues.
- Human health; - Human health is taken to include a state of physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. However, human health also has to be considered in relation to other issues such as biodiversity, fauna, flora, soil, water, air and climatic factors as well as environmentally related health issues such as exposure to traffic noise or air pollutants.
- Fauna & flora - Fauna is all of the animal life of any particular region or time while flora is the plant life occurring in a particular region or time. Flora and fauna are building blocks of biodiversity.
- Soil - Soil is a fundamental and essentially non-renewable natural resource. It provides many essential roles including food production, water management and support for valuable biodiversity and ecosystems. It is also a large store of carbon
- Water - There are a variety of issues that comes within water. These include water and biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage, water resources and quantity, water quality and quantity, flooding and flood risk, and recreation.
- Air - In relation to air, the emphasis is on the impacts of poor air quality in relation to health, biodiversity, landscape, and water quality.
- Climatic factors - Climate Change encompasses the causes and impacts of climate change. The emission of greenhouse gases contributes significantly to climate change through the greenhouse effect.

- Material assets - Material Assets includes housing and infrastructure relating to areas such as energy, water and transport networks. It is also taken to include social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and other public buildings.
- Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; - Heritage can be defined as building structures and artefacts of cultural importance handed down from the past. However, cultural heritage will encompass a variety of different types of sites, buildings, landscapes as well as non-tangible elements of heritage. There is a cross over with natural heritage as natural feature forms part of both the cultural heritage and natural heritage.
- Landscape - The European Landscape Convention 2005 sets out “‘Landscape’ means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The term ‘landscape’ is defined as a zone or area as perceived by local people or visitors, whose visual features and characters are the result of the action of natural and/or cultural (that is, human) factors. This definition reflects the idea that landscapes evolve through time, as a result of being acted upon by natural forces and human beings. It also underlies that a landscape forms a whole, whose natural and cultural components are taken together, not separately”. Landscape extends beyond terms such as quality, character and tranquillity as it should also, in the context of the Local Plan, reflect access to natural areas for recreational purposes and the effects of human activity on the landscape.

How the requirements of SEA are met in the SA Scoping Report Review

| Requirements of the SEA Directive | Where requirement is met in this SA scoping report |
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| Preparation of an SEA report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. | This will be reflected in the Sustainability Appraisal Reports for the various stages of the Local Plan, which will include the SEA Report. |
| (a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes | Section 1, Section 2, Section 3, Section 4, Appendix 1. |
| (b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme | Section 4, |
| (c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected | Section 4. |
| (d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance | Section 4. |
| (e) The environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation | Section 3, Section 4 and Appendix 1. |
| (f) The key likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects). | Section 4, Section 5, Appendix 1, and subsequent SAs of the Local Plan going forward. |
| (g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme | SAs of the Local Plan going forward. |
| (h) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information | SAs of the Local Plan going forward. |
| (i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10 | SAs of the Local Plan going forward. |
| (j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings | SAs of the Local Plan going forward. |

SEA Quality Assurance Checklist

The Practice Guidance to the Strategic Assessment Directive sets out a checklist based on the guidance. It is intended to help to test whether the requirements of the SEA Directive are met, identify any problems in the Environmental Report, and show how effectively the SEA has integrated environmental considerations into the plan-making process.

| SEA Quality Assurance Checklist | |
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| Objectives and context | |
| The plan's or programme's purpose and objectives are made clear. | Section 1 and Section 2 sets out the background to the requirement for the Sustainability Appraisal including the SEA. It identifies the SA is undertaken in relation to the Local Plan. It sets out the plan period, the area cover and the purpose of the plan. It includes a brief history of the withdrawn local plan and the sub regional context of North Warwickshire. |
| Environmental issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. | <p>Sustainability issues have been considered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of Plans, Policies and Programmes set out in Appendix 1, • Section 3 identification of relevant Plan, Policies and Programmes and sustainability objectives, summarized in Table 5: Key messages arising out of the review of Plans, Policies and Programmes. <p>An analysis of baseline conditions set out in Section 4 has informed the development of the Sustainability Framework.</p> |
| SEA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. | Section 5 and Table 10, The Sustainability Framework and Table 11, Consideration of Significance for Strategic Options and Policies links the SA/SEA themes with objectives, decision-making criteria and potential indicators. |
| Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained. | Key messages, the source of messages and implications for the SA Framework are set out in Section 3, Table 5 and Appendix 1. |
| Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives, between SEA and plan objectives and between SEA objectives and other plan objectives are identified and described. | Potential conflicts between SA objectives have been identified in Section 5 and will be identified in the on-going SA analysis and reports. |

| Scoping | |
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| Consultation Bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. | The Environmental Agency, Natural England and Historic England together with other parties will be consulted. The Consultation Statement will identify a summary of the response and changes made to the Scoping Report Review as a result of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation. |
| The assessment focuses on significant issues. | Sustainable issues have been identified in Section 4, Baseline data and characteristics of North Warwickshire and identifies sustainability issues and the consequences of not having a Local Plan. Section 3, Table Five identifies key messages and sets out in the Table the sustainability Issues and Problems. |
| Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. | At this stage no difficulties have been experienced in this context. |
| Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration. | The Council is not aware of any issues that have been eliminated from the Scoping Review. |
| Baseline information | |
| Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan or programme are described. | Section 4 identifies the baseline data including identify sustainability issues and the implication of no plan being taken forward. |
| Environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan. | Section 4 identifies baseline data, where appropriate identifying their wider implications. At this stage, the implications, in terms of the growth in development in the Borough, have not been identified. While the Local Plan builds on previous work on the Local Plan, elements of the evidence base are being updated. Therefore, the impact both on the Borough and on the wider area will be identified as the Local Plan and its SA progress. |
| Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. | No specific difficulties have been experienced in the preparation of the SA Scoping Review. |

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Affordable Housing: Affordable housing is used to encompass both low-cost market housing and subsidised housing, irrespective of tenure, ownership (whether exclusive or shared) or financial arrangements, that will be available to people who cannot afford to buy or rent housing generally available on the open market.

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR): A report which is produced annually to establish what is happening now and what may happen in the future and compare trends against existing LDF policies to determine if changes need to be made.

Biodiversity: The range of life forms that constitute the living world, from microscopic organisms to the largest tree or animal, and the habitat and ecosystem in which they live.

Brownfield Land: A general term used to define land, which has been previously developed.

Census of Population: A survey of the entire population of the United Kingdom, undertaken on a ten-yearly basis.

Conservation Area: An area designated by Local Planning Authority under Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990, regarded as being an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Countryside: The rural parts of the Borough lying outside the defined Main Urban Areas and Named Settlements

Density: The intensity of development in a given area. Usually measured, for housing, in terms of number of dwellings per hectare.

Development Plan Document (DPD): A Spatial planning document, which is part of the Local Development Framework, subject to extensive consultation and independent examination.

Green Belt: An area of land surrounding a village/town having five distinct purposes:

- 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 regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Green Infrastructure: the network of protected sites, green spaces and linkages, which provide for multi-functional uses relating to ecological services, quality of life and economic value.

Green Space: A subset of open space, consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature within urban areas.

Listed Buildings: A building or structure of special architectural or historic interest included on a list prepared by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. Consent is normally required for its demolition in whole or part, and for any works of alteration or extension (both internal and external) which would affect its special interest.

Local Development Scheme (LDS): A document setting out the timescales for the production of the Local Development Documents.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR): Established by a Local Authority under the powers of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

Local Plan: Comprises a Written Statement and a Proposals Map. The Written Statement includes the Authority's detailed policies and proposals for the development and use of land together with reasoned justification for these proposals.

Local Wildlife Sites: Site of local importance for nature conservation or geology. They are now known as Local Wildlife Sites. They were formally known as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).

Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG): The Government Department responsible for planning and local government, formerly Department for Communities and Local Government and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Open Space: Any un-built land within the boundary of a village, town or city, which provides, or has the potential to provide, environmental, social and/or economic benefits to communities, whether direct or indirect.

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004: Government legislation, which sets out the changes to the planning system.

Planning Policy Guidance: On 6 March 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched planning practice guidance web-based resource, which should be seen in relation to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Renewable Energy: The term 'renewable energy' covers those resources, which occur and recur naturally in the environment. Such resources include heat from the earth or sun, power from the wind and from water and energy from plant material and from the recycling of domestic, industrial or agricultural waste, and from recovering energy from domestic, industrial or agricultural waste.

Rural Area: Those parts of the Borough identified as Green Belt or Countryside.

SEA Directive: The European Directive 2001/42/EC (commonly referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA) was translated into legislation in the UK on the 21st July 2004. It requires that local authorities undertake an 'environmental assessment' of any plans and programmes they prepare that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. See Section 1; Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Section 106 agreement (s106): Planning obligations (or "section 106 agreements") are an established and valuable mechanism for securing necessary infrastructure arising from a development

proposal. They are commonly used to bring development in line with the objectives of sustainable development as outlined through the relevant local, regional and national planning policies.

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Site of local importance for nature conservation or geology identified by the Warwickshire Wildlife Audit Steering Group. They are now known as Local Wildlife Sites

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): The designation under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, of an area of land of special interest because of its flora, fauna, geological or physiological features.

Social Rented Housing: Rented housing owned and managed by local authorities and registered social landlords, for which guideline target rents are determined through the national rent regime. It may also include rented housing owned or managed by other persons and provided under equivalent rental arrangements to the above, as agreed with the local authority or with the Housing Corporation as a condition of grant.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI): This document informs of how the Council intends to engage the community on all major planning applications and in the preparation of the new Local Development Framework an important planning document that replaces the current Local Plan Review.

Strategic Environmental Assessment: See 'SEA Directive'.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in Development Plan Documents. They do not form part of the Development Plan and are not subject to independent examination.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA): Examines the social, environmental and economic effects of strategies and policies in a Local Development Document from the outset of preparation. See Section 1; Sustainability Appraisal.

Sustainable Communities: Places in which people want to live, now and in the future. They embody the principles of sustainable development at the local level. This means they improve quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations.

Sustainable Development: A guiding principle for all activities in their relationship with the environment. One of the most popular definitions is that "sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".