

Draft Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1 Introduction	4
2 Baseline (Stage A)	8
3 Developing and Refining Options (Stage B)	23
4 Assessing the Effects of Preferred Options (Stage C)	33
5 Final Sustainability Report (Stage D)	36
6 Monitoring (Stage E)	39
Appendix 1 - Key Plans, Programmes and Objectives relevant to the LDF	39
Appendix 2 - Baseline information for the Staffordshire Moorlands LDF	49
Appendix 3 - Objectives and Indicators	72
Appendix 4 - Site Assessment Criteria	78
Appendix 5 - Quality Assurance Check	87

Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 This Draft Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report forms the first stage in the sustainability appraisal process and updates the original Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report originally produced in 2006 and updated in 2007, that formed the basis for assessing the Council's Local Development Framework. It is considered appropriate to review the original scoping report to ensure that it provides an up to date and relevant framework for future Local Plan documents.

1.2 A sustainability appraisal is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. The 2012 National Planning Policy Framework states that sustainable development is made up of three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

1.3 This process is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have. By doing so, it can help make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives. It can be used to test the evidence underpinning the plan and help to demonstrate how the tests of soundness under the Planning Acts have been met. Sustainability appraisal should be applied as an iterative process informing the development of the Local Plan.

1.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a local planning authority to carry out a sustainability appraisal of each of the proposals in a Local Plan during its preparation. More generally, section 39 of the Act requires that the authority preparing a Local Plan must do so “with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.

The SEA Regulations

1.5 Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (commonly known as the SEA Regulations) which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Sustainability appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.

UK Sustainable Development Strategy

1.6 Sustainability appraisals also help to deliver the UK Sustainable Development Strategy which is outlined in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework. The 2005 UK Sustainable Development Strategy defines the goal of sustainable development as “to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations”. It sets out the following five guiding principles to achieve it:

- living within environmental limits;
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;

- achieving a sustainable economy;
- promoting good governance; and
- using sound science responsibly.

Applying SA to the Development Plan Process

1.7 Government policy recommends that both SA and SEA are undertaken under a single sustainability appraisal process, which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. This is to be achieved through integrating the requirements of SEA into the SA process.

1.8 To be effective, Sustainability Appraisal must be fully integrated into the plan making process. The SA will be applied at each stage of the development plan production and audit key decisions. SA will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the plan in order to inform revisions of the plan that will be more conducive to achieving sustainable development. It should be made clear that Sustainability Appraisal is a tool to aid the selection of the most appropriate option and is not the actual decision-making mechanism.

1.9 The fundamental tasks to be carried out to ensure a comprehensive and robust SA include:

- Collecting and presenting baseline information
- Predicting the significant effects of the plan and addressing them during its preparation
- Identifying reasonable plan options and their effects
- Involving the public and authorities with social, environmental and economic responsibilities as part of the assessment process
- Monitoring the actual effects of the plan during its implementation

1.10 To undertake the full SA process the following five stages need to be undertaken:

Stage A - Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope

Stage B - Developing and refining plan options

Stage C - Appraising the effects of preferred options

Stage D - Final SA report; and

Stage E - Monitoring implementation of the DPD

Habitats Regulations Appraisal / Assessment (HRA)

1.11 Article 6(3) of the EC Habitats Directive requires that any plan (or project), which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with

other plans or projects, shall be subject to an 'appropriate assessment' of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The plan-making body shall agree to the plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned, unless in exceptional circumstances, the provisions of Article 6(4) are met.

1.12 The Council undertook an HRA as part of the Core Strategy preparation process and adopted Policy NE1 - Biodiversity and Geological Resources provides the necessary mitigation to avoid harm to these sites. However, the HRA acknowledged that further analysis is required at the site allocations stage to ensure appropriate sites are allocated. The Council intends to undertake a HRA Screening Report and if required Appropriate Assessment to inform the Preferred Options stage. The HRA report and if required Appropriate Assessment will also be updated to inform the submission version.

1.13 Although a separate report, the appraisal / assessment will be incorporated into the SA process through SA Objective 10 which seeks to identify, conserve and enhance biodiversity resources.

Baseline (Stage A)

2 Baseline (Stage A)

2.1 This Draft Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report forms the key document in Stage A of the Sustainability Appraisal - setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.

Stage A

- Identifying relevant plans, policies and programmes
- Baseline information
- Identifying sustainability issues
- Developing the sustainability framework
- Consulting on the scope of the sustainability appraisal
- Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Output: Scoping Report

Identifying relevant plans, policies and programmes

2.2 In order to establish a clear and concise scope for the SA it is necessary to review the relevant policies, plans and programmes that may influence the content of the Local Plan. This process allows potential relationships to be identified that will allow potential synergies to be exploited and any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed. It will also allow a review of the objectives and indicators, which will assist in analysing and comparing economic, environmental and social impacts throughout the SA and identify key sustainability issues. The review of these plans, programmes and sustainability objectives has been sub-divided further to highlight the level of the policies and plans e.g. International, National, Regional, County and Local. A list of those considered most relevant to the Staffordshire Moorlands is set out in Appendix 1.

Baseline Information

2.3 The collection of baseline data for the Staffordshire Moorlands District has enabled the identification of the key social, economic and environmental issues that need to be addressed. This information will be instrumental in the prediction and future assessment and monitoring of the effects of the document's strategies and programmes on sustainability. Appendix 2 details the relevant indicators, quantified data, comparators and targets and trends emerging. As a result issues can be detected and relevant actions and issues for the Local Plan and SA identified.

Identifying Sustainability Issues

2.4 Through the analysis of the baseline data in Appendix 2, a number of key sustainability issues have been identified:

Sustainability Issues - Social

Population

The District has an increasingly aging population. The percentage of people over 65 (21%) in the Staffordshire Moorlands is significantly higher than the national average of 16.4% (ONS, Census 2011). This is set to increase to 31% by 2031 (2012-based Subnational Population Projections)

In 2011 the percentage of the population in the District aged 14 and under (15.3%) was considerably lower than the national figure (17.6%). This was even lower in the rural areas (14.4%)(ONS, Census 2011). The 2012-based Subnational Population Projections indicate that in this District this will reduce to around 14% in 2031. However, the School Organisation Team at Staffordshire County Council can access data which indicates increased birth rates in the Staffordshire Moorlands. There has been an increase in pupil numbers, particularly at primary school age and this will have an impact on education provision.

All areas in the Staffordshire Moorlands have seen population growth between 2001 and 2011 except for Cheadle. The total population of the town in 2011 was 12,165 compared to 12,166 in 2001. (ONS, Census 2011).

The Council's equality duty (www.equalityhumanrights.com) requires consideration of the impact of its policies and proposals on nine protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation). Census data reveals some baseline information about Staffordshire Moorlands residents falling into these categories, though further data gathering is required at a local level. In line with the methodology set out in this chapter, equalities is included with SA Objective 2.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2 and 5.

Human health

There is a mixed picture for health across the district. The overall health of the people of Staffordshire Moorlands has improved over the past decade, with people living longer and fewer people dying from major illnesses, such as cancer, heart and respiratory diseases. This has had an impact on the number of people who are living longer with a 'long term condition'. There are high levels of health inequality across the wards of the Staffordshire Moorlands with Leek North and Biddulph East having particularly high levels of premature mortality, childhood obesity and teenage pregnancy rates.

Of the 32 indicators in the 2013 health profile (Public Health England) 13 were better than the England Average, 15 were similar to the average whilst the following four indicators: smoking in pregnancy, starting breastfeeding, obese adults and people diagnosed with diabetes, were worse than the national average.

Levels of adult participation in sport within the Staffordshire Moorlands have remained stable over the last few years but these are less than the county and national average. (Sport England, Active People Survey 2013).

This is reflected in SA objectives 1, 2, 3 5 and 6.

Crime

Staffordshire Moorlands is getting safer and has the lowest crime rates in Staffordshire, however despite continuing improvements in the rate of crime, fear of crime remains an issue. New developments need to create safe public and private environments and include 'designing out crime' initiatives.

This is reflected in SA objective 4.

Housing

There is a much higher proportion of detached housing and fewer smaller properties (flats and terraced housing) within the district compared to the rest of the country. There is also a much higher proportion of dwellings that are owner occupied and a much lower proportion of social rented / private rented / shared ownership compared to the region and nationally. (ONS Census 2011).

The latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (June 2014) identifies objectively assessed need (OAN) for housing in the Staffordshire Moorlands based upon a range of housing, economic and demographic factors, trends and forecasts. The analysis recommends a requirement of between 260-440 new dwellings per annum and a net annual affordable housing need of 250 new dwellings across the District. (Staffordshire Moorlands SHMA, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, 2014).

Managing a 5 year supply of deliverable housing land continues to be a key issue particularly as the number of annual completions has reduced over the last 4 years.

The Core Strategy identifies a housing target of 6,000 dwellings for the district (2006 to 2026). The early review of the Core Strategy for the period 2016-2031 will allow consideration of the latest SHMA data.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Accessibility

There is only one train station in the District at Blythe Bridge. Car ownership is high in the Staffordshire Moorlands and this has increased over the past 10 years. There is also a high incidence of car use for travel to work. Whilst some areas are well served by frequent bus services, other services, particularly in the rural areas are infrequent and do not extend into the evenings, (ONS Census 2011; Staffordshire County Council Transport).

The amount of people that work from home or mainly from home has decreased significantly over the last 10 years. This percentage still remains higher than the regional and national figure. (ONS Census 2011). The need for improved broadband remains an issue, particularly in the rural areas.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Sustainability Issues - Environment

Flood Risk

Latest flood risk data from the Environment Agency and the Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (2007) indicate that there are areas in the District that are at risk from flooding. It will be necessary to make use of areas in Flood Zone 1 (lowest risk) and away from sources of risk before locating development in areas at higher risk. Some sites may require a Level 2 SFRA to be undertaken.

As part of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) waterbodies within the District are required to meet a required status by 2026. The Local Plan needs to mitigate any implications of new development on local WFD compliance and ensure that watercourses are retained at or returned to their most natural possible condition. The ability of the existing sewerage infrastructure and water environment to be able to accommodate the proposed levels of growth needs to be reflected.

This is reflected in SA Objective 9.

Renewable Energy

As the Development Plan policy is supportive of renewables, and given the District has the environmental resources conducive to some forms of renewables, there have been a growing number of renewables applications and schemes which have been given planning permission over the last five years. Renewables schemes can have landscape / visual impacts; and pollution impacts and proposals often arise close to the Peak District National Park. The vast majority of these approvals have not yet been implemented (SMDC Annual Monitoring Report 2012-13).

This is reflected in SA Objective 7.

Air Quality

The Staffordshire Moorlands has high levels of CO₂ emissions compared to rest of Staffordshire which is largely due to the presence of 'Large Industrial Installations', most notably a cement works in the District. (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2011).

This is reflected in SA Objectives 7 and 8.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The Staffordshire Moorlands has a number of internationally designated nature conservation sites and locally protected sites. There is a need to ensure that appropriate assessment is carried out on all land use plans affecting Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) which are protected by European legislation and confirm that it will not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of any of these wildlife sites.

The number and condition of national and local sites have generally increased over the last few years, (DEFRA, 2013). There is a need to support partner organisations to manage these designated sites and also a need to consider the scope of acquiring contributions through planning process, for the management of existing habitats, or for the purposes of creating new ones.

This is reflected in SA Objective 10.

Soil and Agricultural Land

Provisional Digital Agricultural Land Classification data is available from Natural England. Agricultural land is classified into five grades with Grade 3 divided into subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined as Grades 1, 2 and 3a and is the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver food and non food crops for future generations. Areas of poorer quality land should be used in preference to higher quality land. Land in the Staffordshire Moorlands varies from Grade 3 to Grade 5. Are there any areas of Grade 3a?

This is reflected in SA Objective 11.

Landscape

The Staffordshire Moorlands has a high quality landscape which has been considered in detail in a district-wide landscape and settlement character appraisal and a separate study of the Churnet Valley. The Council will protect and where possible enhance local landscape and the setting of settlements. (Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment 2008, Churnet Valley Landscape Character Assessment, 2011)

There are three National Character Areas (NCAs) which fall within the Staffordshire Moorlands; the South West Peak, White Peak and the Potteries and Churnet Valley. Produced by Natural England, the NCA profiles provide an invaluable resource for understanding wider landscape context, and highlighting opportunities for enhancement of the natural environment.

The Historic Character Environment Assessment (2010) produced for the Staffordshire Moorlands area establishes the potential for the historic environment to absorb new development, and housing in particular, in 11 project areas.

The District adjoins the Peak District National Park and the Council will protect and, where possible, enhance local landscape and the setting of settlements. This will be achieved by recognising and conserving the special quality of the landscape in the Peak District National Park, and ensuring that development does not adversely affect the wider setting of the National Park.

The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts and states that boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. The North Staffordshire Green Belt surrounds settlements in the western half of the District and has been subject to only minor change since the 1998 Local Plan was adopted. It will be necessary to balance the need for reviewing the Green Belt boundary with the development needs of individual settlements set out in the Core Strategy Spatial Strategy.

This is reflected in SA Objective 14.

Heritage Assets

The historic environment of Staffordshire Moorlands is a resource for which the district is renowned. It includes over 1000 listed buildings and 2 historic parks and gardens. There are currently 14 Conservation Areas and the Council anticipates designating two further areas Oakamoor and Rudyard next year. The Council will also be undertaking consultation on character appraisals for Oakamoor, Rudyard, Upper Tean, Caverswall, Cheddleton, Stanley, Leek, Biddulph and Checkley. Work will also start on compiling entries for a Local Heritage Register, which will be the subject of consultation with owners.

The historic environment also extends beyond individual assets to the historic character of the wider landscape. The Council's Historic Environment Character Assessment (2010) considers the impact of potential development on the historic environment.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 13 and 14.

Tourism and Culture

Tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy and in 2012, 4.84 million people visited the Staffordshire Moorlands. A slight increase in the length of stays has been seen over the last few years but in 2012, 90% of visitors were day visitors. (Steam Report 2012). The Core Strategy is supportive of new tourism development within the Churnet Valley and within settlements; but must assess the appropriateness of new facilities in the countryside.

This is reflected in SA Objective 15.

Previously Developed Land

The percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land has increased significantly over the last few years and in 2012-2013 was 90%. Brownfield sites are a finite resource and the contribution they make will decrease as there are fewer opportunities and greenfield sites are required to meet housing and other needs. Nevertheless, the Development Plan still supports prioritisation of brownfield sites.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 11, 12 and 14.

Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect our towns, villages and countryside. It is the open spaces, waterways, gardens, woodlands, green corridors, wildlife habitats, street trees, natural heritage and open countryside. Green infrastructure provides multiple benefits for the economy, the environment and people. It encourages people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment, is important for the quality of life of local residents and improves the perception and attractiveness of the area for visitors and investment.

This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 6 and 10.

Sustainability Issues - Economic

Vitality and Viability of Town Centres

The vitality and viability of town centres has been challenged by the current economic climate and changing shopping habits with the increased use of online shopping at the expense of the high street. All 3 town centres are considered to be displaying signs of vitality and viability according to the updated Staffordshire Moorlands retail study. There is limited quantitative need for new comparison retail in Cheadle and lower demand in Biddulph than that set out in the Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan, however there is still a need for additional provision in Leek, (GVA, 2013).

This is reflected in SA objective 16.

Retail vacancy rates

Leek has a significantly lower retail vacancy rate (8.6%) than the West Midlands average (12.91%) and UK average (14.1%). Biddulph's higher rate (15.9%) is partly reflected by new retail units becoming available at the Sainsbury's site. Cheadle's higher rate (15.9%) is partly reflected by the economic climate and the types of unit available for occupation (i.e. mainly smaller units). All 3 towns have an individual character and are not dominated by national retailers. (SMDC survey 2013; Local Data Company.com 2013 & Springboard, 2012)

This is reflected in SA objective 16.

Employment Land and Premises

The Staffordshire Moorlands economy has experienced a decline in manufacturing in recent years and remains over-reliant on manufacturing and public sector employment. However, as the economy begins to recover from the downturn there remains opportunities in established sectors and opportunities in emerging sectors. The District has a low supply of available employment land, and potential losses may require the re-provision of employment land elsewhere in the District to cater for retained and future job growth. Past take up of land has been low, influenced by a number of mixed B1, B2 and B8 developments within the District in recent years. (Employment Land Requirement Study, 2014).

The Core Strategy identifies the provision of 24 hectares of additional employment land in the district between 2006 and 2026 and safeguards the Regional Employment Site at Blythe Bridge for high quality light industry development. The results of the recent Employment Land Requirement Study (above) will be fed into the 2016 Local Plan. There is still concern over the loss of small employment sites to other uses, particularly residential, and therefore a need to safeguard good quality employment sites. (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013).

This is reflected in SA objectives 17 and 18.

Businesses

Staffordshire is shown to have lower business start up rates than regional and national averages. Except for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough enterprise rates in the Staffordshire Moorlands are the lowest in the county. The number of VAT registered businesses and business registrations in the district have declined since 2007, (Business Demography 2012, ONS; Staffordshire Observatory).

This is reflected in SA objectives 17 and 18.

Economic Activity

The jobseekers allowance claimant count is much lower in the Staffordshire Moorlands (1.5%) than the West Midlands (3.6%) and nationally (2.9%). Despite this there are some areas within the district where the claimant count is much higher such as Biddulph East and Leek North wards. (Nomisweb, 2013).

The percentage of people in employment (Apr 2013 - Mar 2014) in the Staffordshire Moorlands (70.6%) is higher than in the West Midlands (69.3%) but less than Great Britain (71.7%). Almost 95% of people aged 16-64 in the Staffordshire Moorlands that are economically inactive do not want a job and 36.7% of these are retired. (Apr 2013 - Mar 2014, Nomisweb, 2014).

This is reflected in SA objective 18.

Occupations & Qualifications

The District has a higher percentage of people working in the higher occupation groups 1-5 (managerial, professional and skilled trades) than in the region and nationally. Less people in the District work in the lower occupation groups 6-9 (care, leisure, sales and elementary occupations) than in the region and nationally, (Nomisweb, 2014).

The % of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A* to C grades in the district in 2012 (84.9%) has increased significantly since 2005 and is higher than the Staffordshire and national average, (Department of Education, 2013). There is a need to ensure the provision of relevant employment skills, training and support in order to retain and develop the local workforce.

This is reflected in SA objective 18.

Earnings

The level of workplace-based pay (for people working in the District) has been steadily increasing but still remains some way below that of the region and the national average. Moorlands workers, especially female workers earn substantially less than the average across the whole of the country, (Nomisweb, 2013).

There is still a strong pattern of out-commuting by Staffordshire Moorlands residents who work to better-paid jobs outside the District. There is a need to diversify the economic base to improve employment opportunities within the Staffordshire Moorlands.

This is reflected in SA objectives 17 and 18.

Cumulative Impacts

- The District has an increasingly aging population with an increasing number of residents living with a long term health condition. This has implications for future accommodation needs and access to facilities and services.
- Although the percentage of young people under 14 is lower than the national figure, birth rates are starting to rise. New residential development, particularly in the towns will increase these numbers further and raise issues over education provision.
- Socio-economic inequalities exist within the Staffordshire Moorlands. Leek North and Biddulph East Wards in particular, have high rates of premature mortality, a high job seekers allowance claimant count and low car ownership levels.
- Over the last few years Cheadle has suffered from under-investment in its infrastructure and town centre and a lack of housing opportunities. The population has not grown, unlike other areas in the District.
- Climate change is a key issue. The District has high levels of CO₂ emissions due to the contribution from 'large industrial installations' and a high incidence of car ownership. A lack of frequent bus services and a lack of other alternative means of travel means that new development should be located in the most sustainable locations, to reduce the need to travel / reliance on the car.
- Although the percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land has increased over the last few years the number of opportunities are reducing. The allocation of greenfield sites for new development will require the detailed consideration of impact on landscape, settlement setting, ecological assets, historic assets and flood risk.
- Although a large proportion of the District is Green Belt and open countryside there is a shortfall of open space and recreational facilities within and on the edge of settlements. Levels of adult participation in sport are less than the county and national average and the amount of people that have their day to day activities limited by poor health is higher than average.
- The need for new development, will have to be carefully balanced with the need to protect and enhance the historic character of towns and villages in the Moorlands.
- Most renewables sites are likely to be in rural, greenfield and often elevated locations and for this reason proposals can often raise issues of visual or landscape character impact (including impacts upon the adjacent Peak District National Park).
- Lack of affordable housing remains a key issue for the district, particularly as wages are lower than average. High levels of owner occupation and low levels of social rented, private rented and shared ownership housing combined with lower building rates over recent years have meant opportunities to secure affordable housing have been limited.
- Lack of readily available, good-quality employment premises means that some businesses are lost to other Districts . There is also pressure on some existing employment sites from residential development. There is a need to encourage further employment development and retention/expansion of existing businesses by providing good quality, fit for purpose accommodation and to strengthen the District's economic role within the sub-region.
- Although there is a low rate of job seekers claimants in the District, a large proportion of jobs are in the lower skilled occupations which are lower paid. The growth of the economy is slower than the national or regional figure with lower

business start-up rates and a reduction in the number of VAT registered businesses. There is a need to diversify the economic base in the District to improve employment opportunities and ensure the provision of relevant skills and training for residents.

- The Staffordshire Moorlands has a high quality environment and tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy. There are opportunities to increase overnight stays and other activities which need to be carefully managed so that visitors do not have a detrimental impact on the area.

Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

2.5 The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. This consists of sustainability objectives and indicators and is central to the SA process.

Revised SA Objectives

2.6 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has identified the following eighteen objectives for its SA (Table 2.1). The objectives provide a statement of what is intended, and specify the desired direction of change against which the social, environmental and economic effects of plans can be tested. These are based on key sustainability issues, taking into account the plans, policies and programmes review (Appendix 1), the characteristics of the area and findings of its baseline data (Appendix 2) and the sustainability issues identified above. The table highlights the relevance of the objectives to the environmental topics listed in the SEA Directive. The eighteen sustainability objectives will remain unchanged for all future sustainability appraisals of development plan documents (DPD's) This will ensure that the Council's approach towards achieving sustainable development is consistent in the production of all documents forming part of its Local Plan.

	SA Objective	SEA Topic
Social	Population, Health and Social Inclusiveness	Population and Human Health
	1. To improve community cohesion and the quality of where people work and live.	
	2. To advance equality of opportunity between all persons and eliminate social exclusion by improving access to jobs, services and facilities.	Population and Human Health
	3. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	Population and Human Health
	4. To minimise opportunities for crime and reduce the fear of crime.	Population and Human Health
	5. To ensure adequate quality and provision of a range of house types to meet local needs in	Population and Human Health

	SA Objective	SEA Topic
	appropriate locations and including affordable/social/extra care housing.	
	6. To strengthen links between rural areas and towns by sustainable forms of transport and reduce the number of journeys made by car.	Population and Human Health
Environment	Climate Change, Air and Water 7. To minimise contributions to climate change and consider climate change adaption.	Air and Climatic Factors
	8. To improve air quality.	Air
	9. To reduce flood risk, protect and enhance water sources.	Water
	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna 10. To identify, conserve and enhance biodiversity resources and to test the plan's policies and proposals on European Sites and SSSI's.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
	Soil and Material Assets 11. To safeguard the best and most versatile agricultural land; improve soil and land resources; and protect and enhance geological resources.	Soil
	12. To minimise the use of non-renewable resources.	Material Assets
	Built and Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Local Distinctiveness 13. To protect and enhance the character of towns / villages and other heritage and archaeological assets along with their settings.	Cultural Heritage Cultural Heritage
	14. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape including historic landscape and other natural assets and resources.	Cultural Heritage and Landscape
	15. To encourage further development of sustainable tourism, cultural heritage and local distinctiveness.	Cultural Heritage

	SA Objective	SEA Topic
Economic	16. To safeguard the vitality and viability of the District's towns and villages, and create and sustain a vibrant rural economy	N/A
	17. To strengthen, modernise and diversify the District economy, and promote sustainable economic growth	N/A
	18. To encourage and support a high and stable level of employment	N/A

Table 2.1

2.7 The revised SA objectives are considered to reflect the up to date baseline data, the updated plans, policies and programmes review and the sustainability issues identified. They also provide a clearer definition compared to some of the previous objectives used. In addition a number of questions have also been developed for each objective as prompts for those undertaking the appraisal in order to 'tease out' impacts see Appendix 3.

Indicators

2.8 As well as setting out sustainability objectives, the SA Framework develops indicators, which are linked to the SA objectives and will be used to measure their achievement when the various development plan documents are implemented and monitored. Indicators have been selected which are established and available, sourced from both external organisations and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. It should be noted that these indicators may need to be changed if data no longer becomes available or if a more relevant dataset is produced. These can be viewed in Appendix 3.

Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

2.9 The Council will consult on the Scoping Report for a period of just over 6 weeks commencing on 13th August 2014 until 26th September 2014. This will include the three required bodies: Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency; and other relevant consultation bodies.

2.10 A summary of the comments received during this period of consultation will be provided along with the changes made to the initial scoping report. A list of those consulted will also be included.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

2.11 The District Council has a statutory duty under the Equality Act 2010 to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into its day to day business and will follow the methodology set out below to ensure that its planning policy documents do this. The Equality Duty covers the following 'protected characteristics':

- Age
- Disability

- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex and
- Sexual orientation

2.12 The Equality Duty does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). However, it is considered that an EqIA is an important tool in demonstrating that the decision making process in relation to planning policy documents has involved recognition of the three aims of the Equality Duty, to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity; and
- foster good relations.

Methodology

2.13 Initially, Equality Impact Assessment of the topic of the particular planning policy document will take place to identify positive opportunities to advance equality, using the Council's pro-forma. This will screen the subject matter with the aim of identifying any potential negative effects on the protected characteristics so that steps can be considered to mitigate them. It will also identify any key issues in relation to availability of evidence to help establish the impact of the policy.

2.14 Limited information is currently available about the protected groups so it is difficult to make specific links between a protected characteristic and a planning proposal in some cases. In order to address this, consultation with protected groups will take place at an early stage in the plan production process to gather baseline data and identify the issues that these groups have in order to conduct a more accurate assessment.

2.15 Following Equality Impact Assessment of the topic, detailed assessment of the actual policies and proposals within the document will be undertaken as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process. This approach has been successfully undertaken a number of times in the past (e.g. for the Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan, Core Strategy & Churnet Valley Masterplan). Although the EqIA is a separate exercise to the SA, (and it is not required in either the SA or SEA Regulations), it is considered to be advantageous to undertake both assessments at the same time as any negative impacts and suggested mitigation measures are likely to be interrelated. Another benefit of this approach is transparency, as the Sustainability Appraisal is published for consultation throughout the plan production process and (for the Local Plan) is required to undergo independent examination, giving anyone the opportunity to make comments and raise issues about any part of the document. Note that in a small number of cases a Sustainability Appraisal of a planning policy document may not be required. When this scenario occurs, a separate Equality Impact Assessment of that document will be undertaken using the Council's pro-forma.

2.16 In order to fully consider equalities when assessing plan policies and proposals, it has been included within one of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives (which are linked to indicators measuring their effectiveness - refer to Appendix 3). Each policy and proposal will be assessed against these SA Objectives to identify positive, negative and neutral (i.e. where the effects are likely to be neither positive nor negative) outcomes. Additionally, the overall impact of the relevant plan will be assessed by considering whether each plan objective has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each SA Objective.

2.17 In the case of major policy documents e.g. Site Allocations, the likely equality implications of options, the preferred option(s) and the final version submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination will be assessed. Its findings will inform the Council on the need to make changes, or where a negative impact may be justified, identify mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce its effects. The EqIA will be appended to the relevant SA Reports and any conclusions distilled from both presented with an overall summary included in the Submission Stage SA or final SA for plans not requiring examination. EqIA will not need to be undertaken so many times for more minor documents such as some Supplementary Planning Documents which will not undergo so many production stages.

2.18 Where a negative impact is recorded, details of the group likely to be affected and the nature of the impact will be indicated.

The actual effects of implementation of the planning policy document on equality will be monitored and reviewed periodically. This will ensure that new issues which may arise over the life of the document will be assessed in relation to equality impact.

Developing and Refining Options (Stage B)

3 Developing and Refining Options (Stage B)

3.1 In developing policies and proposals for the Local Plan a number of options will be generated. These look at approaches that the Council may take in working to meet its objectives. The options must be realistic in scope and implementation and may include 'do nothing' or 'business as usual' scenarios. Once refined, an initial SA will be carried out on these options.

Stage B

- Testing the Local Plan Objectives against the SA Framework
- Other options and alternatives
- Predicting and evaluating the effects of the Local Plan
- Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Output: Initial or Draft Sustainability Report

Testing the Plan Objectives against the SA Framework

3.2 The spatial objectives indicate what the Council is trying to achieve through the implementation of the Local Plan. The spatial objectives must then be assessed against each of the Council's SA objectives to ensure that they are consistent in their approach in working towards achieving sustainable development. The results of this will give an indication of whether the objectives are positively compatible, neutral (have no effect) or will create a possible conflict. (See Table 3.1).

3.3 This will inform the need to change or amend the Spatial Objectives and guide recommendations to ensure the plan will better accord with the principles of sustainable development. Whilst the aim is to achieve consistency between all objectives of the plan and SA, in practice this may not always be possible. In such instances, further investigation will be undertaken and a decision made with regard to priorities of the Council. This will be recorded against the relevant objectives. It is the role of the SA to highlight irreconcilable conflicts, so that a conscious, fully informed decision can be made on the course of action to be taken in the Local Plan.

SA Objective		Plan Spatial Objectives						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	etc
Social	1							
	2							
	3 etc							
Environmental	7							
	8							
	9 etc							
Economic	16							
	17							
	18							

Table 3.1 Compatibility of SA and Plan Spatial Objectives

Consistency between Objectives

3.4 Comparing the plan's spatial objectives with one another can help to reveal any inconsistencies or particular tensions between objectives, and highlight where appropriate the need to make any amendments. Compatibility between spatial objectives can be reviewed by using the following table.

Spatial Objective 1							
Spatial Objective 2							
Spatial Objective 3							
Spatial Objective 4							
Spatial Objective 5							
Spatial Objective 6							
Spatial Objective 7 etc							
	Spatial Objective 1	Spatial Objective 2	Spatial Objective 3	Spatial Objective 4	Spatial Objective 5	Spatial Objective 6	Spatial Objective 7 etc

Table 3.2

3.5 Individual policies and components may perform well in sustainability terms when appraised in isolation, but tensions may emerge when considered together. The table above can be used to assess the compatibility of policies and/or particular parts of the development plan as they are selected for inclusion at the preferred options stage.

Developing Options and Alternatives

3.6 The key components of each plan option will be assessed against the Council's SA Objectives. The results will be presented as a series of matrices. An example is shown in Table 3.3. The likely effects will be recorded as being positive, negative, having no significant effect, having an uncertain effect or dependent on how implemented. An indication of predicted effects or where clarification is required will also be provided where they are recorded as being negative, uncertain or dependent on how implemented.

SA Objective		Component						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	etc
Social	1	+	+	-	etc			
	2							
	3 etc							
Environmental	7							
	8							
	9 etc							
Economic	16							
	17							
	18							

Table 3.3 Assessment of Components of Options against SA Objectives

3.7 The likely significant effects on sustainability will also be determined over time, in the short, medium and long-term, along with cumulative impacts of implementing the different components of an option and possible mitigation measures, where appropriate (See Table 3.4). It will also be appropriate to consider, in comparing options with one another, whether the effects will be permanent or temporary; reversible or irreversible (i.e. how difficult it would be to offset or remedy any damage caused); and how significant the effects are likely to be.

SA Objective						
		Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments / Explanation	Cumulative Effects / Possible Mitigation Measures
Social	1	+	++	etc		
	2					
	3 etc					
Environmental	7					
	8					
	9 etc					
Economic	16					
	17					
	18					

Table 3.4 Assessment of Components of Options against SA Objectives

Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan

3.8 The Council has started work on the production of a Site Allocations Development Plan Document. This will be rolled into an early review of the Core Strategy to produce a comprehensive Local Plan to 2031.

Core Strategy Review

3.9 The Staffordshire Moorlands Core Strategy was adopted in March 2014. A Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken at each stage of the document's preparation. The final SA Report covers consideration of objectives, how options and preferred options were developed and how the Sustainability Appraisal informed the decisions made. This included a detailed assessment of the policies at each stage of the plan's production.

3.10 As the Core Strategy has been found sound and adopted recently much of its content is up to date and consistent with government guidance. It is envisaged that the areas of review will largely relate to the updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment and it will not be necessary to revisit the Local Plan Objectives or the overall development approach and spatial strategy.

3.11 At stage B the SA :

- will test the Core Strategy Objectives against the SA Framework to ensure that they are consistent in their approach in working towards achieving sustainable development and remain appropriate for inclusion in the new Local Plan (Table 3.1);
- appraise the key components of plan options relating to the areas of review (using Table 3.3); and
- assess the likely significant effects on sustainability over time along with cumulative impacts and possible mitigation measures (using Table 3.4).

3.12 The appraisal will be included in the draft SA report and inform the preferred option. Figure 3.1 below shows the options stage in the SA process.

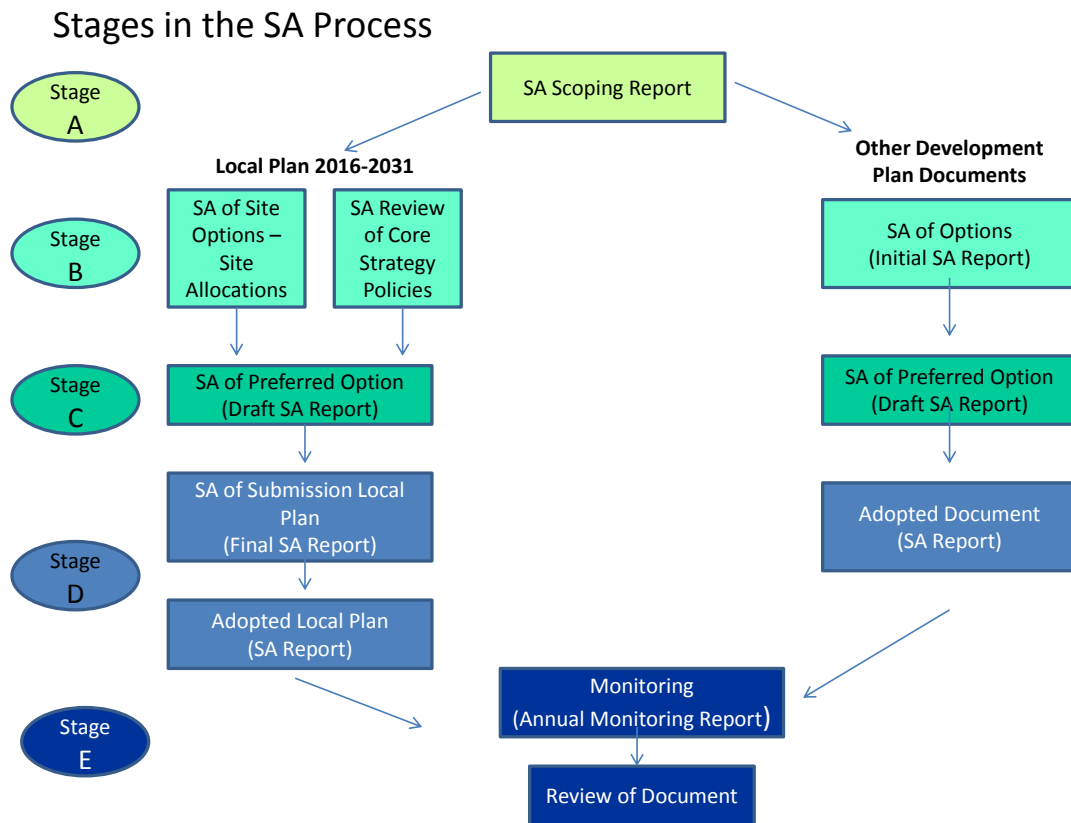


Figure 3.1

Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)

3.13 The Site Allocations Document will identify land for future development to help deliver the Objectives set out in the Council's adopted Core Strategy. The Council has a large number of sites to consider as potential options and intends to adopt the following process to enable a 'short list' of sites to be considered at the site options stage. This is a distinct process which is outlined below and is separate from the SA process.

3.14 A SA will be undertaken for each site at the options stage and inform the preferred option. See Figure 3.1 above which shows the stages in the SA Process.

Stage 1 - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

3.15 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments (SHLAA) are a key component of the Council's evidence base to support the delivery of sufficient land for housing to meet the community's need for more homes. The current National Planning Policy Framework states the need for local planning authorities to identify and update a supply of specific deliverable sites. It requires the preparation of a SHLAA to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period.

3.16 The aim of the Staffordshire Moorlands SHLAA is to identify the potential of the District to accommodate new housing development over the plan period. A SHLAA Scoping Report was published in March 2007 and the Council has produced a number of SHLAA summary documents, the most recent one was consulted on in summer 2012, prior to the Core Strategy examination. The database holding the information is regularly updated.

3.17 All the sites in the SHLAA have been assessed in terms of their suitability, availability and achievability as instructed by national guidance. A judgement can then be made in the plan making context as to whether a site can be considered deliverable, developable or not currently developable for housing development.

3.18 In order to be considered **deliverable**, a site should be available now, offer a suitable location for development now and there should be a reasonable prospect that housing will be delivered on the site within five years. Only sites which are under construction or have an extant planning permission (either detailed or outline) are considered to be deliverable, unless there is clear evidence that a scheme cannot be implemented within the 5 years or only part of a scheme can be implemented in which case a reduced 5 year deliverable figure is used.

3.19 In order to be considered **developable**, a site should be in a suitable location for housing development and there should be a reasonable prospect that it will be available for development within 15 years and could be viably developed even with reduced planning obligations. This does not require that a site should have planning permission, but there should be no significant constraints which would prevent the site being considered as an allocation or potential development site.

3.20 Sites which are unlikely to be available within 15 years or are unlikely to be viable due to likely significant development costs even with reduced planning obligations, or are unsuitable due to significant restrictions and limitations or unsustainable location were considered **undeliverable**.

3.21 A judgement is then used based on the degree of availability, suitability or achievability as to whether a site was deliverable in the short term (A), developable in the medium/longer term (B) or had no or limited potential and therefore could not be considered deliverable (C).

3.22 Sites classified as a B have been taken to Stage 2 - Site Assessment Stage. Sites classified as an A already have planning permission and are recorded as a commitment.

Stage 1 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites

3.23 The Council must address the distinct assessed accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers across the District according to housing and planning legislation. The most recent assessed need figure (from the 2007 North Staffordshire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment) for the District is for 2 permanent pitches and 2 transit pitches between 2007 and 2017 with an assumption of 1 additional permanent pitch plus 1 additional transit pitch on top of this requirement after 2017 if there has been no review of assessed needs.

3.24 There are presently no site allocations in the District which would contribute to this need (although planning approvals in the District for traveller pitches before 2017 would also contribute). In February 2011 the Council conducted targeted stakeholder consultation over its 'Gypsy and Traveller Issues and Options Consultation Document'. This document firstly sought views on the most appropriate methodology for the Council to employ in generating

future options for traveller site allocations; and secondly sought suggestions for actual sites in this respect. The responses to this exercise allowed the Council to generate over 30 potential site options in the District.

Stage 1 - SELAA

3.25 The Council also undertakes a Strategic Employment Land Availability Assessment (SELAA) which supports the delivery of sufficient land for employment needs in the District. Fewer sites are generally put forward by landowners/developers for potential employment uses than for potential housing sites. To enable the identification of a good range of employment site options the following information has been used:

- SELAA database (including location of existing commitments)
- Staffordshire Moorlands Employment Land Study (2006, updated 2008)
- Existing employment sites in the District
- Local information such as the nature of the surrounding road network

Stage 2 - Site Assessments

3.26 In order to narrow down the 'long list' of sites identified at Stage 1 the Council will use an assessment to score each potential site. This will be based on a number of criteria with accompanying scores and weightings. There are three site assessments, one for housing, one for gypsy and traveller sites and one for employment/commercial sites. The available scores and weightings are included in Appendix 4.

3.27 Those sites with the highest scores have been subject to consultation with external organisations and internal officers of the Council. This will enable the scores to be updated and options reviewed as appropriate. In some cases the landowner has not been known and it has been necessary to obtain details from the land registry. Where a landowner confirms that a site is not available for development consideration will be given to removing it from the list of possible site options.

Site 3 - SA of Site Options

3.28 Each potential site will be assessed against the Council's SA Objectives (see Table 3.3). The likely effects will be recorded as being positive, negative, having no significant effect, having an uncertain effect or dependent on how implemented. An indication of predicted effects or where clarification is required will also be provided where they are recorded as being negative, uncertain or dependent on how implemented.

3.29 The SA will also consider the likely significant effects on sustainability over time, cumulative impacts and possible mitigation measures (see Table 3.4).

Next steps

3.30 Options may be altered or refined in the light of the findings of the assessment. The initial and/or draft SA Report (see Figure 3.1) will then be published for public consultation to ensure that all issues and possible options have been considered.

3.31 Representations received from consultation and findings of the SA of options, will help to identify which options do not perform well and can be discarded, or where changes should be made to ensure that negative impacts are minimised and positive impacts enhanced. Further work will then be done on a limited number of Preferred Options or even a single Preferred Option if there are no realistic alternatives. The Preferred Option(s) will be the subject of the next Stage. When deciding on the final options clear reasons for not proceeding with certain alternatives need to be made.

Assessing the Effects of Preferred Options (Stage C)

4 Assessing the Effects of Preferred Options (Stage C)

Assessing Effects of the Preferred Option(s)

Stage C

- Predicting and evaluating the effects of the plan including cumulative effects
- Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the plan

Output: Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report

4.1 It is appropriate to appraise the sustainability of the Preferred Option(s) in greater detail, to analyse any adverse effects that are seen to be likely, and where appropriate, identify what mitigation measures may be required to prevent, reduce or offset these effects. Ways of maximising the beneficial effects of the Preferred Option(s) should also be considered.

4.2 Mitigation measures will be incorporated within the specific policies of the new Local Plan and its supporting text.

Cumulative Effects

4.3 Many sustainability problems result from the accumulation of multiple, small and often indirect effects. As a result, secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects should be considered throughout and as part of the SA and Plan preparation process.

- **Secondary or indirect effects** are those that are not a direct result of the plan, but occur away from the original effect;
- **Cumulative effects** arise for example where several developments each have insignificant effects, but together have a significant effect, and
- **Synergistic effects** interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects. The cumulative effects of proposals will be considered in the assessment of options and the Preferred Option(s) of the Plan.

4.4 These terms are not mutually exclusive. The term 'cumulative effects' is often taken to include secondary and synergistic effects.

4.5 The table shown below can be used to assess the cumulative effects of the Preferred Option(s), in greater detail, as it is scrutinised against SA Objectives. The likely effects will be recorded as being positive, negative, having no significant effect, having an uncertain effect or dependent on how implemented. The potential effects - measured against SA Indicators - should be quantified where possible, or a subjective judgement made where this is not possible, with reference to the baseline situation. These can be compared with other options and 'do nothing' or 'business as usual' scenarios, which may in themselves involve changes to the baseline. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effect of the Preferred Option(s) should be documented, including the likelihood of effects occurring, and the scale and nature of the impacts predicted over time.

4.6 Findings of the assessments will inform on the need to reconsider or alter particular parts of a policy or proposal in the interest of sustainability. Also, the compatibility between policies and particular parts of the document may also need to be reassessed (see stage B).

SA Objective		Preferred Option 1				
Summary of Baseline Situation	SA Indicator	Predicted Cumulative Effects				Justification for assessment noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Likelihood/certainty of effect occurring ● Geographical scale of effect
		Nature of Effect (Quantify where possible)	Short Term	Med Term	Long Term	
Social	1					
	2					
	3 etc					
Environment	7					
	8					
	9 etc					
Economic	16					
	17					
	18					

Table 4.1

Next Steps

4.7 The Draft SA Report will then be published for public consultation to ensure that all issues and possible options have been considered and clear reasons for not proceeding with certain options are given. Further SA work may need to be undertaken at this stage prior to the publication of the Final SA for representations.

Final Sustainability Report (Stage D)

5 Final Sustainability Report (Stage D)

Consultation and Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

5.1 Assessment of the site options and preferred option(s) will be included as part of a Final SA Report, along with a detailed account of work carried out during the SA process. This includes information on findings of the appraisal, how it has influenced development of the Local Plan, and why other options were not chosen or considered.

Stage D

- Public participation on the Sustainability Appraisal Report and Local Plan
- Appraising significant changes

Output: Final Sustainability Appraisal Report

Identified Issues

5.2 The Final SA Report will include descriptions of how and by whom appraisals were undertaken and discuss technical, procedural and any other difficulties encountered or envisaged. Table 5.1 will be used to document this.

Stage	Who Carried this out	When	Problems Encountered/Issues Identified

Table 5.1 How the Report was Prepared, Problems Encountered/Issues Identified

Publication Stage

5.3 The Final SA Report is a key output of the sustainability appraisal process. This should reflect and support the development plan document and be submitted alongside the submission or final document for a six week formal public consultation period. Where it is intended to make changes to the document as a result of representations received during consultation, an SA will be prepared to assess the impact of these changes and whether or not the change should be made.

Submission to Secretary of State and Examination

Both the Local Plan and Final SA Report will then be submitted together to the Secretary of State. An independent Examination will test the soundness of the document. This stage will also consider whether the SA report has been taken into account in production of the document and whether requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

Following Examination, the Inspector will produce a Report with recommendations, which will be binding upon the District Council. Where significant changes are suggested by the Inspector, a SA would need to be undertaken on the changes, unless the implications for

sustainability have been adequately considered at the Examination. These changes must then be incorporated into the development plan document and Final SA Report. The Local Plan can then be adopted and form part of the development plan.

Monitoring (Stage E)

6 Monitoring (Stage E)

Monitoring Implementation

Stage E

- Finalising aims and methods for monitoring
- Responding to adverse effects

Output: Information in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report

6.1 Following adoption, the District Council will issue a summary of how findings of the full SA process have been taken into account, and how sustainability issues have been integrated into the Local Plan document. This will also highlight decisions and changes made as a result of the SA process and responses to consultation.

6.2 Monitoring arrangements of the development plan will be indicated within the document itself will be included in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report.

6.3 An assessment of the SA indicators and Equality Impact Assessment will be monitored in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. This will help to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and allow any necessary remedial action to be identified or a response to be made in the form of changes to the development plan document.

6.4 Monitoring of the SA allows the actual effects of implementation of the LDF to be realised. This will allow future predictions to be made more accurately, to help inform the baseline data and update existing data sets. The structure for monitoring shown in Table 6.1 should be used. Cumulative effects will also be monitored and noted if these have become apparent.

Objective	Indicator	Source	Date/Frequency	Are there any gaps in existing information and how can this be resolved?	When should remedial action be considered?	What remedial action could be taken?	Status / Problems encountered

Table 6.1 Monitoring the Effects of Implementation

Quality Assurance

6.5 Quality Assurance (QA) is an important element of the appraisal exercise. This helps to ensure that the requirements of the SEA Directive are being met and highlight any problems with the SA Report. The QA procedure also helps to indicate how effectively sustainability

considerations are being integrated into the plan-making process. This is carried out through completion of a quality assurance checklist – an example of which is shown in Appendix 5. QA can be applied at any stage of the appraisal process to check the quality of the work carried out.

Sign Posting to Information Required by the SEA Directive

6.6 The place or places in the SA Report where the information required by the SEA Directive is provided must be sign-posted. This can be achieved using the table shown below.

		Location in SA Report
1	An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	
2	The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	
3	The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	
4	Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	
5	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;	
6	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. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	
7	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;	
8	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;	
9	A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	
10	A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	
11	The report must 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 (Art. 5.2)	
12	Consultation:	

		Location in SA Report
	Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4)	
	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 (Art. 6.1, 6.2)	
	Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (Art. 7).	
13	Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art. 8)	
14	<p>Provision of information on the decision:</p> <p>When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art.7 must 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 of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of Consultations entered into pursuant to Art. 7 have been taken into account in Accordance with Art. 8, and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and ● the measures decided concerning monitoring (Art. 9) 	
15	Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	
16	Quality Assurance: environmental reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive	

Table 6.2 Sign-posting to information Required by the SEA Directive

Appendix 1 - Key Plans, Programmes and Objectives relevant to the LDF

Appendix 1 - Key Plans, Programmes and Objectives relevant to the LDF

Plans, Policies and Programmes
<p>International / European Context</p> <p><u>The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development 2002</u></p> <p>Key commitments from the declaration are: Sustainable production and consumption, renewable energy & energy efficiency, produce chemicals in ways that do not lead to significant adverse effects on human health and the environment and develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans. These elements are reflected in SA objectives 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.</p>
<p><u>The Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Set out the Precautionary Principle: 'Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. This is reflected in SA Objectives 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.</p>
<p><u>Strategic Environmental Assessment SEA Directive 2001/42/EC</u></p> <p>Ensure that environmental consequences of certain plans and programmes are identified and assessed during their preparation and before their adoption. See scoping report and subsequent SA reports.</p>
<p><u>The UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice for Environmental Matter (The Aarhus Convention)</u></p> <p>This Convention stated that everyone has the right to receive environmental information that is held by public organisations and public authorities are obliged to actively disseminate environmental information in their possession. The publication of each report produced for the SA process addresses this implication.</p>
<p><u>EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC</u></p> <p>The Water Framework Directive, which came into force in 2000, established an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of Europe's rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater. The Directive sets objectives to protect particular uses of the water environment from the effects of pollution and to protect the water environment itself from especially dangerous chemical substances. The new objectives are broader ecological objectives, designed to protect and, where necessary, restore the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems themselves, and thereby safeguard the sustainable use of water resources. One of the requirements is that all watercourses should be of 'good' status, and in order to do this, whole catchments are to be considered. The Directive therefore introduces a river basin management planning system which will be the key mechanism for ensuring the integrated management of: groundwater; rivers; canals; lakes; reservoirs; estuaries and other brackish waters; coastal waters; and the water needs of terrestrial ecosystems that depend on groundwater, such as wetlands. The planning system is seen to provide the decision-making framework when setting environmental objectives, providing new opportunities for anyone to become actively involved in shaping the management of river basin districts and their neighbouring river catchments.</p> <p>The Staffordshire Moorlands district lies within the Humber river basin and has a number of rivers and tributaries affecting the following: River Blithe, Churnet, Dane, Dove, Hamps, Manifold and Tean.</p>
<p><u>The European Communities Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural and Semi-Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora - The Habitats Directive.</u></p> <p>The EU Habitats Directive is the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy. The Directive takes into account endangered species and habitats on a European scale, and therefore not all of the species are relevant to the habitats and conditions expected to be found in the UK. Animals covered by European legislation include</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
International / European Context
<p>species of bat, newt, frog, butterfly and otter. Plants covered by European legislation include orchid, fern and marshwort. The Habitats Directive also designates areas as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), due to the presence of protected species. There are two SACs in close proximity to the Staffordshire Moorlands which are located very close to the border. These will be considered within a HRA assessment.</p>
<p><u>The Wild Birds Directive 2009/147/EC</u></p> <p>The aim of the Directive is to prevent or avoid the destruction and pollution of bird habitats (of certain identified species) and designates Special Protection Areas (SPAs). There is 1 SPA within the Staffordshire Moorlands, Peak District Moors Phase 1 which provides an important breeding ground. This will be considered within a HRA assessment.</p>
<p><u>EU Directive 2009/28/EC</u></p> <p>Promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources - the UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its total energy from renewable sources by 2020. Further to Article 4, the UK Government published its National Renewable Energy Action Plan, which sets out how this could be achieved in the context of other UK obligations (such as Climate Change Act 2008). This aim is addressed by SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>2010 Biodiversity Target</u></p> <p>Endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations General Assembly at the 2005 World Summit, the Conference of the Parties (COP) identified a framework and indicators for assessing progress towards and communicating the 2010 Biodiversity Target at the global level. Parties were invited to establish their own targets and identify indicators within this flexible framework. This aim is addressed by SA Objective 10.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
National Context
<p><u>UK Sustainable Development Strategy "Securing the Future" (2005)</u></p> <p>This document sets out 5 key aims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Living within environmental limits; respecting the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity. (2) Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society, which meets the diverse needs of existing and future communities. (3) Achieving a strong, stable and sustainable economy. (4) Using sound science responsibly, ensuring sound evidence supports policies. (5) Promoting good governance. <p>The document sets out many indicators to measure sustainable development - many of which have been incorporated into the SA Framework.</p>
<p><u>Climate Change Act 2008</u></p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
National Context
<p>Introduced a statutory target of reducing carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels, with an interim target of 34% by 2020. This is addressed in SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (LCTP) - National Policy for Climate and Energy (2009)</u></p> <p>This document sets out how the government intended meeting its binding carbon targets, 80% by 2050 below 1990 levels (an interim target set at 34% by 2020). The LCTP also set</p> <p>individual carbon targets for the major UK government departments, which were in turn expected to produce their own individual plans. The LCTP set out how sectors including, power, homes, workplace, transport and farming can address working towards a lower carbon future. In terms of the workplace it aimed to cut emissions 13% on 2008 levels by 2020; to save around 500m tonnes of carbon dioxide a year across the EU by 2020, create 1.2m jobs in the low-carbon industry and invest approximately £120m in offshore wind, and an additional £60m in marine energy. This is addressed in SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>The Energy Act 2008</u></p> <p>Introduced powers for Feed-In Tariff (FiT) and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) aimed at driving an increase in renewable energy capacity. These are operational from April 2010 and April 2011 respectively. This is addressed in SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>The Carbon Plan 2011</u></p> <p>This sets out how the UK will achieve decarbonisation required under the Climate Change Act, in the context of UK energy policy. This is addressed in SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>The Localism Act 2011</u></p> <p>The Localism Act is intended to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils.</p> <p>Key provisions of the Localism Act are:</p> <p>Duty to Co-operate: this requires local authorities and other public bodies to work together on planning issues;</p> <p>Neighbourhood Planning: which allows communities to prepare their own plans which - if found sound, and supported by a majority referendum vote - would become part of the statutory Local Plan;</p> <p>Community Right to Build: which allows communities to bring forward development proposals in line with minimum criteria;</p> <p>Reforming the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</p> <p>Reforming the way Local Plans are made.</p> <p>This is addressed in the publication of each SA report.</p>
<p><u>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</u></p> <p>This came into effect in March 2012 and is designed to stimulate and expedite delivery of assessed development needs whilst keeping vital environmental protections. It focuses upon a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and is intended to streamline and simplify the planning system.</p>

<p>Plans, Policies and Programmes</p>
<p>National Context</p> <p>In terms of the presumption in favour of sustainable development the NPPF defines three key strands. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An economic role: contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure; • A social role: supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; • An environmental role: contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy. <p>This is addressed in the publication of each SA report.</p>
<p><u>National Planning Policy Guidance (2014)</u></p> <p>The Planning Policy Guidance note contains 41 topics. It describes what sustainability appraisal is and how it relates to strategic environmental assessment. Some of the key features include; a significant degree of protection for the Green Belt; how local authorities should act on flood risk assessments, detailed methodology as to how objectively assessed housing need should be calculated; need for providing adequate infrastructure in Local Plans; and the re-use of empty and under-used buildings. Note also, that additional guidance regarding renewable energy policy, originally published in July 2013, was amalgamated into this document.</p> <p>This is addressed in the publication of each SA report.</p>
<p><u>River Basin Management Plans - Humber River Basin District and North West River Basin District</u></p> <p>The plans are about the pressures facing the water environment and the actions that will address them. They have been prepared under the EU Water Framework Directive, and focus on the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. These are reflected in SA Objective 9.</p>
<p><u>River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) 2010</u></p> <p>Produced by the Environment Agency these give an overview of the flood risks across different catchments and ensure that works/development affecting flooding are coordinated between all parties. This is reflected in SA Objective 9.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) (2011)</u></p> <p>The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRAs) provide a high level summary of significant flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses and groundwater through collection of information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods. They are a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulation 2009 and must be produced every 6 years. This is reflected in SA Objective 9.</p>
<p><u>Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2015)</u></p> <p>This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) offers an opportunity for Staffordshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority) to formalise their longer term vision and shape individual priorities that deliver the greatest benefit to the people, property and environment of Staffordshire. This is reflected in SA Objective 9.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
<p>National Context</p>
<p><u>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982 (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004</u></p> <p>The Act gives statutory protection to wild birds, their nests and eggs, certain wild plants, and animals including for example bats, great crested newts and some species of butterfly. The legislation also sets out the law for wildlife management, the introduction of native species and managing designated sites. This is reflected in SA Objective 10.</p>
<p><u>National Character Area (NCA) Profiles 2014</u></p> <p>Produced by Natural England, these profiles provide an invaluable resource for understanding wider landscape context, and highlighting opportunities for enhancement of the natural environment. There are 3 areas which fall within the Staffordshire Moorlands: South West Peak, White Peak and Potteries and Churnet Valley. This is reflected in SA Objective 14.</p>
<p><u>Nearby Nature Report 2010</u></p> <p>Produced by Natural England, it sets out standards for Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt). ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home; at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometre of home; one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population. <p>This is reflected in SA Objectives 1 and 3.</p>
<p><u>Local Growth White Paper October 2010</u></p> <p>This Paper set out the Governments approach to supporting economic growth in the regions. At the same time they also announced approval for an initial 24 Local Enterprise Partnership bid proposals (business and Local Authority partnerships for driving local economic growth). A Regional Growth Fund of £1.4 Billion over three years would be used to support economic growth in the regions. Following on from this was the formation of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). These followed on from the Government announcement that that Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) would be replaced with a new business support structure: LEP's bringing local councils and businesses closer together in order to boost enterprise and create jobs. This is reflected in SA objectives 16, 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004)</u></p> <p>The document provides guidance on how to create well-designed, sustainable places that do not fail people, and stand the test of time. This is reflected in SA Objective 4.</p>
<p><u>Lifetime Homes. Lifetime Neighbourhoods</u></p> <p>A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society (2008), and Lifetime Homes Standards: These were designed to help prevent many health issues which arise through unsuitable housing and environments for older people. This is reflected in SA Objective 5.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
<p>National Context</p>
<p><u>Our Natural Health Service (July 2009)</u></p> <p>A study by Natural England stating the provision of new and improved parks, woodlands and other green spaces is essential to improve the health of people today and in the future. It aims to increase the number of households that are within 5 minutes walk of an area of green space of at least 2 hectares and to be able to signpost patients to an approved health walk or outdoor activity programme. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1 and 3.</p>
<p><u>Spatial Planning for Health (November 2010)</u></p> <p>This was produced to promote the contribution of well planned developments in achieving long term health and aligning planning and health. This is reflected in SA Objective 3.</p>
<p><u>The Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013</u></p> <p>This makes provision for the facilitation and control of development. For example it limits the powers LPAs have to request supporting information with planning applications; and allows applicants to apply to have affordable housing requirements lifted. This is reflected in SA Objective 5.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
<p>Local / Sub-Regional Context</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Moorlands Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) (Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, 2014)</u></p> <p>The latest SHMA identifies objectively assessed need (OAN) for housing in the Staffordshire Moorlands based upon a range of housing, economic and demographic factors, trends and forecasts. The analysis recommends a requirement of between 260-440 new dwellings per annum and a net annual affordable housing need of 250 new dwellings across the District. This is reflected in SA Objective 5.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Flexicare Housing Strategy (2010 - 2015)</u></p> <p>The strategy sets a framework which shapes and supports development across Staffordshire. This is reflected in SA Objectives 2, 3 and 5.</p>
<p><u>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>A North Staffordshire Assessment of Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs was undertaken in 2007. This is reflected in SA Objective 5.</p>
<p><u>Atkins Employment Land Study (2006, updated 2008)</u></p> <p>This study provides a review of commercial property and existing employment land across the District and identifies future business needs and employment forecasts over the next 15 years, with a view to identifying a portfolio of future sites suitable for employment use. An Employer Skills Needs Survey was also undertaken in 2007. This is reflected in SA Objectives 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>NLP Employment Land Requirement Study (2014)</u></p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
Local / Sub-Regional Context
<p>This provides an updated employment land review for the District in line with the expectations of the NPPF. Results will be fed into the 2016 Local Plan. This is reflected in SA Objectives 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Moorlands Tourism Study 2011</u></p> <p>This provides an appraisal of the role and impact of the visitor economy, and the opportunities for its economic growth across the District and in particular in the Churnet Valley corridor. This is reflected in SA Objective 15.</p>
<p><u>Retail Study (2008 and 2013) updates</u></p> <p>The study focuses on future qualitative and quantitative capacity for convenience and comparison retailing across the district. This is reflected in SA Objectives 2 and 16.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) 2011 - 2026</u></p> <p>The LTP3 is produced by Staffordshire County Council and considers: car based travel, walking, cycling, freight, rail and public transport, as well as the management and maintenance of local roads, road safety, and accessibility initiatives including public transport across the County. This is reflected in SA Objective 6.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Moorlands District Integrated Transport Strategy 2011 - 2026</u></p> <p>An integrated Transport Strategy has been developed for the district to help prioritise the County Council's expenditure on transport improvements and secure potential resources including developer contributions. This is reflected in SA Objective 6.</p>
<p><u>Development Capacity Study (2008/9, updated 2010/11)</u></p> <p>Stage 1 examines the level and capacity of existing infrastructure services and facilities (including social and physical infrastructure) and accessibility. Stage 2 assesses the viability of development sites. Stage 3 appraises the potential impact of changes to the affordable housing targets.</p> <p>This is reflected in SA Objectives 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.</p>
<p><u>Landscape and Settlement Character Appraisal (2008)</u></p> <p>This document provides an assessment of the character of the landscape and key settlements. A subsequent detailed assessment was undertaken in 2011 of the Churnet Valley.</p> <p>This is reflected in SA Objective 14.</p>
<p><u>Historic Environment Character Assessment (HEA) (2010)</u></p> <p>The HEA aims to establish the potential for the historic environment of the identified project areas to absorb new development and housing in particular. This is reflected in SA Objective 14.</p>
<p><u>Conservation Areas and Appraisals</u></p> <p>There are 14 Conservation Areas which derive their special qualities from the buildings, their traditional details, materials, scale and form. There are also 7 Conservation Area appraisals which define and record the special architectural and historic interest of the area. These are reflected in SA Objective 13.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
Local / Sub-Regional Context
<p><u>Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment (2009)</u></p> <p>An assessment of open space, sport and recreation facilities across the district. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2 and 3.</p>
<p><u>Ecological Surveys</u></p> <p>Undertaken in 2010 and 2011 providing an ecological assessment of potential development areas for Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle. Note that the Council will be commissioning ecological surveys in 2014 to be fed into the Site Allocations preparation process. This is reflected in SA Objective 10.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan SBAP</u></p> <p>The SBAP has been in place since 1998 in order to co-ordinate conservation efforts in delivering the UK BAP targets at a more local level. Staffordshire Moorlands Biodiversity Opportunity Map Zones have also been produced by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. This is reflected in SA Objective 10.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire Moorlands Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008)</u></p> <p>This provides an assessment of the extent and nature of the risk of flooding across the District. This is reflected in SA Objective 9.</p>
<p><u>Staffordshire County Wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study (2010)</u></p> <p>This document considers the technical potential, viability and the deliverability of various renewable and low carbon options. This is reflected in SA Objective 7.</p>
<p><u>Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan (adopted 2007)</u></p> <p>The Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan sets out the statutory planning policy for Biddulph town centre and focusses upon the delivery of regeneration in Biddulph town centre. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13, 16, 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>Leek Town Centre Masterplan</u></p> <p>Adopted in 2014, the Masterplan is a comprehensive plan for the town centre which will provide a framework for future development. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan</u></p> <p>Adopted in 2014, the Masterplan aims to identify job opportunities, redevelop vacant and underused land and property and increase spend in Cheadle. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.</p>
<p><u>Churnet Valley Masterplan</u></p> <p>The Churnet Valley is identified in the Core Strategy as a sustainable tourism area - Policy SS7. Adopted in 2014, the Masterplan will have a major influence on future planning decisions affecting the area and on other initiatives and strategies. This is reflected in SA Objectives 1, 2, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18.</p>

Plans, Policies and Programmes
Local / Sub-Regional Context
<u>Staffordshire Moorlands Wind Turbine Landscape Sensitivity Study (2015).</u> This study augments current landscape character assessments and assesses the appropriateness in landscape / visual impact terms of new, and additional turbines, across a range of heights / numbers across the District's landscape character areas. This is reflected in SA Objectives 7 and 14.
<u>Neighbouring Local Plans and accompanying Sustainability Appraisals</u> Peak District National Park Authority - Core Strategy adopted 2011 Stafford Borough Council - Local Plan adopted 2014 East Stafford Borough Council - Local Plan examination 2015 Cheshire East Council - Local Plan examination 2015 Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme Councils - Joint Core Strategy adopted 2009

Appendix 2 - Baseline information for the Staffordshire Moorlands LDF

Appendix 2 - Baseline information for the Staffordshire Moorlands LDF

Indicator	Quantified Data	Comparators and targets	Trend	Issues Identified	Action/Issues for Local Plan /SA
SOCIAL					
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands: 97,106 ▪ Leek: 20,768 (21.4%) ▪ Biddulph: 19,892 (20.5%) ▪ Cheadle: 12,165 (12.5%) ▪ Rural Areas - Outside of the Towns: 44, 281 (45.6%) 	<p>Proportion of population under 14 (2011)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UK: 17.7% ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands: 15.3% ▪ Leek: 16% ▪ Biddulph: 16% ▪ Cheadle: 15.6% ▪ Rural Areas: 14.4% <p>Proportion of population over 65 and over</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ England: 16.4% ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands: 21% ▪ Leek: 19.7% ▪ Biddulph: 20.6% ▪ Cheadle: 20.1% ▪ Rural Areas: 22% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in population between 2001 and 2011 from 94, 489 to 97,106. Both Biddulph and Leek's population has increased but Cheadle's has stagnated. ▪ In 2011, 21% of the population was 65 and over compared with 17% in 2001. ▪ Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a decrease in the percentage of the population that are aged 0-14 years old from 17% in 2001 to 15% in 2011. ▪ Between 2011 and 2021 the number of people aged 65 or over in the Staffordshire Moorlands is predicted to increase by 5.3% from 20.8% to 26.1%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasingly ageing population will have major implications for housing and the working population in the District. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to address implications of higher than average older population particularly in the rural areas.
(ONS, Census 2011 and Interim 2011 – based Subnational Population Projections)					

<p>General Health</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands Health Profile 2013 (Public Health England Sept 2013)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Average</p> <p>Smoking in pregnancy – 16.1 (local value)</p> <p>Starting breast feeding – 69.1 (local value)</p> <p>Obese adults – 27.5 (local value)</p> <p>People diagnosed with diabetes – 6.9 (local value)</p>	<p>England Average</p> <p>Smoking in pregnancy – 13.3</p> <p>Starting breast feeding – 74.8</p> <p>Obese adults – 24.2</p> <p>People diagnosed with diabetes – 5.8</p>	<p>Of the 32 indicators in the 2013 health profile, 13 were better than the England Average, 15 were similar to the average whilst these four indicators identified (left) were worse than the national average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men and women in Staffordshire Moorlands have a higher life expectancy compared to the England average. 	<p>Need to improve the health of older people through housing and access to community facilities and services.</p> <p>Need to co-ordinate Council strategies and those of partners, to alleviate health inequalities particularly in mental health and children and families, and addressing worklessness and skills.</p>
<p>Life expectancy and causes of death</p> <p>(Public Health England, Staffordshire Moorlands Health Profile Sept 2013)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands</p> <p>Life expectancy – Males 79.1 years</p> <p>Life expectancy – Females 83.1 years</p> <p>Smoking related deaths – 179 (local value)</p> <p>Early deaths: heart disease and stroke – 54.9 (local value)</p> <p>Early deaths: cancer – 103.9 (local value)</p> <p>Road injuries and deaths: 25.1 (local value)</p>	<p>England Average</p> <p>Life expectancy – males 78.9 years</p> <p>Life expectancy – females 82.9 years</p> <p>Smoking related deaths – 201</p> <p>Early deaths: heart disease and stroke – 60.9</p> <p>Early deaths: cancer – 108.1</p> <p>Road injuries and deaths: 41.9</p>	<p>There is a mixed picture for health across the district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overall health of the people of Staffordshire Moorlands has improved over the past decade, with people living longer and fewer people dying from major illnesses, such as cancer, heart and respiratory diseases, thus increasing population size many of whom are living longer with a long term condition. However there are high levels of inequality across the wards of Staffordshire Moorlands with Leek North and Biddulph East having particularly high levels of premature mortality. 	<p>Need to improve the health of older people through housing and access to community facilities and services.</p> <p>Need to co-ordinate Council strategies and those of partners, to alleviate health inequalities particularly in mental health and children and families, and addressing worklessness and skills.</p>
<p>Ward health indicator matrix illustration based on 2012 (SCC)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands</p> <p>Life expectancy males – 78.4</p> <p>Life expectancy females – 82.3</p> <p>Premature mortality rate from all causes (per 100,000 under</p>	<p>Wards</p> <p>Life expectancy males Leek North - 75.3</p> <p>Life expectancy females Leek North - 79.0</p> <p>Biddulph East – 80.1</p> <p>Cheadle West – 80.3</p> <p>Premature mortality rate from all causes (per</p>	<p>Leek North and Biddulph East having particularly high levels of premature mortality.</p>	<p>Need to improve the health of older people through housing and access to community facilities and services.</p> <p>Need to co-ordinate Council strategies and those of partners, to alleviate health inequalities particularly in mental health and children and families, and addressing worklessness and skills.</p>

			100,000 under 75) Leek North – 421 Biddulph East – 366	Teenage Pregnancy rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 Leek North – 65	Childhood overweight and obesity (reception) Leek North – 30.6% Biddulph East – 33.2%
	75) – 266	Teenage Pregnancy rate per 1,000 girls aged 15-17 - 34		Childhood overweight and obesity (reception) – 27.3%	

Draft Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

<p>Adult participation in sport (1 x 30 min session a week) (Sport England Active People Survey 2013)</p>	<p>2005/2006 (APS1) 31.7% 2007/2008 (APS2) 30.2% 2008/2009 (APS3) 31.9% 2009/2010 (APS4) 29.8% 2010/2011 (APS5) 27.2% 2011/2012 (APS6) 32.4% 2012/2013 (APS6/7) 32.1%</p>	<p>2012/2013 (APS 6/7) Staffordshire 32.5% West Midlands 32.1% National 35.2%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The levels of participation in sport in the district have remained steady since 2005. The 2013 district levels are similar to the west midlands but lower than the county and national average. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure that provision meets the needs of the population in terms of quality and accessibility. Where deficiencies are identified new provision or contributions towards provision or qualitative improvements should be made by developers. Where necessary allocate new sites.
<p>Pupil numbers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions into Reception have increased over the last 10 yrs from an average of 964 for the 5 year period from 2004/05 - 2008/09 to an average of 1,010 for the period 2009/10 to 2013/14. Numbers are projected to increase further to an average of 1,055 over the next four years. The number of pupils on roll in Year 7 at secondary/high schools within the district as a whole has fallen over the last ten years from an average of 1,297 for the 5 year period from 2004/05 to 2008/09, to an average of 1,252 between 2009/10 to 2013/14. Projections indicate that pupil numbers will increase over the next ten years and will be on average 1,302 pupils. Any residential development proposed in the District will increase these numbers further. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been an increase in pupil numbers, particularly at primary school phase due to increased births within the district. As a result additional school places have been provided, and Staffordshire County Council is continuing to work with schools to identify where additional school places can be provided to address the existing shortfall of school places. Any large scale development within the 3 main areas of Cheadle, Leek and Biddulph, whether on a single site, or several smaller sites, will likely necessitate a new primary school to be located within the development site(s). This increase in pupil numbers will impact on Middle and High Schools over the next 5 years and beyond and additional middle and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to identify potential new school locations necessitated by the level of development proposed for the 3 main areas of Cheadle, Biddulph and Leek. Land to be allocated within residential development site allocations to ensure that the education impact can be mitigated by new development. Need to identify requirement for additional facilities and services/provisions that may be gained through developer contributions.

<p>(SCC, Education)</p>	<p>secondary school phase places will be necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any residential development in Staffordshire Moorlands will increase pupil numbers further and may necessitate education contributions to provide additional school places. Staffordshire County Council does not have sufficient resources to construct buildings and other infrastructure to keep pace with the rate of new development. Developers will be expected to provide the necessary education contributions and where applicable new schools to mitigate the impact of their development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure that new housing meets local needs. 	
<p>(ONS, Census 2011)</p>	<p>Percentage change since 2001 Census:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of households in the Staffordshire Moorlands has risen by a slightly slower rate over the last 10 years 7.1% (2001-2011) compared to 7.36% the previous 10 years (1991-2001). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth in the number of households is likely to continue. Growth has remained stable in Leek but declined slightly in Cheadle and Biddulph. The rural areas have seen a slight increase in growth compared to other areas. 	
<p>Crime (ONS, 2013)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands: 41,772</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leek: 9,326 (22.3%) Biddulph: 8,528 (20.4%) Cheadle: 5,150 (12.3) Rural Areas: 18,768 (44.9) 	<p>52 crimes per 1,000 population in Staffordshire (2011/2012)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands is getting safer and has the lowest crime rates in Staffordshire. Despite continuing improvements in the rate of crime, fear of crime remains an issue.
<p>Fear of Crime (ONS, 2013)</p>	<p>39 crimes per 1,000 population in Staffordshire Moorlands (2011/2012)</p>	<p>14% fearful of being a victim of crime in</p>	
	<p>12% fearful of being a victim of crime in</p>		

<p>Housing Land (Core Strategy, 2014)</p> <p>(Staffordshire Moorlands Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands (2011/2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Strategy identifies requirement for 6,000 new dwellings (2006-2026) SHMA identifies objectively assessed need (OAN) for District between 260-440 new dwellings per annum. 	<p>Staffordshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 31 March 2013, 1219 dwellings have been completed and 1163 are committed with planning permission leaving a net residual requirement of 3618 dwellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last 4 years the delivery of new housing has dropped significantly leaving a shortfall of 321 over this period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing a 5 year supply of deliverable land continues to be a key issue particularly as the number of annual completions has reduced over the last 4 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The early review of the Core Strategy for the period 2016-2031 will allow consideration of the latest SHMA data.
<p>New housing completions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006-2007 - 260 2007-2008 - 261 2008-2009 - 236 2009-2010 - 185 2010-2011 - 110 2011-2012 - 71 2012-2013 - 96 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target 220 per annum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands 2001 - £83,149 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> House prices have increased significantly over the last few years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure that new housing meets local needs e.g. affordable and elderly. Reducing the threshold could achieve greater numbers of affordable housing to meet identified need but could have viability implications. This will be reviewed as part of the 2016 Local Plan. Need to explore specifically allocating sites for affordable housing, particularly in the villages.
<p>(SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013)</p> <p>Average House Price (BBC, UK house prices April to June 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands - £159,227 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK - £242,415 West Midlands - £173,273 Staffordshire - £167,475 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District Council's SPG on Housing for Local People and Affordable Housing requires 33% of housing of 15 dwellings or more to be affordable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Strategy Policy H2 requires that sites that in the towns of 15+ dwellings need to provide target of 33% affordable housing. In the villages sites of 5+ dwellings need to provide a target of 33% affordable housing. This threshold is consistent with current evidence of viability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure an appropriate mix of house types within development schemes.
<p>Affordable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2014 Strategic Housing Market Assessment calculated a net need of 250 affordable dwellings per annum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 365 affordable dwellings completed 2000-2013. Ascent Housing (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Harvest Housing Group) secured HCA funding for 400 affordable homes over the next 4 years. Planning permission has been secured for a number of sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a much higher percentage of detached dwellings compared to the West Midlands and England. There is a much lower percentage of smaller properties such as 		
<p>(SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013)</p> <p>House types: Detached</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands - 40.5 % 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands - 23.8% England - 22.4% 			
<p>Semi-detached</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands - 37.9 % 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands - 37.2% England - 31.2% 			

Terrace			terraced houses and flats/apartments compared with the West Midlands and England.			
Flat / Apartment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 16.3 % Staffordshire Moorlands – 5.1 % Staffordshire Moorlands – 0.2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands– 22.9% England – 24.5% West Midlands– 15.5% England – 21.2% West Midlands– 0.6% England – 0.7% 				
Tenure Owner Occupied	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 79.7% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands– 64.9% England – 63.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a much higher percentage of dwellings that are owner occupied compared to the West Midlands and England. There is a much lower percentage of social rented / private rented / shared ownership properties compared with the West Midlands and England. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The limited supply of housing in the Staffordshire Moorlands and high demand has led to high prices and rents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for greater choice of housing tenure. Core Strategy Policy H2 seeks 70% of all affordable housing to be social rented. 	
Shared Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 0.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands– 0.7% England – 0.8% 				
Social Rented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 8.9% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands – 19% England – 17.7% 				
Private Rented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 9.8% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands – 14% England – 16.8% 				
Other (ONS, Census 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands – 1.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Midlands – 1.4% England – 1.3% 				

<p>Recreation</p> <p>(SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013)</p>	<p>- Shortfalls exist in Biddulph, Leek and the rural area for facilities for children. - Shortfalls exist in Biddulph, Cheadle, Leek and the rural area for facilities for young people. - Shortfalls exist in Biddulph and Cheadle for outdoor sports facilities.</p>		<p>A number of improvements have been made to existing facilities at the Moorlands Leisure Centre hub in Cheadle and Birchall Playing Fields, Leek. Improved sports facilities are planned in Biddulph.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to address shortfall in play areas and outdoor recreation facilities in locations throughout the District. ▪ Need for qualitative enhancements to a number of existing amenity greenspace sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New housing developments to provide adequate on-site open space and/or developer contributions for improvements to existing recreational facilities and open space. ▪ Consider the need for new open space allocations.
<p>Travel to Work Car/van use for travel to work (driving or passenger)</p> <p>(ONS, Census 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands 78.7% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Midlands – 71.1% ▪ England – 62% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Car ownership has increased in the Moorlands, (2001, 73%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High incidence of car use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to encourage modal shift away from car through other organisations e.g. SCC & public transport companies ▪ Need to encourage travel plans within and outside planning process and car sharing
<p>Bus service frequencies in District</p> <p>(SOC, 2013)</p>	<p>Settlements with a frequent service (hourly or better):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biddulph • Biddulph Moor • Blythe Bridge • Brown Edge • Cheadle • Cheddleton • Endon • Kingsley • Leek • Upper Tean • Werrington & Cellarhead • Wetley Rocks <p>Settlements with a less frequent service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alton • Ipstones • Waterhouses 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infrequent services, especially in rural areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to support various public transport initiatives through the work of partners e.g. County Council ▪ Need to promote bus service promotion through planning process e.g. travel plans

<p>Modal split of non car modes: all work journeys (ONS, Census 2011)</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bus/taxi: 2.5% ▪ Rail/Tram: 0.8% ▪ Motorbike/scooter: 0.5% ▪ Cycling: 0.1% ▪ Walking: 9.2% 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant increase in walking to work since 2001 (0.56%) but decline in all other modes since 2001 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of services to many rural areas ▪ County funding may only be forthcoming for those routes likely to be viable/profitable ▪ Low use of these modes compared to car use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to encourage modal shift away from car through the work of partner organisations e.g. SCC ▪ Need to encourage travel plans within and outside planning process
<p>Rail facilities within District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Station located at Blythe Bridge 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of rail facilities in District ▪ Moorlands and City Railway have reopened one of the protected lines from Cheddleton to Cauldon Lowe and hope to eventually open the line from Stoke to Leek. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to ensure policy protection for disused, or proposed rail routes. ▪ Need to seek improvements (through the planning process or elsewhere) for improved rail facilities and services.
<p>Homeworking Work mainly at or from home (ONS, Census 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6.75% of all employed residents of District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4.8% - West Midlands ▪ 5.3% - England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since 2001 this figure has declined for the Staffordshire Moorlands (11.3%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overall home-working is higher than elsewhere in the West Midlands and England. Need to improve broadband access in the District particularly in the remoter areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to support continued growth of home-working, as it reduces need to travel.
<p>Council public parking provision in District (SMDC Parking Section)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leek: 759 ▪ Biddulph: 137 ▪ Cheddle: 453 ▪ Other: 154 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parking provision is considered within the Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Town Centre Masterplans for Leek and Cheddle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sainsbury's site in Biddulph provides 379 parking spaces in the town centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Without adequate parking there is a danger that people will choose to travel to other centres, which will affect the vitality and viability of the town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to improve car parking in the town centres i.e. better signage and environmental improvements. ▪ Need to improve/ facilitate access by public transport to reduce the reliance on cars.
<p>Car ownership in District (ONS, Census 2011)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 85.2% of households have at least 1 car or van 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 75.3% - West Midlands ▪ 74.2% - England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since 2001 this has increased for the District 2001 - 83.1%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High ownership may be one factor in high car use for e.g. commuting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to enable and encourage travel without use of car and provide local employment opportunities. ▪ Need to ensure that accessibility for those without a car is maintained and improved.

ENVIRONMENT				
CO2 Total Emissions (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffordshire Moorlands 1,319 CO2 (kt) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within Staffordshire only Stoke-on-Trent has higher emissions 1,394 kt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall emissions have reduced slightly over the last 5 years but the contribution from 'Large Industrial Installations' has remained relatively stable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Staffordshire Moorlands a significant amount of this (634 kt) is created by large industrial installations. This is largely due to having a cement works in the District. Cement production involves a chemical process that results in CO2 being released.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to consider climate change as one of the sustainability issues to be addressed.

<p>Flood Risk</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands Level 1 SFRA, 2008)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was undertaken in 2008. Areas of low, medium and high risk have been mapped. This includes information on flooding from rivers, surface water, ground water, artificial water bodies and sewers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This provides the basis for the Sequential Test for the Technical Guidance from the NPPF to be applied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency floodmaps have been improved as a result of remodeling work on the River Churnet. New development may have implications on surface water drainage and increased risk of flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make use of areas in Flood Zone 1 and away from sources of risk before locating development in areas at higher risk. Some potential sites may need a Level 2 Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Need to apply existing policy consistently. Supporting evidence such as landscape or renewables studies may need updating.
<p>Renewable Energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council has granted permission for over 40 separate renewables installations which amount to almost 21 megawatts of installed capacity. The vast majority of these are not yet installed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for schemes originated in PPS1 (Sustainable Development) and PPS22 (Renewable Energy). Support continued in 2012 NPPF. Energy Act 2008 introduced financial incentives (Feed-in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive). Permitted development rights have been broadened in relation to micro-renewables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing number of renewables applications however each scheme must be assessed on its own merits. Since 2010 only 15 out of 33 schemes have been approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most renewables sites are likely to be in rural, Greenfield and often elevated locations. For this reason proposals raise visual or landscape character impact implications.
<p>(SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013)</p> <p>Waste</p> <p>(recycle for Staffordshire.org)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual household waste in the Staffordshire Moorlands in 2010/2011 was 385 (kg/hh). 60 % of household waste was reused, recycled or composted in the district (2010/2011). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Staffordshire Moorlands has the lowest amount of residual household waste in Staffordshire and the highest percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to maintain and improve where possible, lower levels of residual household waste and higher levels of reuse and recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to encourage the re-use of construction or construction waste materials, especially those sourced locally (i.e. minerals available on site as appropriate). Where possible integration of on-site waste management facilities.
<p>Landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Councils Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment assesses the character of the landscape, settlement setting and a review of visual open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government attaches great importance to Green Belts and states that boundaries should only be altered in exceptional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close to Stoke-on-Trent, the green belt is particularly vulnerable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance the need for reviewing the green belt boundary with the development needs of individual settlements. Ensure that the

<p>(Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment, 2008) Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, 1998)</p> <p>Designated Sites</p>	<p>designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Staffordshire Green Belt surrounds settlements in the western half of the District. 	<p>circumstances. (NPPF, 2012).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no sites within the District boundary but a number within 15 km of it, with the South Pennine Moors SAC being extremely close, approximately 0.01km from the boundary and the Peak District Dales SAC is just over a kilometre away. 	<p>The number of sites have increased over time.</p>	<p>The Staffordshire Moorlands has a significant number of internationally designated sites and locally protected sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main threat to limestone grasslands of the Peak District Dales SAC is from inappropriate grazing management. Proposed developments have the potential to interfere with drainage patterns within the site. The impact of dust from quarrying needs to be assessed. Main threat to South Pennine Moors SAC is the impact of atmospheric pollution on the site. The quality of flora of woodlands, bogs and heaths has suffered from poor air quality. Aim 	<p>distinctive character of the landscape is retained and change is managed positively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that appropriate assessment is carried out on all land use plans affecting Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs). Need to continue to work with partner organisations who notify and manage sites designated under the biodiversity legislation.
--	--	--	--	--	--

<p>(Natural England & Staffordshire Ecological Record)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County Sites of Biological Importance 249 (2094 ha) ▪ County Biodiversity Alert Sites: 90 (304 hectares) 		<p>is to try and ensure continued improvements in air quality to allow affected species to recolonise if they can. Access management has been a key issue for the area. Management of key pressures (grazing and burning) in order to maintain ecosystems is being carried out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main threat to Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA is due to historic air pollution, high grazing pressure and wildfire burns, many habitats are sub-optimal (in vegetation terms). Habitat erosion or fire, combined with disturbance of breeding birds can have significant impacts. 	
--	---	--	--	--

<p>Area of Designated Sites (above) brought into favourable condition</p> <p>(DEFRA, 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% 2012 / 2013 	<p>DEFRA's public service agreement target was that 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites were brought into a favourable condition by 2010.</p>	<p>2006 / 2006 – 78% 2007 / 2007 – 80% 2008 / 2008 – 77% 2009 / 2009 – 89% 2010 / 2010 – 90% 2011 / 2011 – 92% 2012/2013 – 91%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant increase since 2005 but this has not reached the target. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to continue to carry out management work of its SSSIs, and support management of partner organisations. Need to consider scope of acquiring contributions through planning process, for the management of existing habitats, or for the purposes of creating new ones.
<p>Historic Assets</p> <p>(SMDC, Regeneration)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1000 Listed buildings 14 Conservation Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alton & Farley Bagnall Biddulph Grange Caverswall Cheadle Checkley Cheddleton Endon Horton Ipstones Leek Stanley Upper Tean Caldon Canal 32 Scheduled Ancient Monuments 2 Historic Parks and gardens (both Grade 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biddulph Grange Alton Towers A Historic Environment Character Assessment (2010) has also been undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a rolling programme of Conservation Area Appraisals New Conservation Area designations are proposed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high quality built environment of the area, with its wealth of historic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological sites and monuments, represents an important social, cultural, recreational and educational resource as well as helping to make it an appealing place to live, work and visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District Council has a duty to publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas Current funding opportunities to help repair and enhance properties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to ensure that proposals do not adversely affect historic assets identified within the Staffordshire Moorlands Funding available for limited period only.

Visitor Numbers (Steam Report 2012) Previously-Developed Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.84 million people visited the Staffordshire Moorlands in 2012. Of these 4.37 million were day visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor numbers were slightly higher in 2011 (5.11 million). Of these 4.63 million were day visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy. In 2012 only 10% of visitors stayed overnight however this has increased from 5% (2004). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for better quality including serviced accommodation Need for better promotion of use of public transport Need to improve the evening economy in the towns.
(SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of new dwellings built on previously developed land in 2012/2013 - 90% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of dwellings built on previously developed has increased significantly over the last 10 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brownfield land is a finite resource and the percentage of new homes built on previously developed land will decrease as there are less opportunities and greenfield sites are developed to meet housing need. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adopted Core Strategy sets out a preference for the development of previously developed sites before greenfield sites however the current lack of a 5 year housing supply could be an issue.
ECONOMIC				
Employment Land (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report Dec 2013, Employment Land Study, 2006 & 2008 update)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Core Strategy identifies the provision of 24 hectares of additional employment land in the District between 2006-2026. The Core Strategy safeguards the Regional Employment Site at Blythe Bridge for high quality development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to the economy from competition from surrounding areas and the loss of existing employment sites due to closures, restructuring and pressure from other uses, particularly housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of good quality modern premises and smaller sized units available for immediate take up. Recent downturn in the national economy is a threat to growth and continuation of existing businesses and ability to attract new firms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to strengthen the District's role within the sub-region. Need to meet local employment needs in order to achieve self-sufficient communities. Need to allocate additional employment sites.
Business Structure (Business Demography 2012,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2012 there were 3,270 VAT registered businesses in the Staffordshire Moorlands. In 2012 there were 255 business registrations in the Staffordshire Moorlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of VAT registered businesses in the Staffordshire Moorlands have declined since 2007 (3,650). Business registrations in the Staffordshire Moorlands have also declined since 2007 (280). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Except for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough, Staffordshire Moorlands are the lowest in Staffordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to adopt initiatives to encourage further employment and retention/expansion of existing businesses.

<p>(Nomisweb, 2013)</p>	<p>Great Britain Gross weekly pay (£): Full-time workers: ▪ 508.0 Male full-time workers: 548.8 Female full-time workers: 449.6</p> <p>West Midlands Gross weekly pay (pounds): Full-time workers: ▪ 469.2 Male full-time workers: 508.1 Female full-time workers: 409.0</p> <p>Great Britain Gross weekly pay (pounds): Full-time workers: ▪ 507.6 Male full-time workers: 548.1 Female full-time workers: 449.0</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Gross weekly pay (pounds): Full-time workers: ▪ 500.1 Male full-time workers: 360.0</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Gross weekly pay (pounds): Full-time workers: ▪ 507.6 Male full-time workers: 548.1 Female full-time workers: 449.0</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands 63.8% (2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results have increased significantly since 2005 and are higher than the Staffordshire and national average. ▪ The District has a lower level of people working in Groups 1-5 than in the West Midlands and Great Britain. It has a higher level of people working in Groups 6-9 than in the West Midlands and Great Britain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the provision of relevant employment skills, training and support to retain and develop local workforce. ▪ Need to identify and improve training opportunities in the District
<p>Earnings by Workplace</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Gross weekly pay (pounds): Full-time workers: 459.7 Male full-time workers: 500.1 Female full-time workers: 360.0</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands 83.5% (2012) West Midlands 85.5% (2012) England 81.8% (2012)</p> <p>Apr 2012 – Mar 2013 Managerial, professional and technical (Groups 1-3) ▪ West Midlands – 39.5% ▪ Great Britain – 44.0% Administrative, secretarial and skilled trades (Groups 4-5) ▪ West Midlands – 22.6% ▪ Great Britain – 21.5%</p>	<p>Staffordshire Moorlands 84.9% (2012)</p> <p>Apr 2012 – Mar 2013 Managerial, professional and technical (Groups 1-3) ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands – 16,200 (39.1%) Administrative, secretarial and skilled trades (Groups 4-5) ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands – 8,000 (19.4%) Caring, leisure, sales and other services (Groups 6-7) ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands –</p>	<p>% of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs A* to C grades</p>	<p>(Department of Education, 2013)</p>	<p>Employment by Occupation</p>

<p>nomisweb, September 2013)</p> <p>Town Centre Health</p>	<p>8,200 (19.8%)</p> <p>Plant/machine operatives and elementary occupations (Groups 8-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staffordshire Moorlands – 9,000 (21.7%) 	<p>Caring, leisure, sales and other services (Groups 6-7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Midlands – 17.9% ▪ Great Britain – 17.2% <p>Plant/machine operatives and elementary occupations (Groups 8-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Midlands – 20.0% ▪ Great Britain – 17.3% <p>Vacancy rates (%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Midlands 12.91 % ▪ UK 14.1% <p>Presence of Independents (%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ West Midlands 39.6 % ▪ UK 47.5% <p>(Local Data Company.com 2013 & Springboard, 2012)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leek has a significantly lower vacancy rate than the West Midlands and UK average. Biddulph's higher rate is partly reflected by new retail units becoming available at the Sainsbury's site. Chedale's rate is partly reflected by the economic climate and the types of unit available for occupation (i.e. mainly smaller units). ▪ All 3 towns have an individual character and are not dominated by national retailers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to maintain the vitality and viability of the towns. ▪ Need to enhance local distinctiveness. ▪ Need to protect the retail function in the heart of the town centres.
--	--	--	--	---	--

<p>Retail</p> <p>(Retail Study, GVA 2013)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Functioning shopping high streets in Leek, Biddulph and Cheadle. ▪ Policies for development in Biddulph town centre are set out in the Biddulph Town Centre Area Action Plan. ▪ Leek Town Centre Masterplan and Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan have been adopted by the Council as Interim Policy Statements and are due to be adopted as SPDs in March 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent – 6-10 miles ▪ Manchester - 30 miles ▪ Some surrounding villages have small-scale facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The vitality and viability of town centres has been challenged by the current economic climate and changing shopping habits with the increased use of online shopping at the expense of the high street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All 3 town centres are considered to be displaying signs of vitality and viability according to the retail study. ▪ The success of town centres may be undermined by competition from online shopping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to protect the towns as service centres. ▪ Need to continue to improve the environment to attract retailers and shoppers to the town centres. ▪ Need to promote additional local employment to help encourage people to shop in the area. ▪ There is a need to support further food retail development in Biddulph. ▪ No additional comparison floorspace currently needed in any of the towns – review of comparison floorspace allocation in Biddulph AAP is recommended in Retail Study. ▪ Further comparison floorspace may be needed in Leek if the units on the Sainsburys site are not developed.
---	---	---	--	---	--

<p>Food Retail</p>	<p>% of residents that use local food stores for their main food shopping:</p> <p>Leek 42.1%</p> <p>Leek catchment: 95.9%</p> <p>Leek South catchment: 51.1%</p> <p>Leek Peripheral Catchment: 42.1%</p> <p>Cheadle: 64.7%</p> <p>Outer Cheadle catchment: 27.7%</p> <p>Biddulph Biddulph Catchment : 54.5%</p>	<p>The overall main food market share which Leek secures from its respective catchment zones has significantly increased since 2006. The retention levels for the immediate Leek catchment area are particularly high with extremely limited expenditure leakage to alternative centres and stores.</p> <p>The conversion of the former Somerfield store to Morrison's in Cheadle has significantly increased main food expenditure retention in the town from both its immediate and outer catchments. The Asda store (former Netto) performs a minor main food shopping role.</p> <p>The opening of the new Sainsbury's store has had a significant impact on convenience provision within Biddulph Town Centre with three previous (top-up orientated) stores having subsequently closed. The Sainsbury's store has also generated a positive increase in the town centre main food market share (c. 40% increase since 2006).</p>	<p>Whilst the new Sainsbury's store has addressed the significant quantitative and qualitative deficiencies in the convenience retail offer in Biddulph, the town still only retains c. 55% of main food spend arising within its tightly drawn catchment. There remains significant outflow of main food expenditure to mainstream and deep discount foodstores in Congleton and the wider Stoke-on-Trent conurbation (Tunstall, Kingsgrove etc.).</p>	<p>Retail Study has identified a qualitative need for a sustainably located discount food store (c. 1,000 m2 net sales) in Biddulph so as to provide additional competition and choice for local residents due to the closure of the other food stores in the town.</p>
--------------------	---	---	---	---

(Data Source: Retail Study, 2013)

<p>Non-Food Retail</p>	<p>% of those residents living in the Leek Catchment using local stores for their comparison goods shopping (by type):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Personal Goods – 66.2% b) Small Domestic Appliances – 82.3% c) CDs / DVDs – 21.4% d) Books & Stationary – 87.8% e) Glassware / Tableware – 67.6% f) Medical Goods – 87% g) Recreational Goods – 54.8% h) Bulky Goods – 48.4% <p>Leek South Catchment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 12.5% b) 27.4% c) 6.9% d) 36.2% e) 20.7% f) 37% g) 19.1% h) 11.5% <p>Leek Peripheral Catchment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 20% b) 17.4% c) 0% d) 28.1% e) 23.7% f) 24.5% g) 21.9% h) 12.8% <p>Cheadle Catchment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 15.8% b) 50.4% c) 39% d) 58.1% e) 40% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The overall comparison market share (non-bulky and bulky combined) retained by Leek town centre from its immediate catchment is c. 59%; this is relatively positive given the limitations of the existing comparison retail offer and competition from Stoke-on-Trent. ▪ In terms of future strategy for Cheadle, the retail study identifies limited quantitative need for new comparison retail in Cheadle over the emerging Local Plan period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the comparison retail floorspace forming part of the Sainsburys scheme in Leek does not come forward for development, further retail warehousing provision is likely to be needed in Leek. ▪ There is now a lower demand for comparison goods floor space in Biddulph than set out in the AAP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to update the study for the plan period post 2018 to investigate whether any further capacity needs arise. ▪ The Retail Study recommends that the Council re-visits its AAP allocation on the west side of Biddulph Bypass and considers alternative uses for the site.
-------------------------------	---	--	--	---

					<p>f) 85.7% g) 7.2% h) 33%</p> <p>Outer Cheadle: a) 1.1% b) 19.4% c) 12.5% d) 22.4% e) 9.3% f) 33.2% g) 0% h) 12.2%</p> <p>Biddulph Catchment: a) 7.7% b) 53.1% c) 34% d) 47.6% e) 39.4% f) 69.5% g) 4.4% h) 18.8%</p> <p>(Data Source: Retail Study, 2013)</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

Appendix 3 - Objectives and Indicators

Appendix 3 - Objectives and Indicators

OBJECTIVE	SEA Topic	DECISION MAKING CRITERIA / QUESTIONS	INDICATOR
SOCIAL			
Population, Human Health and Social Inclusiveness			
1. To improve community cohesion and the quality of where people work and live.	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it make a positive contribution towards community cohesion? Will it improve neighbourhood quality? Will it ensure that there is adequate open space? Will it minimise light and noise pollution? Will it ensure that occupiers of buildings and spaces have sufficient natural light and appropriate levels of privacy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of open space. (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)
2. To advance equality of opportunity between all persons and eliminate social exclusion by improving access to jobs, services and facilities.	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it remove or minimise any disadvantages suffered by people due to their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage / civil partnership, pregnancy / maternity, race, religion / belief, sex and sexual orientation? Will it help to minimise the distance people need to travel to access education, employment, shopping and other key services and facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job Seekers Allowance Claimant Count Aged 18 – 24 (nomisweb) Incidents of crime per 1,000 Population Fear of Crime (Office for National Statistics) Number of affordable houses competed % of new residential development completed within Towns / Large Villages/ Small Villages/ Other Rural Areas (SMDC)
3. To improve health and reduce health inequalities.	Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve health or access to health facilities? Will it promote healthy lifestyles? Will it reduce health inequalities? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy (Public Health England) Adult Obesity (Public Health England) Adult participation in sport (Sport England Active People Data)

<p>4. To minimise opportunities for crime and reduce the fear of crime.</p>	<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce actual levels of crime? Will it reduce fear of crime? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidents of crime per 1,000 Population Fear of Crime (Office for National Statistics)
<p>5. To ensure adequate quality and provision of a range of house types to meet local needs in appropriate locations and including affordable/social housing.</p>	<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide an appropriate mix of housing to enable all needs to be met? Will it enable people to meet their needs within their existing communities? Will it ensure that people can afford their housing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of affordable houses competed No of years supply of deliverable housing sites (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)
<p>6. To strengthen links between rural areas and towns by sustainable forms of transport and reduce the number of journeys made by car.</p>	<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise impacts on exiting traffic congestion? Will it support the use of public transport? Will it support safe walking and cycling? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequency of bus service (by settlement) (Staffordshire County Council) % of new residential development completed within Towns / Large Villages/ Small Villages/ Other Rural Areas (SMDC)
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL</p>			
<p>Climate Change, Air and Water</p>			
<p>7. To minimise contributions to climate change.</p>	<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases particularly CO2? Will it increase energy efficiency? Will it increase the use of renewable energy? Will it ensure new development is in accessible locations in order to reduce the need for car use and/or encourage sustainable forms of transport? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of new residential development completed within Towns / Large Villages/ Small Villages/ Other Rural Areas (SMDC) Co2 total emissions (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory) Amount of renewable energy generation by installed capacity and type (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)

8. To improve air quality.	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise emissions of airborne pollutants? Will it maximise the removal of air pollutants (e.g. by trees)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co2 total emissions (National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory)
9. To reduce flood risk, protect and enhance water sources.	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is new development directed towards areas of least flood risk? Will it reduce risk of flooding e.g. by encouraging the integration of mitigation measures such as SuDs into new development? Will it protect, maintain and improve the quality of water resources? Will it encourage water efficiency and demand management? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the EA in respect of flood risk. Number of planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the EA in respect of water quality. (Environment Agency)
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna			
10. To identify, conserve and enhance biodiversity resources.	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and promote effective management of the district's sites of ecological and nature conservation importance? Will it help deliver networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure? Will it help to deliver the findings of the Appropriate Assessment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of UK priority habitats by type. (Staffordshire Ecological Record) % of designated sites brought into favourable condition (DEFRA)
Soil and Material Assets			
11. To protect and improve soil and land resources; and protect and enhance geological resources.	Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect the agricultural quality of soil resources? Will it minimise the loss of greenfield land? Will it reduce land contamination / instability? Will it reduce the amount of derelict land? Will it protect notable geological and geomorphological features? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of development built on brownfield sites (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report) Area of Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) (Staffordshire Ecological Record)
12. To minimise the use of non-renewable resources.	Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce waste generation? Will it maximise the re-use of existing buildings? Will it increase the use of building materials from sustainable sources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual household Waste (kg/hh) % of household waste reused, recycled or composted (recycle for Staffordshire.org)

Built and Cultural Heritage, Landscape and Local Distinctiveness			
13. To protect and enhance the character of towns / villages and other heritage and archaeological assets along with their settings.	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it ensure the continued protection and enhancement of cultural and historic heritage assets along with their settings? Will it protect and reinforce the character and appearance of the district's towns and villages and maintain and strengthen local distinctiveness and sense of place? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of historic assets (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)
14. To protect and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape including historic landscape and other natural assets and resources.	Cultural Heritage and Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and enhance the character of the landscape and maintain and strengthen local distinctiveness? Will it promote development on brownfield land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of new dwellings on previously developed land (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report) % of new employment on previously developed land (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)
15. To encourage further development of sustainable tourism and culture	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it support the development of a vibrant cultural economy? Does it help support tourism and the visitor economy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of visitors staying overnight (STEAM report)
ECONOMIC			
Employment, Economic Development and Regeneration			
16. To safeguard the vitality and viability of the District's towns and villages, and create and sustain a vibrant rural economy	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it safeguard shops and services in existing centres? Will it safeguard and improve the retail, leisure and service provision? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail vacancy rates (%) Retail A1 completions (m2) (SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report)
17. To strengthen, modernise and diversify the District	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it provide a balanced portfolio of employment land in sustainable locations? Will it provide opportunities for the creation of new 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment land supply SMDC, Annual Monitoring Report) Enterprise births and deaths

<p>economy, and promote sustainable economic growth</p>		<p>businesses and/or minimise the loss or displacement of existing businesses?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it meet the employment needs of local people? • Will it increase economic activity levels? • Will it improve physical accessibility to jobs? • Will it support higher income levels for local residents? 	<p>(Business Demography, ONS)</p>
<p>18. To encourage and support a high and stable level of employment</p>	<p>N/A</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment rates • % of population economically active • Earnings by residence and workplace (Nomisweb)

Appendix 4 - Site Assessment Criteria

Appendix 4 - Site Assessment Criteria

Stage 2 - Site Assessment Criteria

Housing

Theme	Description	Notes (for allocation of points)	Weighting	Maximum Score
1. Best Use of Land	A) Priority for utilising derelict, vacant or underused land where appropriate.	Brownfield / derelict = 4 Brownfield in employment use = 3 Mix brownfield / greenfield = 2 (also house within garden) Greenfield / undeveloped / wholly garden = 0	A) + B) x 2	16
	B) Priority for sites within the town / village development boundary	Within the development boundary = 4 Part inside / part outside = 2 Wholly outside the development boundary = 0		
2. Access to Services and facilities	Preference for sites in existing settlements within reasonable walking distance of town or village centre	* under 10 mins walk time = 4 10 to 15 mins walk time = 2 Over 15 mins walk time = 0 Centre of village marked on map.	X 3	12
	A) Distance to bus stop	* under 5 mins walk time = 4 5 to 10 mins walk = 3 10 to 15 mins walk time = 2 Over 15 mins walk time = 0 Bus stops plotted Centre of site marked on map		
3. Access to Public Transport Services	B) Frequency of bus service	Hourly or more frequent weekday daytime service = 4 Other less frequent services = 2 No service = 0	((A + B + C) x 2)	22
	C) Distance to train station	Under 10 mins walk time = 3 10 to 20 mins walk time = 2 Over 20 walk time mins = 0		
	A) Green Belt	Not green belt = 4 Part within green belt = 3 / 2 / 1 Wholly within green belt = 0		
4. Protected land	B) Nature Conservation Site / TPO	None identified = 2 TPO on site / affecting site = 1 Within SBI = 0	X 4	8
	C) Conservation Area / Listed Building / Archaeological Site	Not a within Conservation Area / not adjacent to Listed Building or archaeological site = 2 Part within Conservation Area / adjacent to Listed Building / archaeological site / Registered Park & Garden = 1 Wholly within Conservation Area / affects listed building or archaeological site = 0	X 2	4
	D) Public Open Space / Visual Open Space	Not identified as public open space / visual open space = 2 Partly identified as public open space / visual open space	X 4	8

5. Flood Risk	A) Preference should be given to sites outside areas subject to flood risk. B) Flooding from all Sources	Identified as public open space / visual open space = 0 Not designated as flood risk area = 4 Small part of site subject to flood risk = 3 Designated as flood zone 2 = 2 Designated as flood zone 3 = 0	X 4	16
6. Availability of Local Services	Sites should be well served by local services and facilities e.g. schools, shops, medical facilities, community facilities etc	Flooding Issue raised by County Lead Flood Officer = 0 No Flooding Issue Raised = 1 Facilities and services listed in assessment of village hierarchy Good range (generally 7 or more ticks) = 4 Medium range (generally 5 to 6 ticks) = 2 Poor range (generally 4 or less) = 0	X 4	4
7. Site Access	Site access should be available	Access available from road frontage = 4 Track / poor access = 2 No direct access = 0	X 4	16
8. Capacity of social infrastructure (data not available for smaller villages)	Sites should not have an adverse impact on local services or infrastructure i.e. education, healthcare, community, leisure and emergency facilities	Development Capacity Study Green = 2 Amber = 1 Red = 0	X 4	8
9. Capacity of physical infrastructure (data not available for smaller villages)	Sites should not have an adverse impact on local services or infrastructure i.e. electricity, gas supply, fresh water and sewerage facilities.	Development Capacity Study Green = 2 Amber = 1 Red = 0	X 4	8
10. Landscape Character and Visual Impact	Sites where the visual impact would severely damage the character of the settlement or surrounding area.	Not identified in the Landscape and Settlement Character Appraisal (LSCA) as being important = 4 Part of area identified in the LSCA = 2 Identified in the LSCA as being important = 0	X 3	12
11. Contamination / hazardous risk	A) Contamination issues / other risks B) Coal Mining	No known contamination / risks = 4 Potential / known contamination or risks affects part of site = 2 Potential / known contamination or risks affects whole site = 0 Off site or low risk area = 4 High Risk Area = 2 Mine entries present on site = 0	X 3	12
12. Amenity Impacts	Adjacent uses could have a detrimental impact on residential development i.e. noise / smell etc	No amenity issues = 4 Potential amenity issues = 0	X 3	12
13. Opportunity Sites	Site is included in an Area Action Plan or Masterplan	Identified = 4 Not identified = 0	X 3	12

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

1(a) Location		
Within built up area of settlement		4
Part within/part outside built up area of settlement		2
Outside built up area of settlement		0
1(b) Land Use		
Previously developed land		4
Mix of brownfield/greenfield		2
Greenfield site		0
1(c) Green Belt		
Not green belt		4
Partly within/part outside green belt		2
Green belt		0
2(a) Public Transport		
Site adjacent hourly or more frequent daytime service		4
Site adjacent less frequent service		2
Isolated location with no public transport		0
2(b) Access to Town/Village Centres		
Site within 500m of a centre		4
Site between 500m and 1km from a centre		2
Site over 1km from a centre		0
2(c) Access to local facilities (primary school)		
Site within 500m		4
Site within 1km		2
Site over 1km away		0
2(d) Access to local facilities (doctors' surgery)		
Site within 500m		4
Site within 1km		2
Site over 1km away		0
2(e) Highway network		
Site located on a classified A road		4
Site located on a classified B road		2
Site located on a C or unclassified road		0
3(a) Protected Sites		
No protect sites in area		2
Close to protected sites		1
Adjacent to protected site		0

3(b) Heritage	
Site would not have negative impact on conservation areas/listed buildings	2
Site unlikely to have a negative impact on conservation areas/listed buildings	1
Site would have negative impact on conservation areas/listed buildings	0
3(c) Agricultural land	
Site would involve loss of Grade 5 or non-agricultural land	2
Site would involve loss of Grade 4, or a mix of Grades 3+4, or 4+5	1
Loss of Grade 3 or higher	0
3(d) Landscape Impact	
Low impact – close to existing buildings etc	4
Medium impact	2
High impact – open countryside, no landscaping, impact on skyline/views	0
4 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	
Location not affected by Flood Zone 3	8
Location affected by Flood Zone 3 but small in scale	4
Large part of site washed over by Flood Zone 3	0
Total Possible	50

Employment Sites

Theme	Description	Notes (for allocation of points)	Weighting	Maximum Score
1. Best Use of Land	A) Priority for utilising derelict, vacant or underused land where appropriate.	Brownfield / derelict = 4 Mix brownfield / greenfield = 2 (also house within garden) Greenfield / undeveloped/wholly garden = 0	A) + B) x 2	16
	B) Priority for sites within the town / village development boundary	Within the development boundary = 4 Part inside / part outside = 2 Wholly outside the development boundary = 0		
2. Access to Services and facilities	Preference for sites in existing settlements within reasonable walking distance of town or village centre	* under 10 mins walk time = 4 10 to 15 mins walk time = 2 Over 15 mins walk time = 0 Centre of village marked on map.	X 3	12
3. Access to Public Transport Services	A) Distance to bus stop	* under 5 mins walk time = 4 5 to 10 mins walk = 3 10 to 15 mins walk time = 2 Over 15 mins walk time = 0 Bus stops plotted Centre of site marked on map	(A + B + C) x 2	22
	B) Frequency of bus service	Hourly or more frequent weekday daytime service = 4 Other less frequent services = 2 No service = 0		
	C) Distance to train station	Under 10 mins walk time = 3 10 to 20 mins walk time = 2 Over 20 walk time mins = 0		
4. Protected land	A) Green Belt	Not green belt = 4 Part within green belt = 3 / 2 / 1 Wholly within green belt = 0	X5	20
	B) Nature Conservation Site / TPO	None identified = 2 TPO on site / affecting site = 1 Within SBI = 0	X 4	8
	C) Conservation Area / Listed Building / Archaeological Site	Not a within Conservation Area / not adjacent to Listed Building or archaeological site = 2 Part within Conservation Area / adjacent to Listed Building / archaeological site = 1 Wholly within Conservation Area / affects listed building or archaeological site = 0	X 2	4
	D) Public Open Space / Visual Open Space	Not identified as public open space / visual open space = 2 Partly identified as public open space / visual open space = 1 Identified as public open space / visual open space = 0	X 4	8

5. Flood Risk	A) Preference should be given to sites outside areas subject to flood risk. B) Flooding from all Sources	Not designated as flood risk area = 4 Small part of site subject to flood risk = 3 Designated as flood zone 2 = 2 Designated as flood zone 3 = 0 Flooding Issue raised by County Lead Flood Officer = 0 No Flooding Issue Raised = 1	X 3	12
6. Availability of Local Services	Sites should be well served by local services and facilities e.g. schools, shops, medical facilities, community facilities etc	Facilities and services listed in assessment of village hierarchy Good range (generally 7 or more ticks) = 4 Medium range (generally 5 to 6 ticks) = 2 Poor range (generally 4 or less) = 0	X 2	8
7. Site Access	Site access should be available	Access available from road frontage = 4 Track / poor access = 2 No direct access = 0	X 5	20
8. Capacity of social infrastructure	Sites should not have an adverse impact on local services or infrastructure i.e. education, healthcare, community, leisure and emergency facilities	Development Capacity Study Green = 2 Amber = 1 Red = 0	X 3	8
9. Capacity of physical infrastructure	Sites should not have an adverse impact on local services or infrastructure i.e. electricity, gas supply, fresh water and sewerage facilities.	Development Capacity Study Green = 2 Amber = 1 Red = 0	X 4	8
10. Landscape Character and Visual Impact	Sites where the visual impact would severely damage the character of the settlement or surrounding area.	Not identified in the Landscape and Settlement Character Appraisal (LSCA) as being important = 4 Part of area identified in the LSCA = 2 Identified in the LSCA as being important = 0	X 3	12
11. Contamination / hazardous risk	A) Contamination issues / other risks B) Coal Mining Legacy	No known contamination / risks = 4 Potential / known contamination or risks affects part of site = 2 Potential / known contamination or risks affects whole site = 0 Off site or low risk area = 4 High Risk Area = 2 Mine entries present on site = 0	X 2	8
12. Amenity Impacts	Site could have a detrimental impact on adjacent sensitive land uses (residential) i.e. noise / smell etc	Site entirely or mostly abutted by commercial or non-residential land uses (or not abutted at all) = 4 Site abutted by a mixture of residential and commercial/non-residential (or no) land uses = 2 Site entirely surrounded by residential land uses = 0	X3	12
13. Opportunity Sites	Site is included in an Area Action Plan or Masterplan	Identified = 4 Not identified = 0	X 3	12

	as an opportunity site.		
		Total	206

List of sources

Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan – town / village development boundary, green belt, conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites
 Staffordshire Moorlands Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facility Assessment (PPG17 Audit)
 Bus service timetables & routes – Staffordshire County Council
 Core Strategy Appendix J – Assessment of Village Hierarchy
 Nature conservation sites – Staffordshire Ecological Record
 Development Capacity Study (2011)
 Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment (2008) and Churnet Valley Landscape Character Assessment (2011)
 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Environment Agency flood risk data (updated quarterly)
 Leek Town Centre Masterplan, Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan and Draft Churnet Valley Masterplan

Methodology Notes

* Conversion (walking)

- 5 minutes walk time (400m with 40% reduction) = 240 m
- 10 minutes walk time (800m with 40% reduction) = 480m
- 15 minutes walk time (1200m with 40% reduction) = 720m
- 20 minutes walk time (1600m with 40% reduction) = 960m

Actual distances have been reduced to straight line distances by 40%. This is to allow for the fact that routes to bus stops and local services are not straight-line distances but more complex. (The 40% reduction is based on Fields in Trust accessibility benchmark standards (2008)).

* Sections 8 and 9

Data not available for small settlements

Appendix 5 - Quality Assurance Check

Appendix 5 - Quality Assurance Check

Objectives and Context	
The appraisal is conducted as an integral part of the plan-making process.	
The plan/strategy's purpose and objectives are made clear.	
Sustainability issues and constraints, including international and EC environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.	
SA objectives, where used, are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.	
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	
Relates the requirements of the SEA Directive to the wider SA.	
Scoping	
Authorities and other key stakeholders with a range of interests that are relevant to the plan and SA are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA Report.	
The assessment focuses on the significant issues.	
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.	
Options	
Realistic options are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	
Options include 'do nothing' scenario wherever relevant.	
The sustainability effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each option are identified and compared.	
Inconsistencies between the options and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of options	
Baseline Information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the plan area (including social, environmental, and economic characteristics) and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described.	
Difficulties such as deficiencies in data or methods are explained.	
Prediction and Evaluation of Likely Significant Effects	
Effects identified include the types listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as well as other wider sustainability issues (employment, housing, transport, community cohesion, education, etc).	
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	
Likely cumulative (including secondary and synergistic) effects are identified where practicable.	
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	
Where relevant, the prediction and assessment of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds.	
Methods used to appraise the effects are described.	
Mitigation Measures	
Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	
Issues to be taken into account in project consents are identified.	

Draft Revised Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Objectives and Context	
The SA Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	
Uses maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	
Explains the methodology used.	
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	
Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	
Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the appraisal, the objectives of the plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the plan resulting from the appraisal.	
Consultation	
Authorities and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the plan are consulted in ways and at times which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	
Decision-making and Information on the Decision	
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account	
Reasons are given for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	
Monitoring Measures	
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the appraisal.	
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. These effects should include predictions which prove to be incorrect.	
During implementation of the plan, monitoring is used where appropriate to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the appraisal.	

Appendix 5 Quality Assurance Checklist

