



Bath and North East Somerset Placemaking Plan DPD

Sustainability Appraisal Amended Scoping Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Placemaking Plan complements the Council's Core Strategy by setting out the development aspirations and the planning requirements for the delivery of key development sites, and updating and reviewing the planning policies used in the determination of planning applications. It is focussed on creating the conditions for better places, and on providing greater clarity to enable the right developments to be delivered.

Within the context of the Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) the Placemaking Plan will ensure a robust and up to date planning policy framework is in place for the period up to 2031

The Placemaking Plan will:

- create the conditions to achieve better places whilst protecting environmental assets particularly sensitive to change
- facilitate the delivery of key development sites in Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) by providing the necessary policy guidance and site requirements to meet Council objectives
- help to stimulate development and enable the delivery of planned growth and economic potential
- safeguard and enhance the quality and diversity of places in B&NES and identify opportunities for change
- in response to good practice and the localism agenda, be prepared in a collaborative way with key stakeholder and local communities. The process of producing the Placemaking Plan is intended to nurture a long lasting collaborative partnership with the communities of B&NES.
- act as a focus and a catalyst for getting key agencies and landowners to work together
- address how infrastructure requirements will be met and how other obstacles to the delivery of development sites will be overcome and ensuring infrastructure provision is aligned with development
- be prepared to be aligned with the production of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) will be undertaken to inform all stages of the plan preparation together with an Appropriate Assessment (AA). The SA will be carried out in line with the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC (Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) and the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004).

This scoping report informs the SA process by outlining the scope of the assessment in terms of relevant plans, programmes and policies; key environmental, social and economic evidence base and sustainability issues. It will then set out the framework for undertaking the SA of the plan. This SA framework will be used to examine the sustainability impact of implementing the plan.

A full SA has been carried out on the B&NES Core Strategy DPD. The Core Strategy provides a policy framework for the Placemaking Plan DPD so the decision has been made

to base this SA process on the SA process used for the Core Strategy. It has been possible to make this scoping report much more concise and focused because there is a lot of information already available as part of the Core Strategy SA process which does not need to be repeated. Updates of the policy reviews, the baseline data and the SA framework have been undertaken to ensure they are up to date and relevant to the Placemaking Plan DPD.

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that environmental, social and economic considerations have been integrated into the preparation of the plan. This scoping report sets out the SA framework which will be used to test the plan and will help to identify the most sustainable options available. SA is the systematic identification and appraisal of the potential sustainability impacts of a plan or programme before it is implemented. Although planning authorities aim to address these issues, it is easy to miss opportunities for better supporting social, economic and environmental objectives, and for reducing conflicts. SA offers a logical and robust way to check and improve plans as they are being developed. Ideally, as a result of the appraisal, conflicts with sustainability objectives will be removed, but this is not always possible. The conflicts and the decisions taken must be explained in the SA reports and as a result the public and other stakeholders will find it easier to understand the implications of the plan and the reasons for decisions made by the local planning authorities.

This report was prepared for consultation on the scope and level of detail that should be included in the SA in August 2013. This scoping report is the first stage of the SA and incorporates the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.3 SA Scoping Report Review April 2014

Since the SA Scoping Report prepared by ENVIRON and consulted upon in September 2013 with the statutory consultees, the integration of public health functions (from the NHS) into Local Authorities in April 2013, and subsequent joint work, there is an aspiration to integrate Health Impact Assessment into the SA process. With this in mind, the Council's Public Health team have suggested some additional detailed appraisal questions.

In parallel with this officers within the Council's Corporate Sustainability Team have raised concerns that they do not think the SA objectives adequately reflect climate change issues (climate change is the cross cutting objective in the Core Strategy). ENVIRON were asked to review the suggested amendments to the SA objectives and detailed appraisal questions and to make justified recommendations for the amendment of the SA Framework.

In addition to commenting on SA objectives/detailed appraisal questions, representatives from the Council's Public Health and Corporate Sustainability Teams have provided relevant updated baseline information which has been incorporated into Section 3 and Annex A.

ENVIRON have reviewed the supplied information and prepared a proposed amended SA Framework (see Table 4.1) which includes the amended SA Objectives and detailed appraisal questions which were considered to be justified.

The SA Scoping Report review also includes changes that have arisen from the consultation with statutory consultees in September 2013.

In undertaking the review of the SA Framework, the number of appraisal questions supporting the SA Objectives has increased and are necessarily more numerous for some

SA Objectives than for others. This is because, for example, the SA Framework is encompassing Health Impact Assessment (HIA). It has therefore been suggested that, appraisals record the contribution options / policies make to the SA objective and the appraisal questions are used as prompts by the assessor/s.

1.3 SA Scoping Report Review September 2014

This amended Scoping Report was published for consultation in accordance with the SEA Directive and Regulations between 8th September and 10th October 2014. The consultation sought the views of three statutory consultees; English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The consultation was designed to gauge the view of consultees on the defined scope of the SA and the proposed level of detail that should be included in the SA. The report was available on the Council website for information and comment from other stakeholders.

1.4 Final SA Scoping Report November 2014

This document is the final SA Scoping Report, amended to take account of comments from Natural England and the Environment Agency received during the consultation ending on 10th October 2014. The SA Framework in Table 4.1 be used be used to appraise the Options Document and Pre-Submission Draft Plan.

2 Sustainability Appraisal Process and Methodology

2.1 The Purpose of SA

SA involves the systematic identification and assessment of the potential sustainability impacts of plans and programmes. One of the aims of SA is to aid in the selection of plan options which are the most sustainable and to provide direction for individual policies and proposals within plans. The SA provides a clear audit trail of how a plan has been revised to take into account the results of the assessment.

In 2001, the European Union produced Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive). The SEA Directive aims to increase the level of protection for the environment, integrate the consideration of the environment into the preparation and adoption of plans and to promote sustainable development. The SEA Directive was transposed into UK law via the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (EAPP) (2004) and applies to a range of English plans and programmes.

Within England and Wales it is accepted practice to integrate the requirements of SA and SEA into a single assessment process. The SA must however incorporate the requirements within the EAPP Regulations.

Part 3 of the EAPP Regulations includes the relevant requirements for the environmental assessment (regulation 12):

“(1) Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation.

(2) The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of—

(a) implementing the plan or programme; and

(b) reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.

(3) The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of—

(a) current knowledge and methods of assessment;

(b) the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme;

(c) the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and

(d) the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment.

(4) Information referred to in Schedule 2 may be provided by reference to relevant information obtained at other levels of decision-making or through other Community legislation.

(5) When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.”

Schedule 1 provides “criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment”. Schedule 2 sets out the information required for environmental reports. Again, they are provided for ease of reference.

SCHEDULE 1 Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a)

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—

(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;

(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and

(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—

(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;

(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;

(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);

(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);

(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—

(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or

(iii) intensive land-use; and

(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

SCHEDULE 2 Regulation 12(3)

INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

1. An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its 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 Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive.*
5. *The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.*
6. *The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as—*
 - (a) biodiversity;*
 - (b) population;*
 - (c) human health;*
 - (d) fauna;*
 - (e) flora;*
 - (f) soil;*
 - (g) water;*
 - (h) air;*
 - (i) climatic factors;*
 - (j) material assets;*
 - (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;*
 - (l) landscape; and*
 - (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in sub paragraphs (a) to (l).*
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 the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation.*
10. *A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.*

2.2 Sustainable Development and the National Planning Policy Framework

The national planning policy framework sets out the Government’s view of what sustainable development in England means in practice for the planning system. It identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of mutually dependent roles:

- 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; and
- 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.

2.3 Stages in the SA Process

Table 2.1 sets out the different stages of the SA process. This report is the culmination of stage A, scoping.

Table 2.1: Stages in the SA process	
SA Stages	SA Tasks
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental protection objectives
	A2: Collecting baseline information
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
	A4: Developing the SA objectives and framework
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
Stage C: Preparing the SA reports	
Stage D: Consulting on the draft plans and the SA reports	
Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plans	

2.3.1 Review of other plans and programmes (Task A1)

The planning authority must take account of relationships between the plan and other policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives. The purpose of this review is to highlight the key influences on the plan and the SA.

Annex A records the detailed review of policies and plans undertaken for the SA. The main points highlighted in the review are described in chapter 3. This review is based on the

review that was undertaken for the Core Strategy SA but has been updated to take into account new policies, plans and programmes. Annex A has been updated following the review of the SA Framework in July / August 2014.

2.3.2 Collecting baseline information (Task A2)

Baseline data gives a picture of the current situation and provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the plan. The baseline data for the place making plan will be similar in geographical scale and scope as that collected for the Core Strategy. Therefore the collection of baseline data for the Placemaking Plan has been based on the Core Strategy baseline data. Annex B records the baseline data collected. Chapter 3 then summarises this in terms of the recent changes and trends which have been evident since the baseline data was last updated for the Core Strategy SA (August 2010). Chapter 3 has been updated following the review of the SA Framework in July / August 2014.

2.3.3 Identifying sustainability issues and problems (Task A3)

In order to assist the identification of key issues and use these to establish SA objectives, the policy reviews and the baseline information are grouped and presented under the following topics:

- Air quality and noise;
- Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
- Climate change;
- Cultural heritage, archaeology and landscape;
- Economic development;
- Housing;
- Natural resources, water and soil;
- Safer and stronger communities;
- Transport; and
- Waste.

This section also sets out clearly what the scope of the Placemaking Plan DPD has with relation to its influence over each issue and concludes with a list of key issues that should be addressed as part of the SA.

2.3.4 Developing the SA objectives and framework (Task A4)

The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The selection of objectives within the SA framework has come from the topic reviews undertaken and a brief review of SA objectives used in SA reports for the Core Strategy.

The SA framework will be used to assess the relative performance of each option and objective of the plan using positive, negative or neutral symbols. Possible mitigation measures will be proposed accordingly.

The SA framework is based on that used to assess the Core Strategy. However, changes were made where necessary to make the framework more concise and more applicable to the assessment of the Placemaking Plan DPD in 2013. Further amendments have been made to the SA framework as explained in Section 1.3.

2.3.5 Consulting on the scope of the SA (Task A5)

Details on the consultation process for this stage of the SA are provided in section 1.4.

2.3.6 Difficulties encountered

There are unavoidable differences in the extent of baseline information available for the different topic areas. This is due to the differences in scale and availability of data. In some cases information was only available at a regional / sub-regional level. Information on past or predicted future trends is also not available across all topic areas.

3 Baseline

3.1 Air Quality and Noise

3.1.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence air quality and noise in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Avoid noisy areas or areas of poor air quality.
- Avoid locating development in noise sensitive areas.
- Minimise dependence on cars and reduce congestion.
- Maximise access by sustainable transport means.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Encourage good design of sites to reduce noise impacts.
- Provide on-site services and access to public transport where appropriate.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.1.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for air quality and noise is as follows:

Table 3.1: Air Quality Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Air Quality Framework and Daughter Directives • European Directive on the Noise 2002/49/EU 	<p>The Air Quality Directive seeks to define and establish objectives for ambient air quality to avoid reduce or prevent harmful effects on human health and the environment as whole.</p> <p>The four main objectives of the Noise directives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor the environmental problem by drawing up strategic noise maps, 2. Informing and consulting the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures considered to address noise 3. Addressing local noise issues by requiring authorities to draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise where it is good. 4. Developing a long term EU strategy
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environment Act 1995 Part IV Office of the Deputy Prime Minister • The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: DEFRA 2007 	<p>The Act establishes the statutory requirement for Local Authorities to carry out local Review and Assessments of air quality and where necessary declare Air quality Management Areas and produce Air Quality Action Plans.</p> <p>The NPPF requires that planning policies should sustain compliance with and contribute towards EU</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 	<p>limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and the cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.</p>
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Air Quality Strategy(LAQS) B&NES (2002) Air Quality Action Plan. B&NES (April 2011). Air Quality Round 4 Progress Report B&NES (2011) 	<p>The objectives of Local Air Quality Strategy is to identify how Bath & North East Somerset can assist in securing air quality improvements across the local authority, both within the AQMA identified and external to it, through planning frameworks and wider activities within the local authority.</p> <p>The Air Quality Action Plan sets a target of 30% reduction in B&NES Council's own carbon emissions on 2008 levels by 2014 and 45% for all emissions across the district by 2026.</p>

3.1.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

The Council declared an AQMA for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) along the A4 London Road (Bath) in February 2002.

Air Quality in Bath City Centre has been poor mainly due to emissions from vehicular traffic. In conjunction with this, the city's topography restricts dispersion and results in higher pollutant concentrations.

An AQMA has been declared in the centre of Keynsham for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

There are no AQMA in Midsomer Norton, Radstock or elsewhere in the district.

There are data gaps in relation to noise data.

Recent changes and trends:

The AQMA in Bath has now been extended to cover an area which covers the major road network in Bath (see Figure 3.1).

There continue to be exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) objective in the AQMA in Keynsham.

A new AQMA for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) was proposed in Saltford in 2012 (see Figure 3.2).

Air quality in the Bath AQMA improved during 2011 compared to the previous year. The average level of nitrogen dioxide fell from 50 to 45 µg/ but levels still remain above the 'objective' of 40 µg/m³ set in the National Air Quality Strategy.

There remain data gaps in relation to noise data.

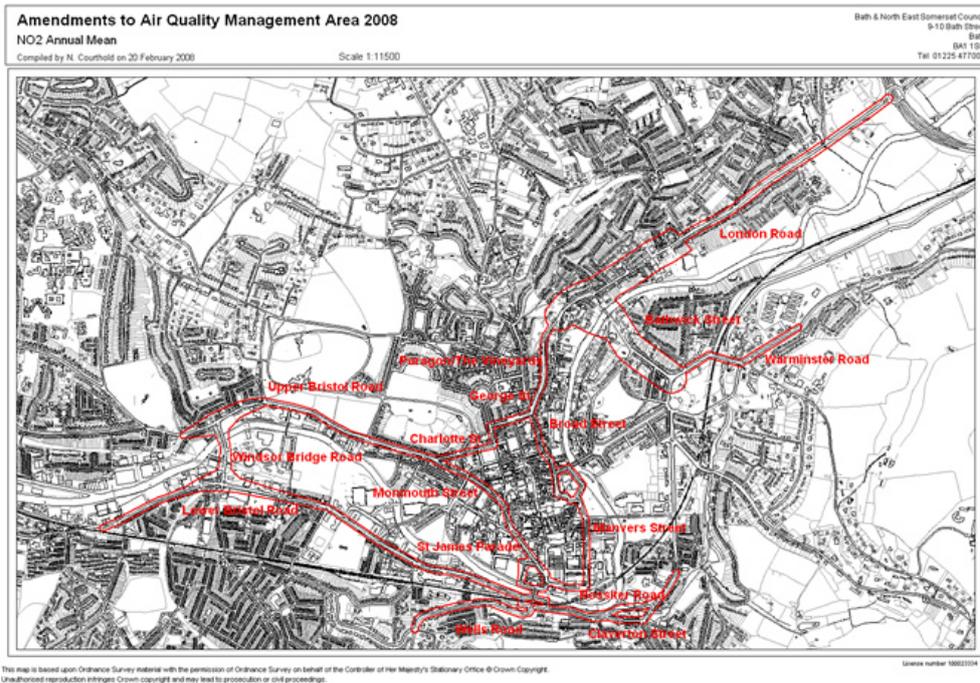


Figure 3.1: Bath AQMA

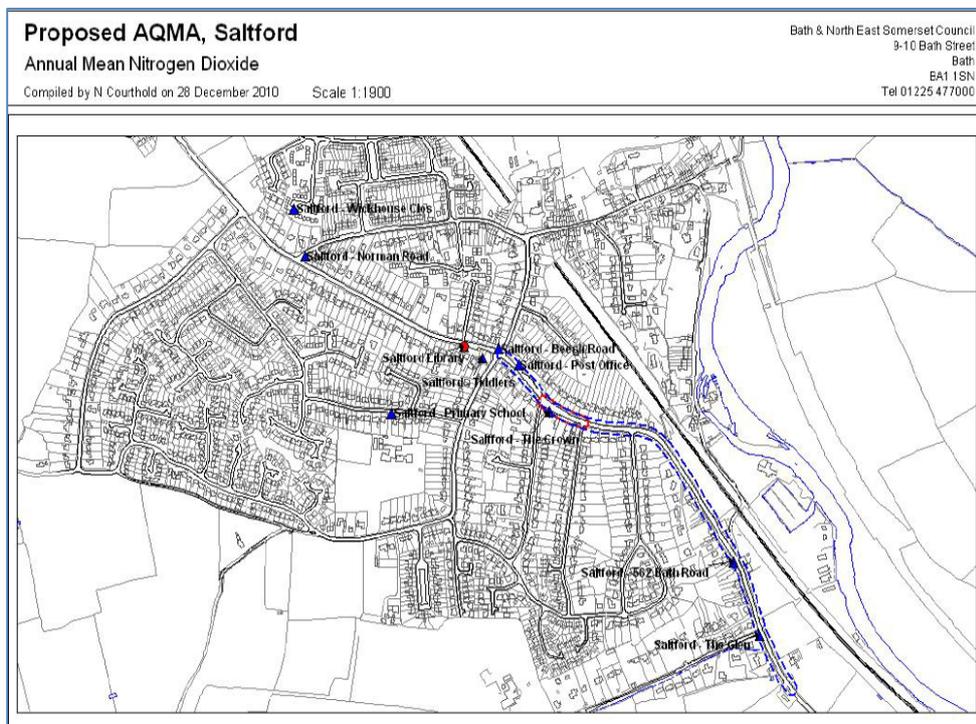


Figure 3.2: Proposed Saltford AQMA

3.1.4 Key issues

- The Air Quality Action Plan (2011) sets a target of 45% reduction for all emissions across the district by 2026.
- There are three AQMA for nitrogen dioxide exceedences in B&NES – in Bath, Keynsham and an AQMA declared in Salford. The AQMA in Bath has now been extended to cover an area which covers the major road network in Bath.
- There are no AQMAs in any other parts of the District.
- There remain data gaps in relation to noise data.
- The plan should help to address air and noise pollution issues through sensitive site selection and good site design to ensure problems do not get worse. The plan should also make efforts to try to reduce car traffic and encourage sustainable transport where possible.

3.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

3.2.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence biodiversity in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Avoid impacts on habitats, species and sites, especially those designated; irreplaceable habitats and priority habitats and species; greenspace networks and habitat connectivity, including river and stream corridors by employing the avoidance-mitigate-compensate hierarchy.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Encourage biodiversity on site.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.2.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for biodiversity is as follows:

Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of Wild Birds European Commission • EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive 1992) • The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro 1992 • Managing Natura 2000 sites The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC 	<p>The aim of the Habitats Directive is to create a coherent European ecological network known as Natura 2000. It requires member states to take necessary measures to maintain/ restore habitats and species' populations, maintain Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) at favourable status and develop national biodiversity strategy.</p> <p>Appropriate Assessments must be carried out for any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the sites but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, should be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objective.</p>
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Biodiversity Action Plan Nov 2000 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister • Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended • The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), commonly referred to as the "Habitats Regulations". • Working with the grain of nature: a biodiversity strategy for England 	<p>Overall goal of the Biodiversity Action Plan is to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms.</p> <p>The Wildlife and Countryside 1981 Act provides for the notification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – areas of special scientific interest by reason of their flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features.</p> <p>Key elements of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act included:</p>

<p>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 2020: a Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services (August 2011) • Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act DEFRA 2006 • Regional BAPs and biodiversity strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of Natural England with the responsibility for enhancing biodiversity and landscape – in rural, urban and coastal areas – with promoting access and recreation; • Formal establishment of the Commission of Rural communities, which will act as an independent advocate/adviser for rural people. • The act delivers the Government's commitment to curtail the inappropriate use of byways, by putting an end to claims for motor vehicle access on the basis historical use by horse –drawn vehicles. <p>The Regional Strategy for the South West Environment: sets the following targets in relation to nature conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to bring into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all nationally important wildlife sites; • to establish 5 landscape scale projects using the ecosystem approach; and • to maintain and increase populations of key species in the South West in line with UK Species Action Plan targets.
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildthings bringing biodiversity alive in B&NES Local Biodiversity Action Plan for B&NES. • Draft Core Strategy Policy CP6 Environmental Quality • B&NES Green Infrastructure Strategy (Nov.2012) 	<p>There are seven key themes of the Action Plan and various targets been set for each theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species and Habitats; • Monitoring Change; • Council Owned Land; • Tracking Wildlife; • Communication; • Farming; and • Education. <p>Core Strategy CP6 (4) Nature Conservation</p> <p>The quality, extent & robustness of protected sites and valued habitats will be enhanced, and networks of valued habitat will be restored or created, by measures which:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the quality and/or increase the size of current sites and valued habitat. Enhance connections between, or join up, sites and valued habitats. Create new sites and valued habitats. Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment <p>New Development will protect and enhance international, national and local sites and existing networks of valued habitats; facilitate migration and dispersal though the natural and built environment; and seek to reduce fragmentation of existing habitats.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework to work with partners and the community to make the most of the benefits that the natural</p>

	environment can and should be providing for people, places and nature within and beyond the district.
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3.2.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

There are a number of designated sites in the area including a SPA: Chew Valley Lake; SAC: Combe Down and Bathampton Mines forming part of the 'Bath & Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC' and SAC: Compton Martin Ochre Mine which is a component site of the North Somerset and Mendip Bats SAC.

There are also 24 SSSIs and the majority of them are in mainly favourable condition. There are several strategic nature areas in B&NES including large woodland areas north and south of Bath (particularly around Combe Down and Dunkerton) and large areas of neutral grassland in the Chew Valley area.

The Forest of Avon is one of 12 Community Forests in England. In B&NES the boundary was extended in 2006 to include the whole of the District except for those parts designated as Mendip Hills and Cotswolds AONBs.

There are a number of priority habitats and species many of which are considered to be in decline, though data is often poor. Monitoring has not been sufficient to determine recent trends.

Recent changes and trends:

There have been no changes to nationally designated areas although there may have been some small changes to locally designated areas. The majority of SSSIs are still in a mainly favourable condition.

Trend data does still not appear to be available in relation to priority species and habitats.

3.2.4 Key issues

- Policies should promote the maintenance and increase of populations of key species in the South West in line with UK Species Action Plan targets.
- B&NES is a district rich in biodiversity with a range of sites designated internationally as well as locally for their ecological value. These require protection.
- The majority of nationally designated sites are in favourable condition but are still subject to a number of pressures including from development.
- There are a number of priority habitats and species many of which are considered to be in decline, though data is often poor. Monitoring has not been sufficient to determine recent trends and therefore a precautionary approach must be taken to development.
- Although there are notable internationally important sites in the district which demand considerable regard in terms of planning, the success of habitats and species depends upon an ecosystem approach. Therefore the value of habitats not designated and habitat networks needs consideration and protection. This is particularly pertinent in the light of climate change.
- The plan should help to address biodiversity issues through sensitive site selection to reduce impacts on habitats and species and through encouraging biodiversity on site.

3.3 Climate Change

3.3.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence climate change and energy in the following way:

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Improve energy efficiency and use of low carbon technologies.
- Encourage sustainable construction
- Improve adaptation to future climate change.
- Protect allotments and encourage local food production

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.3.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for climate change is as follows:

Table 3.3: Climate Change Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
Key International Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 	<p>The Kyoto Protocol requires that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 12.5 per cent below base year levels over the 2008-2012 period.</p>
Key National / Regional Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Act 2008 • Energy White Paper DTI 2003 • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Planning for Climate Change – guidance for local authorities: Planning and Climate Change Coalition (April 2012) • DETR (2000) Building a Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for More Sustainable Construction • Energy efficiency: The Government's Plan for Action (following the Energy White Paper, Our Energy Future - Towards a Low Carbon Economy April 2004) • Part L of the Building Regulations ODPM 2010 • South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership South West Climate Change Impacts Scoping Study (Jan 2003) 'Warming to the idea' 	<p>The Climate Change Act requires that greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by at least 80 % below base year levels by 2050.</p> <p>The Code to Sustainable Homes refers 'zero carbon' voluntary for one year, and will become compulsory in April 2008 and that it is intended to help the government implement its policy of all new homes being 'zero carbon' by 2016 (announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the November 06 Budget Statement).</p> <p>Taking forward a government Strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (DEFRA) aims to manage risks by employing an integrated portfolio of approaches which reflect both national and local priorities, so as to reduce the threat to people and their property and deliver the greatest environmental, social and economic benefit, consistent with the Government's sustainable development principles.</p> <p>Energy White Paper (DTI) defines a long-term strategic vision for energy policy combining our environmental, security of supply, competitiveness and social goals. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2008-12</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The South West Climate Change Action Plan (2009) 	<p>and renewable should supply 10% of UK electricity in 2010.</p> <p>The South West Climate Change Action Plan draws together issues from across the region to ensure that there is a shared vision on tackling climate change, access to a common evidence base and a jointly agreed set of priorities for taking the issues forward. The Action Plan sets out a clear programme of regionally agreed priority actions to address both mitigation and adaptation activity.</p>
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath & North East Somerset Position Statement on Environmental Sustainability 2006 • Bath & North East Somerset Environmental Sustainability Strategic Framework 2006 • Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for Bath, Keynsham and Midsomer Norton and Radstock • Bath & North East Somerset Carbon Management Plan (B&NES, 2009) • Core Strategy CP1(Retrofitting existing building), 2(Sustainable Construction) , 3 (Renewable Energy), 4 (District Heating) and 5(Flood Risk Management) • Green Infrastructure Strategy (Nov 2012) • Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting SPD (Feb 2013) • B&NES Environmental Sustainability Strategy (Sept 2012) • B&NES Flood Risk Management Strategy (May 2009) • Core Strategy Flood Risk Topic Paper (May 2011) • Bath Flood Risk Management Technical; Note B&V (Jan and Nov 2013) • Core Strategy Sequential Test March 2013) 	<p>In signing the Nottingham Declaration, the Council has made a commitment to contributing towards the delivery of the UK climate change programme. This has a long-term target of reducing CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050 over 1990 levels with real progress by 2020, and, until recently, had a short-term target of a 20% reduction by 2010.</p> <p>The results of the SFRA provide valuable information for the SA baseline, particularly in the form of maps. This information has been and will continue to be used to inform the baseline and assessments of options.</p> <p>Bath -at risk of flooding from rivers, sewers, surface water, artificial sources and to a lesser degree from groundwater (springs).</p> <p>Keynsham -at risk of flooding from rivers (which may be tidally influenced), surface water, sewers and artificial sources.</p> <p>Midsomer Norton/Radstock -at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and sewers. Note: Midsomer Norton benefits from a flood alleviation scheme during a 1% AEP river flood event.</p> <p>Chew Magna and downstream communities -at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and artificial sources.</p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy provides a framework to work with partners and the community to make the most of the benefits that the natural environment can and should be providing for people, places and nature within and beyond the district.</p> <p>The B&NES Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets the target of reducing CO2 emissions 45% by 2026, from a 1990 baseline. This aim is also reflected in the Council's Vision & Values, which has the objective of creating <i>“Unique places and beautiful surroundings that are building for a greener/ low carbon future”</i>. The Council also aims to reduce the area's vulnerability to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Options to provide compensatory flood storage upstream of Bath have been considered by B&NES Flood Risk Management Strategy as a means of mitigating the increase in flood risk. The modelling prepared by the B&V has confirms that the principal impact of raising developments is a loss of flow</p>

	conveyance, rather than a loss of flood storage, therefore upstream storage is no longer being considered as part of any flood mitigation measures for these development sites in the Enterprise Area. B&V Technical Notes contains detailed locations for the mitigation measures.
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3.3.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

The total amount of CO₂ emissions in the district was 1048 kilo-tonnes in 2007. This was broken down into:

- 34% industrial
- 39 domestic
- 24% transport
- 2% other sources

The areas most at risk of flooding are:

- Bath - at risk of flooding from rivers, sewers, surface water, artificial sources and to a lesser degree from groundwater (springs).
- Keynsham -at risk of flooding from rivers (which may be tidally influenced), surface water, sewers and artificial sources.
- Midsomer Norton/Radstock -at risk of flooding from rivers, surface water and sewers.

There is no record of any major renewable energy schemes undertaken in the District.

Recent changes and trends:

Between 2007 and 2010 emissions have declined to 992 kilo-tonnes. The breakdown of uses is still similar. The only change is that domestic use has increased slightly as a % of the total (to 41%) and other sources have declined to 1%. CO₂ emissions in 2011 were 5.1 tonnes per capita, having fallen from the 2005 level of 6.3 tonnes per capita¹. This has partly been attributed to the recession. Globally, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and in 2013 were 58% above 1990 levels².

Since monitoring begin in 2012, B&NES Council has granted planning permission for 41 proposals for (or including) renewable and/or low carbon energy generation. The majority of the schemes are for solar power but others include combined heat and power (x1), air source heat pumps (x3) and a proposal to generate hydro-electric power (x1). At Farmborough, two schemes have been given planning permission in 2014. One is for a facility to process food waste via anaerobic digestion to create electricity, heat and digestate for fertiliser with an installed capacity of 2.6MWe (electricity) and 4.5MWth

¹ DECC (2013) 2011 carbon dioxide emissions for Local Authority and regional level: Statistical release
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

² BBC (2012) "Carbon emissions are 'too high' to curb climate change" (downloaded 12/03/2013)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-20556703>

(heat). The second scheme is for the erection of a solar PV farm with an installed capacity of 2.3MWe (electricity).

The areas most at risk of flooding have not changed.

By 2020, summers in the B&NES area could be up to 2.8°C warmer and 25% dryer and winters could be up to 16% wetter³. Extreme weather events could also increase, such as the flooding in November and December 2013. This flooding had severe localised impacts and caused the inundation of many homes a fatality in the Chew Valley.

Within B&NES, electric car charging points are provided in the following locations:

- Charlotte Street Car park, Bath;
- Odd Down P&R, Bath;
- Lansdown P&R, Bath;
- Keynsham Office building, Kensham;
- Royal United Hospital, Bath; and
- Lewis House, Bath.

Since 2010 more than 13,000 plug-in electric vehicles have been registered in the UK up until June 2014 including all-electric cars, commercial vans and plug-in hybrids⁴.

3.3.4 Key issues

- Carbon emissions have been in decline in B&NES but are still higher than target.
- There are many areas at risk of flooding in the area and these have been mapped through a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.
- The plan should help to address climate and energy issues through requiring consideration of energy efficiency and use of low carbon technologies and measures to improve adaptation to future climate change.
- The plan could require the provision of electric car charging points.
- The plan could improve resilience to a future climate of increased extremes of heat, cold and rainfall, e.g. passive cooling measures such as deciduous trees and blue infrastructure to adapt to hotter summers.

³ Data from the UK Climate Impacts Programme (2009) "UKCP09: UK Climate Projections" (downloaded 03/04/2012) <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/ukcp09/>

⁴ Ben Lane (2014-08-06). "UK electric fleet passes 13,000 mark". UK: Next Green Car. Retrieved 26/08/14

3.4 Heritage, Archaeology and Landscape

3.4.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues, specifically through the identification of appropriate development sites, and the inclusion of development management policies to ensure a conservation of the significance of the historic environment (including designated and non-designated heritage assets), and provide opportunities to enhance heritage assets at risk. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence heritage, archaeology and landscape in the following way:'

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Reduce impacts on the fabric and setting of designated and undesignated archaeological sites, monuments, structures and buildings, registered Historic Parks and gardens, registered battlefields, listed buildings and conservation areas or their settings.
- Avoid harmful impacts on protected landscapes (Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs) by employing the avoidance-mitigate-compensate hierarchy
- Reduce impacts on the quality, character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and townscape, and the features within it.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Encourage design that ensures new development fits with the surrounding landscape, townscape and heritage.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.4.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for heritage is as follows:

Table 3.4: Heritage, Archaeology and Landscape Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Landscape Convention United Nation 2006 • European Spatial Development Perspective 1999 • UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972 http://www.getty.edu • Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised)(Valetta Convention 2000) 	<p>The European Landscape Convention aims to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional, national and international level for protecting, managing and planning landscapes throughout Europe. This will be achieved through the Implementation Framework, and guided by two broad outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a landscape perspective to influence spatial planning, landuse and resource management nationally, regionally and locally. • creating an inclusive, people centred approach raising awareness with the public and fostering community engagement as well as working with professionals, specialist bodies and politicians. <p>Key concepts underpinning the European Spatial Development Perspective 1999 include:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an integrated approach - recognising that environment, economic development of development activity or transport all affect one another other; • spatial development - • strategic aspects - interlinked actions to achieve balanced and sustainable territorial development <p>Spatial policy guidelines include the wise management of the natural and cultural heritage, which will help conserve regional identities and cultural diversity in the face of globalisation.</p> <p>UNESCO World Heritage Convention 1972 states that are parties to the Convention agree to not only identify, protect, conserve, and present World Heritage properties, but also to protect its national heritage. They are encouraged to integrate the protection of the cultural and natural heritage into regional planning programmes, set up staff and services at their sites, undertake scientific and technical conservation research and adopt measures which give this heritage a function in the day-to-day life of the community.</p> <p>The Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage contains provisions for the identification and protection of archaeological heritage. Its objectives include the integration of the conservation and archaeological investigation of archaeological heritage in urban and regional planning policies; and the dissemination of information.</p>
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Local Green Infrastructure: helping communities make the most of their landscape: Landscape Institute for Green Infrastructure Partnership (September 2011) • Heritage Protection for the 21st Century White Paper, Department for culture, media and sport (March 2007) • The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 • Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (English Heritage et al 2005) • Planning (Listed building and Conservation Areas Act 1990) • The Historic Environment; A Force for Our Future Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2001 • Protecting our historic environment: making the system work better, 	<p>The NPPF aims to protect and enhance valued landscapes, stating that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.</p> <p>Local Green Infrastructure aims to inspire people to make positive changes in their neighbourhoods by considering the potential offered by the natural environment and integrating this into the way places are planned, designed and managed.</p> <p>The proposals in the Heritage Protection for the 21st Century White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving our heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future.</p> <p>The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers</p>

<p>Department for Culture, Media and Sport (2001)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 • The Countryside in and Around Towns – a vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development Countryside Agency 2005 • Planning Principles for Landscape, Access and Recreation Planning Position Statement –Countryside Agency 2006 • A Strategy for the Historic Environment in the South West. English Heritage (2004) • English Heritage in the South West 2006-2008. English Heritage (undated) 	
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <p>B&NES - City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan (2010-2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan • Archaeology in Bath and North East Somerset Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (2004) • Archaeology in the City of Bath Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) • Green Space Strategy B&NES March 2007 • Bath City-wide character appraisal (March 2005) • Keynsham Conservation Area Character Assessment (March 2000) • Claverton Conservation Area Character Appraisal; B&NES (Jan 2007) • Freshford and Sharpstone Conservation Area Character Appraisal; B&NES (Jan 2007) • Radstock Conservation Area Appraisal (1999) • Chew Magna Conservation Area Appraisal (2003) • Paulton Conservation Area Appraisal (2003) • Midsomer Norton and Welton Conservation Area Appraisal (2004) • Pensford Conservation Area Appraisal (2008) 	<p>Main aims of the City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan (2003-2009) are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable management of the World Heritage Site; • Ensure that the unique qualities and outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site are understood and are sustained in the future; • Sustain the outstanding universal values of the World Heritage Site whilst maintaining and promoting Bath as a living and working city which benefits from the status of the World Heritage Site; • Improve physical access and interpretation, encouraging all people to enjoy and understand the World Heritage Site; and • Improve public awareness of and interest and involvement in the heritage of Bath, achieving a common local, national and international ownership of World Heritage Site management. <p>B&NES Green Space Strategy develops local standards for the quantity, distribution and quality of green space along with a comprehensive action plan to address all of the major issues that arose during the strategy development process.</p> <p>Draft Core Strategy CP6 covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality design • Historic environment • Landscape • Nature Conservation <p>The Bath WHS SPD;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes and shows where the setting is • Describes what is important about the setting

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellow Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) • Woollard Conservation Area Appraisal (2008) • South Stoke Conservation Area Appraisal (2014) • Combe Hay Conservation Area Appraisal (2014) • Hinton Blewett Conservation Area Appraisal (2014) • Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan 2004-2009 • 'Rural Landscapes of Bath & North East Somerset - A Landscape Character Assessment' (2003) SPG • Cherishing Outdoor Places - A Landscape Strategy for Bath (1994) • Draft Core Strategy CP6 • City of Bath World Heritage Site SPD August 2013 • Bath Building Heights Strategy 2010' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the process for assessing impacts on the setting.
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3.4.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

Bath was designated as a World Heritage site in 1987.

There are 37 Conservation Areas, 11 Historic Parks and Gardens, 84 SAMs and approximately 6,400 listed buildings and structures in B&NES (of which 5,000 lie within the City of Bath).

There are 17 Conservation Areas, 9 Scheduled Monuments, 4 buildings and 1 Designated Park and 1 Registered Park and Garden on the Heritage at Risk Register.

There are 2 AONBs in the District – Mendip and Cotswolds AONBs.

There are two significant waterways: the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal, along with Chew Valley and Blagdon Lakes are important landscape features and resources for recreational uses. The Chew Valley Lake is an important landscape feature and wildlife habitat within the Mendip Hills AONB.

The district has a varied landscape represented by 18 LCAs. Large areas of B&NES are Green Belt (61%).

Bath has a distinctive townscape in the way that buildings respond to the distinct topography. Many buildings and terraces follow contours, often overlooking open ground and panoramic views.

The character of Keynsham, Norton-Radstock and the villages are enriched and partly defined by the landscapes which surround and in some cases penetrate the built up areas.

Large areas of Radstock are covered by a Conservation Area.

Recent changes and trends:

The landscape designations and the general landscape and townscape character of the District have not changed although there are still threats to the character of the District from increasing traffic and development, for example.

There are 37 Conservation Areas, 16 Historic Parks and Gardens (5 more), 86 monuments (2 more) entered on the council's Historic Environment Record and approximately 6,400 listed buildings and structures in B&NES (of which 5,000 lie within the City of Bath).

There are currently 10 Conservation Areas, 8 Scheduled Monuments, 6 Buildings at Risk and 1 Registered Park and Garden on the Heritage at Risk Register 2012. The number of Conservation Areas at risk has increased but the number of scheduled monuments and buildings and at risk has decreased.

3.4.4 Key issues

- Conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty, should be prioritized.
- The District has an exceptional cultural heritage. There are many areas in the District which are valued for their landscape and heritage value. There are threats to the character of the District from the cumulative impact of increasing traffic and significant development proposals.'
- B&NES has a rich and diverse landscape. The landscape setting of the City of Bath, including landscape views, is also an important characteristic that requires protection.
- Many areas in the District have distinctive townscapes which need to be protected and this includes Bath which is a World Heritage Site.
- The plan should help to address landscape and heritage issues through sensitive site selection which helps to reduce impacts on landscape and townscape, and also address the issues relating to the Conservation Areas at risk. The plan should also encourage design that ensures new development fits with the surrounding landscape, townscape and heritage.

3.5 Economic Development

3.5.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence economic development in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Maximise access to existing employment.
- Correct imbalances between residential and employment development to reduce in / out commuting.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.5.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for economic development is as follows:

Table 3.5: Economic Development Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating the Environment into EC Economic and Development Co-operation • Strategy for Sustainable Food and Farming (2002) 	<p>Key principles for sustainable farming and food now and in the future:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce safe, healthy products in response to market demands, and ensure that all consumers have access to nutritious food, and to accurate information about food products. • Support the viability and diversity of rural and urban economies and communities.
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Just Connect! An Integrated Regional Strategy for the South West • Toward 2015 : Shaping Tomorrow's Tourism South West Tourism and South West of England Regional Development Agency (2005) • The South West Framework for Regional Employment and Skills (FRESA) South West of England Regional Development Agency (2003) • Stern Review Report on the Economics of Climate Change Treasury 2007 • The Historic Environment: a prospective for growth in the south west (The SW Heritage Forum, August 2013) 	<p>In relation to economic development, the NPPF supersedes and replaces PPS 4 and PPS 1. The NPPF states that planning policies should avoid the long term protection of sites allocated for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose.</p> <p>National and Regional policies emphasise the need for sustainable economic growth, promoting and enhancing existing centres by encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all.</p> <p>The Government's objectives for rural areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to raise the quality of life and the environment; • to promote more sustainable patterns of development; • to promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to reach their full potential; and • to promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors.

	<p>The historic environment can make significant contribution to the local and sub-<i>regional</i> prosperity and <i>economic</i> well-being. Its positive <i>contribution</i> to urban and rural regeneration can be recognised and promoted through, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investing in authenticity, choice and quality • unlocking development potential in existing historic visitor attractions • developing new markets, products and experiences in heritage tourism • developing digital technologies for heritage tourism businesses and attractions • regenerating commercially viable ‘at risk’ heritage • investing in historic places • supporting retail in historic centres • capitalising on the affinity between historic buildings and key growth sectors
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Strategy for B&NES 2010-2026 • Core Strategy Spatial Strategy and CP12 Centres and Retailing • West of England Local Enterprise Partnership Bath City Riverside Enterprise Area – the City of Ideas • The Future for B&NES 	<p>Economic Strategy</p> <p>Overall objective</p> <p>To improve the prosperity and wellbeing of B&NES residents through a more productive, competitive and expanded economy by 2026</p> <p>The Future for B&NES comprises a series of place-focused visions for the revitalisation and growth of the district and, in particular, the main urban centres of Bath, Midsomer Norton and Radstock, and Keynsham. It seeks to realise a number of the ambitions of the Community Strategy and to provide a direct response to the Economic Development and Enterprise section of the Local Area Agreement.</p>

3.5.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

There is an uneven spatial distribution of skills levels in B&NES with particular skills issues in Midsomer Norton & Radstock.

The percentage of the economically active population of BANES which are unemployed is lower than the UK and regional percentages.

Wage rates are lower than the UK average and there are many low skill/wage jobs.

There are some wards in Radstock which experience comparatively high levels of unemployment linked to patterns of deprivation mapped in the indices of deprivation.

There is a specific need to diversify the employment base in the Midsomer Norton and Radstock area as 30% of local jobs are accounted for in manufacturing, a declining sector.

The B&NES area, especially Bath, currently faces a projected deficit in the provision of office space.

There are a number of Local Food Suppliers in the District and the North East Somerset & Bath Local Food Partnership was set up in 2007 to encourage the production, sale, purchase and consumption of quality foods produced in the local area.

Recent changes and trends:

There remains an uneven skills distribution in the area.

In 2001 2% of the population of B&NES was unemployed compared to 3.3% in England. This has increased slightly to 2.1% but is still lower than the national average.

Wage rates are still lower than the national average and there are still many low skill / wage jobs.

The B&NES economy has a predominance of public sector related, retail, leisure and tourism employment. Public-sector related activities account for some 35% of total employment. This is borne out by statistics on average weekly workplace wages, which show the District to have the lowest in the West of England, and is also borne out by statistics on productivity per full time equivalent employee (also the lowest in the sub-region).

These activities are extremely important to the District, providing employment in our towns and villages. The significant number of retail and accommodation jobs – particularly in Bath – reflect an international reputation founded on a unique built environment and cultural history. However, in recent times, lower-value activities, such as in some types of manufacturing, have lost ground, and we have seen many job losses – particularly in the Somer Valley, but also in Bath and Keynsham (the Cadbury's factory is due to close in 2011).

There is still a need to diversify the employment base in the District as a whole but in Midsomer Norton and Radstock especially

Keynsham suffers from a lack of available modern business space, the High Street has seen little regeneration over the past decade and it has recently seen the closure of the Cadbury Somerdale site. However, a £34 million redevelopment in Keynsham town Centre will provide new shops, sustainable, low carbon office space for the Council.

3.5.4 Key issues

- Economic growth should maintain B&NES as a unique and desirable location to attract and grow quality businesses; and should promote a balanced, stable and sustainable range of economic sectors providing a variety of employment opportunities.
- There is an uneven spatial distribution of skills levels in B&NES with particular skills issues in Midsomer Norton & Radstock.
- Employment has increased slightly but is still lower than the national average
- Wage rates are lower than the UK average and there are many low skill/wage jobs.
- There is a need to diversify the employment base.
- The plan should help to address economic development issues through site selection to help maximise access to existing employment and correct imbalances between residential and employment development to reduce in / out commuting.

3.6 Housing

3.6.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence housing in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Maximise access to existing services.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Ensure appropriate contribution towards market and affordable housing requirements.
- Ensure appropriate contribution towards appropriate community services.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.6.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for housing is as follows:

Table 3.6: Housing Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
Key International Policy N/A	N/A
Key National / Regional Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Delivering Affordable Housing Nov 2006 • Preparing Design Codes - A Practice Manual Nov 2006 CABE • DETR (2000) Building a Better Quality of Life: A Strategy for More Sustainable Construction • Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives (a strategy for tackling homelessness) March 2005 • Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: The Government's strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion Home Office • Circular 01/06: Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites • Consultation Document: Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (July 2007) • West of England Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2009) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to housing, the NPPF supersedes and replaces PPS 3 and PPS 1. The NPPF states that, to deliver a wide choice of high quality homes, widen opportunities for home ownership and create sustainable, inclusive and mixed communities, local planning authorities should plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends and the needs of different groups in the community; and should identify the size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations, reflecting local demand. • Delivering Affordable Housing (Nov 2006) states that affordable housing policy is based around three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing high quality homes in mixed sustainable communities for those in need; • widening the opportunities for home ownership; and • offering greater quality, flexibility and choice to those who rent.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West Housing Body (July 2005). South West Regional Strategic Housing Strategy 2005-2016 • The Sustainable Communities Plan for the South West 	
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Construction & Retrofitting Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Feb 2013) • B&NES Housing Key Partnership (BE at home –improving our housing situation for local people Draft Housing Strategy –2005-2010 • B&NES Local Strategic Partnership Housing Strategy Draft Affordable Housing Delivery Plan June 2006 • Planning Obligation SPD (2009) • Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document 2008 Appendix B Affordable Housing Further Guidance • Core Strategy CP9 and 10 (Affordable Housing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sustainable Construction & Retrofitting SPD aims to offer home owners and small scale home builders in Bath & North East Somerset clear direction on how to contribute to the Council's aspirations to increase the energy efficiency of all homes in our district. • The Draft Housing Strategy sets out the housing issues for local people and how organisations working in partnership will aim to address them. • The Affordable Housing Delivery Plan addresses in detail for nine key issues identified by the Housing Strategy 2005-10. • The Planning Obligations SPD provides detailed guidance on the implementation of the Council's planning policies on affordable housing. • Core Strategy CP9 and 10 set out affordable housing requirements and housing mix.

3.6.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

High house prices and a lack of affordable housing in the District make it difficult to attract people to the area and to retain key workers.

Nearly half the overall need for affordable housing in B&NES is concentrated in Bath City.

House prices in Keynsham are slightly above average for B&NES.

Intermediate options (such as shared ownership) and private renting are more affordable in Midsomer Norton than the rest of the District.

Recent changes and trends:

Land Registry data indicates an increase in market value of 4.5% between March 2012 and May 2013.

3.6.4 Key issues

- Housing in the District is not affordable for a large number of people and has been getting less affordable.
- The plan should help to address housing issues through site selection to maximise access to services and ensuring an appropriate contribution towards affordable housing requirements.

3.7 Natural Resources, Water and Soil

3.7.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence natural resources in the following way:

<p>Sensitive location of development sites in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards the remediation of contaminated sites. • Maximise the use of brownfield sites. • Minimise impact on surface and groundwater networks. • Reduce flooding. • Minimise impact on drainage and water supply infrastructure. <p>Appropriate development management policies in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water use. • Encourage appropriate contributions towards drainage and water supply infrastructure.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.7.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for natural resources is as follows:

Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EU • The Water Framework Directive (2000) 	<p>The key aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to general protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water. • to reverse any antropogenically induced upward pollution trend.
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Water resources for the future - a Strategy for England and Wales (Southern Region targets) and Water resources for the future annual review 2000/60/EU • Water Strategy DEFRA • Draft Catchments Flood Management Plan Bristol Avon CAMS • Defra (2009) Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England 	<p>In relation to natural resources, water and soil, the NPPF supersedes and replaces PPS 9, PPS 23 and PPS 25.</p> <p>The vision is to ensure that England’s soils will be protected and managed to optimise the varied functions that soils perform for society (e.g. supporting agriculture and forestry, protecting cultural heritage, supporting biodiversity, as a platform for construction), in keeping with the principles of sustainable development and on the basis of sound evidence.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wessex Water Business Plan 2010-2015 April 2010 	
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy BANES 2003 • River Basin Management Plan • Fisheries action plans including Salmon Action plans 'Fishing for the Future' and 'A Better Environment, Healthier Fisheries - Our Strategy • Flood Risk Management Strategy (June 2010) • Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting SPD • Core Strategy CP5 Flood Risk Management 	<p>The Strategy identifies contaminated land under the Governments regulatory regime. The document includes the proposed methodology for inspection of the District, identification of contaminated land and how all information gathered will be handled.</p>

3.7.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

Modelling of future water use showed part of the district having a light water deficit in future scenarios.

The river chemical and biological quality is generally Very Good to Fairly Good.

Nitrate is regularly found in groundwater in some areas.

The far east and far west of the district is covered by Groundwater Source Protection Zones (GSPZs) (including a part of Bath).

82% of now or converted dwellings in the District completed during 2008/09 were built on previously developed land.

Recent changes and trends:

Figures for the chemical and ecological quality of rivers in the area cannot be found that are later than 2009. In 2009 both chemical and ecological water quality were very good in the Bristol Avon and North Somerset Streams River Basin Management Plan area.

The far east and far west of the district is still covered by GSPZs (including a part of Bath).

Data has not been found that confirm whether nitrate is still found in groundwater in some areas.

The latest work on the Wessex Water, Water Resources Management Plan has not identified any areas of supply demand deficit at this stage. This appears to be a slight improvement on the previous situation.

Five sites have been identified as contaminated in the District (Land between former gas works site and Dapps Hill, Keynsham; 2 gardens in Evelyn Road, Bath, a garden in Newbridge Hill, Bath, and a garden at May Lane, Bath). The first is in relation to cyanide contamination and has now been remediated. The final is on the basis of a lead hotspot and the others are in relation to a hotspot of benzo(a)pyrene.

3.7.4 Key issues

- Latest figures show both chemical and ecological water quality were very good in the Bristol Avon and North Somerset Streams River Basin Management Plan area.
- The far east and far west of the district is still covered by GSPZs (including a part of Bath).
- The latest work on the Wessex Water, Water Resources Management Plan has not identified any areas of supply demand deficit at this stage. This appears to be a slight improvement on the previous situation.
- 95% of new or converted dwellings in the District completed during 2010/11 were built on previously developed land.
- There are a small number of contaminated sites identified in the District but no significant sites.
- The plan should help to address natural resource issues through site selection that helps to remediate contaminated sites, maximise the use of brownfield sites, minimise impact on surface and groundwater networks, reduce flooding and minimise impact on drainage and water supply infrastructure. The plan can also help to ensure sustainable design that reduces water use and encourage appropriate contributions towards drainage and water supply infrastructure.

3.8 Safer and Stronger Communities

3.8.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence communities in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Maximise access to facilities such as leisure facilities for young people.
- Maximise access to community services including by sustainable modes of transport.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Design out crime and the fear of crime such as through improvements to street layouts, public space, passive surveillance, lighting etc.
- Provide contributions to community services where appropriate.
- Improve the quality of new development.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.8.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for communities is as follows:

Table 3.8: Safer and Stronger Communities Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Spatial Development Perspective European commission 1999 	<p>The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) is a legally non-binding document with the strategic aim of achieving a balanced and sustainable spatial development strategy.</p>
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • White Paper Choosing Health: making healthier choices easier. Department of Health 2004 • Planning and Access for Disabled People: A Good Practice Guide ODPM (March 2003) • Rural White Paper: Our Countryside – the Future – a Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR 2000) • White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People (2010) • Public Health England programme 	<p>In relation to crime and community safety, the NPPF supersedes and replaces PPS 1 and PPG 17.</p> <p>This White Paper sets out the key principles for supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health.</p> <p>The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (March 2014) notes that the development of healthy living environments for people of all ages that support social interaction are critical in promoting healthy communities.</p> <p>The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has a revised section on health and wellbeing (March 2014). It notes that “The link between planning and health has been long established. The built and natural environments are major determinants of health and wellbeing”. It also sets out a vision for what a healthy community should look like; “A healthy community is a good place to grow up and grow old in. It is one which supports healthy behaviours and supports reductions in health inequalities”. It states that “active” design and the development of healthy living environments for people of all ages that support</p>

Table 3.8: Safer and Stronger Communities Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
	<p>social interaction are critical in promoting healthy communities.</p> <p>The White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People (2010) recognises that the quality of the environment, including the availability of green space and the influence of poor air quality and noise, affects people's health and wellbeing. The "utilisation of green space for exercise and health reasons" is also referenced as an indicator in the Department of Health's, "A public health outcomes framework for England, 2013-2016".</p> <p>Public Health England programme "Healthy people, healthy places: building a healthy future". This states that helping to improve the nation's health through better planning and design to reduce the impact of a poor physical and natural environment is a priority.</p>
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2016 (Bath & North East Somerset Strategic Partnership, 2009) • B&NES. (2005) Community Safety & Drug Strategy 2005 – 2008 • Shaping Up: A Healthy Weight Strategy for B&NES • B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (B&NES 2013) • 'Fit for Life' - A strategy to get more people, more active, more often (Draft, B&NES March 2014) • B&NES Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2015 • B&NES Play Policy • Green Space Strategy for Bath and North East Somerset (March 2007) • Bath and North East Somerset Cultural Strategy 2011-2026 • Bath and North East Somerset Corporate Equality Commitment • Get Active Bath and North East Somerset A Strategy for Physical Activity and Sport 2010 to 2013 • Community Safety Plan 2009-2012 	<p>The Community Strategy contains five shared ambitions setting out how the Council plan to work with a wide range of organisations and make links with their plans. The Community Strategy also sets out Improvement Ambitions.</p> <p>Eight strategic priority areas set by B&NES Community Safety & Drug Strategy (2005 – 2008) are: Anti-Social Behaviour; Domestic Violence; Hate Crime (nationally B&NES Play Policy sets out Bath & North East Somerset's understanding of play and confirms its commitment to ensuring that quality play environments are available to all its children. The policy is underpinned by the principles outlined in the Council's statement of vision and values and its equality policies.</p> <p>A key priority for B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to <i>"Increase the resilience of people and communities, including action on loneliness"</i>. It notes that "Our local surroundings and social environment play an important part in our health and wellbeing. There is a link between loneliness and isolation and a range of health and wellbeing issues such as high blood pressure, depression and heart disease, particularly amongst the aging population".</p> <p>The Green Space Strategy brings together a number of pieces of research that have been carried out over the past two years and analyses the current provision of green space based on their findings. Its focus is on all publicly accessible green space, regardless of owner or manager.</p> <p>A Strategy for Physical Activity and Sport provides a new and updated vision, uniting all the agencies that play a part in planning or delivering sport and physical activity for people in B&NES. It also defines the roles of different organisations so that the priorities of each organisation are clear. Finally, it aims to clarify the</p>

Table 3.8: Safer and Stronger Communities Policy Summary

Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
	<p>place of sport and physical activity in relation to priorities within national plans, regional plans and the Sustainable Community Strategy. The Cultural Strategy concludes that culture touches the lives of everyone in B&NES, whether local residents, local businesses, or visitors.</p> <p>Participation in heritage, sports, arts, leisure-time activities and hobbies of all kinds contribute to the character and quality of the district, enabling people to celebrate, grow, learn, think and debate. The Strategy demonstrates the importance of culture to the economic life and prosperity, health and wellbeing of residents.</p> <p>The Community Safety Plan sets out our plans for the next three years to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in B&NES. Its aim is to support the implementation of the “safer communities” theme of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Responsible Authorities Group acts as the Local Strategic Partnership’s “delivery arm” for safer communities, helping to deliver key aspects of our vision of a distinctive place, with vibrant communities where everyone fulfils their potential.</p> <p>A key priority of B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is the creation of healthy and sustainable places. This priority recognises that people’s physical and mental health is affected by the built and natural environment within which they live. This includes people’s access to green space, access to cycling and walking infrastructure that promotes “active” travel, and whether the food environment promotes the production and consumption of healthy local for example. As well as being critical in promoting good health, the development of healthy places is an important area of action in order to reduce health inequalities (Marmot Review, 2010).</p> <p>B&NES (draft) Fit for Life Strategy: Two of the four key themes are “active design” (developing planning policy and practice which supports an increase in physical activity and facilitates positive wellbeing for all residents) and “active environments” (to improve and increase access to the natural environment and places where people can play, participate in sport etc.).</p> <p>B&NES Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013) is explicit about the need for good quality and accessible green infrastructure to “support healthy lifestyles and thriving communities”. The Strategy notes that “Access to the outdoors is fundamental to promoting healthier lifestyles. Improving recreational links particularly within urban areas and their surrounding landscapes will encourage greater access to natural</p>

Table 3.8: Safer and Stronger Communities Policy Summary

Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
	<p>spaces, support active lifestyles and address health inequalities”.</p> <p>B&NES Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2012-2015 sets out that <i>“Good food is vital to the quality of people’s lives in Bath & North East Somerset. As well as being tasty, healthy and affordable, the food we eat should be good for the environment and local businesses.”</i></p> <p>The Green Infrastructure Strategy also notes that <i>“Whilst beyond the remit of this Strategy to provide a comprehensive approach to local and healthy food, such an approach is needed if the area is to reap the economic and social benefits of its local food resources.”</i> To deliver this, the Council, working with stakeholders, is developing a Good Food Strategy. B&NES (draft) Food Strategy is due to be adopted in July 2014, and promotes a food environment that supports the local production and purchasing of local and healthy food.</p>

3.8.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

In rural areas the level of service deprivation is naturally high due to geographical distance to certain services and facilities. Particular wards with barriers to accessing local services and facilities include Chew Valley South, Clutton and Mendip.

Keynsham, Norton Radstock and Bath all have sufficient natural green space provision, when compared to the draft standard in the greenspace strategy.

Life expectancy is higher than both the regional and national average.

The Sport England survey (Oct06-Oct07) showed that 38.4% of adults participate in moderate intensity sport.

Safe places to play are a key identified issue for young people in the area.

The numbers of wards within the most deprived 20% of the country was 4 in 2007 (Twerton West, Kingsmead, Whiteway, Foxhill North).

Bath City Centre, the South West area of Bath City and North Keynsham experience the highest levels of recorded priority crime in B&NES.

Recent changes and trends:

Levels of service deprivation are still high in certain areas, especially rural areas.

The figures for greenspace do not appear to have been updated since the publication of the greenspace strategy. Accessible greenspace and recreation/leisure facilities and needs are currently under review. The revised Green Space Strategy, Playing Pitch Strategy and the Built Facilities Strategy will be adopted in July 2015.

Certain populations at higher risk of social isolation (generally, not specific to B&NES only) e.g. older people, people with sensory impairments, those with limited mobility, those with mental health problems, those in rural locations and socio-economically deprived⁵.

Attendance and participation in arts and cultural activity is greater amongst the higher social classes (upper and middle), with little participation by the lower social classes (particularly semi and unskilled manual workers and state pensioners and casual workers)⁵.

Non-attendance in the arts and cultural activity in B&NES can be due to variety of practical factors including ability to travel, cost, family responsibilities, but can also be due to feeling excluded from a cultural offer which is perceived to be for 'others'⁵.

The Voicebox Resident Survey carried out in 2012 asked a number of questions relating to community engagement. Of 850 responses, 51% of respondents said they strongly or tended to agree that people pulled together to improve the local area. 20% said they strongly or tended to disagree⁵.

Physical activity is important in helping to prevent the onset of long term conditions such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic heart disease and premature mortality from these, and in managing these conditions including cancers. There were 1,576 deaths from circulatory diseases (e.g. heart disease) and 1376 from Cancer between 2002 and 2009 making these the leading causes of death in B&NES. Between them they represent 72% of deaths defined as premature⁵.

In relation to physical activity:

- 27% of B&NES residents undertake 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise on 3 or more days a week (22.3% national, South West 22.9%).
- 43.7% of adults do no sport or active recreation.
- Health costs in B&NES due to inactivity comes to £2.9 million per year.
- B&NES is significantly lower than the national average regarding the percentage of children participating in at least 3 hours per week of high quality PE and sport at school (age 5-18 years).
- 30% of 65-74 year-olds and less than 15% of adults aged 75 and over reported any exercise lasting at least ten minutes during four weeks⁵.
- 41% of Voicebox respondents were satisfied with sports and leisure facilities in B&NES.

Physical activity is also important in contributing to improved mental wellbeing. Based on survey based measures of wellbeing, residents in B&NES experience some of the highest levels of recorded wellbeing in the country. However, estimates suggest that 16% of the working age population have a common mental illness. Levels of reported anxiety (41% feeling anxious yesterday) are higher than regional and national levels.

Research evidence clearly demonstrates that physical activity is critical in old age for the maintenance of physical function, mobility and capacity to tackle activities of daily living. Physical activity also has an important protective effect against cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, cognitive decline, depression and dementia. By 2021 the

⁵ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (B&NES, 'living' online document)

numbers of over 75's in the population are projected to increase by 20% (approximately 3,200 people). In particular the percentage of older men in the population is projected to increase (JSNA, Aging Population section)⁵.

The aging population will impact upon future healthcare provision.

There is a data gap regarding needs for healthcare facilities within B&NES. Information regarding health infrastructure requirements should be provided by the B&NES Clinical Commissioning Group at a later date in order to inform the development of the Placemaking Plan and the SA.

Life expectancy has increased very slightly since 2011.

In 2010, 5 areas are within the most deprived 20% of the country (Twerton West, Whiteway, Twerton, Fox Hill North and Whiteway West). This is an increase in the number of areas that are considered the most deprived. Please see Figure 3.3 for the latest mapped deprivation data.

In 2011/2012 there were 56.28 crimes per 1,000 population in B&NES. This is down from 2008/2009 (69.5 recorded crimes per 1,000 population). Crime is broadly in line with the national average.

In recent years, global food prices have been spiking and this trend is predicted to continue. Causative factors are climate change, the increase in biofuel production and price speculation⁶. High food prices could increase the incidence of "food poverty", defined as "the inability to obtain healthy affordable food"⁷ which disproportionately affects lower income residents.

⁶ IFPRI "Food Prices: Riding the Rollercoaster" (downloaded 14/3/13) <http://www.ifpri.org/node/8436>

⁷ Sustainweb "What is food poverty?" (downloaded 14/3/13)

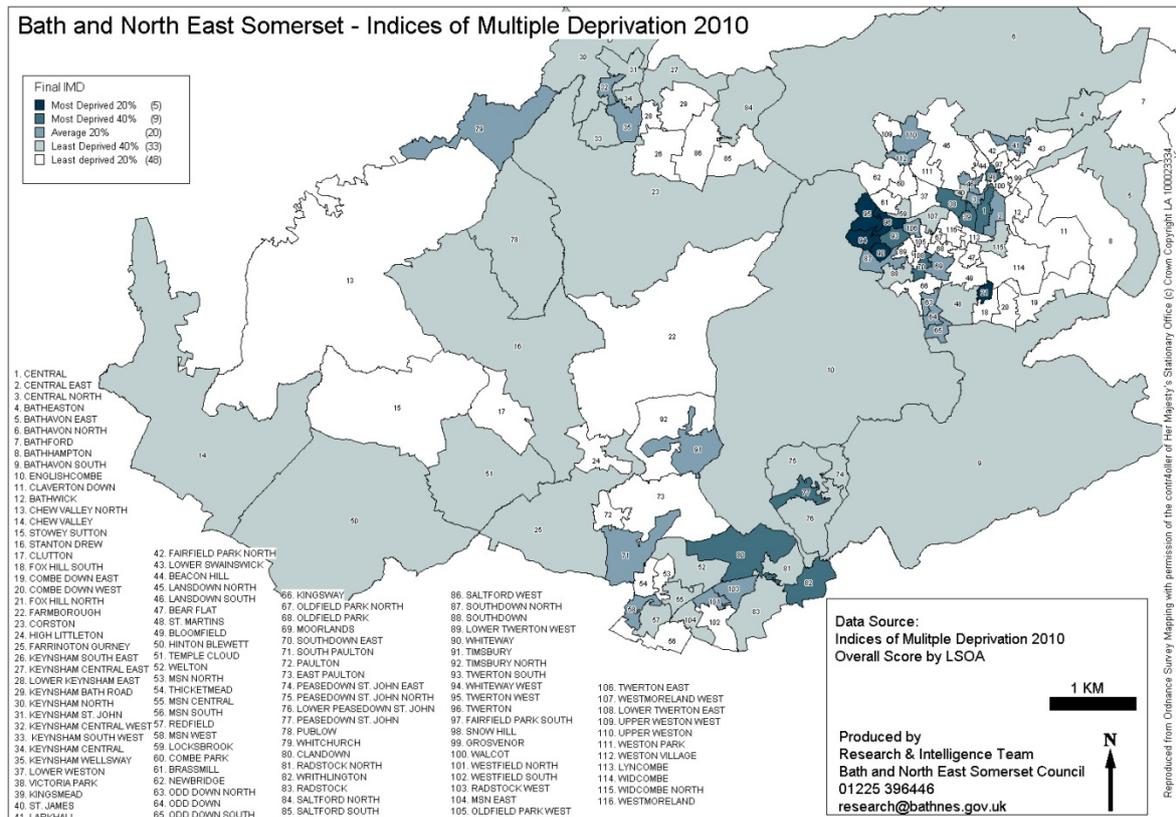


Figure 3.3: Mapped deprivation data

3.8.4 Key issues

- The Sustainable Community Strategy contains five shared ambitions setting out how the Council plan to work with a wide range of organisations and make links with their plans.
- Levels of service deprivation are still high in certain areas, especially rural areas.
- Keynsham, Norton Radstock and Bath all have sufficient natural green space provision, when compared to the draft standard in the greenspace strategy, but not formal green space.
- Life expectancy has increased very slightly since 2011. The ageing population will have implications on the type of housing that need to be delivered and on service provision.
- The plan needs to encourage and facilitate active lifestyles for all ages.
- The plan should help design spaces for social interaction for people of all ages and ensuring that spaces are designed for those with sensory and mobility impairments.
- Residents in B&NES experience some of the highest levels of recorded wellbeing in the country. However, estimates suggest that 16% of the working age population have a common mental illness. Levels of reported anxiety (41% feeling anxious yesterday) are higher than regional and national levels.
- There has been an increase in the number of areas that are considered the most deprived.
- Crime levels have decreased slightly in recent years. Crime is broadly in line with the national average.
- The plan should help to address community issues through locating development sites in order to maximise access to community facilities including by sustainable modes of

transport. The plan can also help to improve the quality of new development and ensure that development provides contributions to community services where appropriate.

- The plan should ensure that grades 1- 3a agricultural land are protected from development and that allotments and space for community gardening are provided.
- There is a data gap regarding health infrastructure needs. Data should be available later in the development of the Placemaking Plan.

3.9 Transport

3.9.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence transport in the following way:

Sensitive location of development sites in order to:

- Maximise access to existing services including through more sustainable transport means.

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Ensure appropriate contribution towards appropriate community services.
- Provide on-site services and access to public transport where appropriate.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.9.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for transport is as follows:

Table 3.9: Transport Policy Summary	
Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Manual on Strategic Environmental Assessment of Transport Infrastructure Plans 	<p>This document presents guidance on how to carry out strategic environmental assessment (SEA) for transport plans and programmes in England in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, also known as the SEA Directive.</p>
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) • Government DfT 10 year Transport Plan 2000 • Transport White Paper the Future of Transport A Network for 2030 DfT 2004 • Bath and North East Somerset (2011). Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) 2011-2026 • Regional Transport Strategy 2001, Government Office for South West • Manual for Streets I and II (DoT, 2010) • Streets for All (English Heritage, 2004) 	<p>The NPPF supersedes PPG 13 and states that transport policies have an important role to play in facilitating sustainable development but also in contributing to wider sustainability and health objectives. Smarter use of technologies can reduce the need to travel. The transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes, giving people a real choice about how they travel.</p> <p>The vision of the Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) 2011-2026 is of an affordable, low carbon, accessible, integrated, efficient and reliable transport network through which we can achieve a more competitive economy and better connected, more active and healthy communities.</p>
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B&NES, Draft Public Transport Supplementary Document (2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Public Transport Strategy looks at the current and future role of public transport services and the infrastructure needed to support them.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B&NES, Draft Cycling Supplementary Document (2011) • B&NES, Draft Walking Supplementary Document (2011) • Bath Public Realm and Movement Strategy (BANES, 2010) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Cycling Strategy contains the vision of a safe and attractive road environment across the network for cycling, supplemented by quality off-road routes, will contribute to establishing a vibrant cycling culture throughout the area.
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3.9.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

There is no direct link to the motorway network in B&NES and Bath suffers particularly from the sub-region’s poor internal transport links.

The high level of self-containment in Bath and easy access to a mainline railway station does not prevent heavy traffic congestion during the day, perceived to have a negative impact on businesses in the City.

The A4 through Keynsham is subject to high levels of congestion. The levels of traffic in the High Street are not a cause for concern in itself. However, there is significant queuing along the High Street at all times of day and this impacts upon the town centre environment.

There is a feeling of vehicles dominating in the Midsomer Norton High Street and Radstock centre also experiences traffic congestion.

Norton Radstock is connected to Bath by the A367, a popular tourist route to the West Country, and to Bristol via the A362 and A37, the latter also extending south to the A303.

Bath is well served by conventional bus services, with good penetration to most parts of the City. These services have difficulty in keeping to timetable due to congestion.

High levels of out-commuting from Midsomer Norton and Radstock means that the link road south from Bath to Keynsham, Midsomer Norton and Radstock copes with high levels of commuter traffic.

Recent changes and trends:

Large areas of the District still suffer from traffic congestion.

There has been sustained growth in cycling in the West of England area (which includes B&NES) in 2011/12 as Cycling City measures kick in.

In 2009/10 the number of bus users fell, a reflection of continuing national economic difficulties but 2010/11 saw a welcome recovery and this continued in 2011/12 with patronage slightly above the target figure for that year.

Substantial improvement of public transport in and around Bath is needed to tackle congestion. Existing travel patterns in Bath suggest that the gradual improvement of conventional bus services will not be sufficient to address these issues. The Bath Package has been put forward to tackle this issue.

Bus use and park and ride use is up in Bath in recent years. With the completion of the Bath Package in 2011 / 2012 public transport use should increase.

There are still high levels of out-commuting from Midsomer Norton and Radstock.

Since 2000, traffic levels have fallen on the Bath road network inner cordon and remained fairly constant on the outer cordon.

In the last two years there has been a 10% fall in traffic on some routes in Bath, which the council believes is a result of recessionary effects.

3.9.4 Key issues

- The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) 2011-2026 promotes an affordable, low carbon, accessible, integrated, efficient and reliable transport network through which we can achieve a more competitive economy and better connected, more active and healthy communities.
- Large areas of the District suffer from traffic congestion. Congestion and journey time delays affect rural communities as well as urban areas.
- Substantial improvement of public transport in and around Bath is needed to tackle congestion. Existing travel patterns in Bath suggest that the gradual improvement of conventional bus services will not be sufficient to address these issues. The Bath Package has been put forward to tackle this issue.
- Bus use and park and ride use is up in Bath in recent years. With the completion of the Bath Package in 2011 / 2012 public transport use should increase.
- There are still high levels of out-commuting from Midsomer Norton and Radstock.
- Since 2000, traffic levels have fallen on the Bath road network inner cordon and remained fairly constant on the outer cordon.
- In the last two years there has been a 10% fall in traffic on some routes in Bath, which the council believes is a result of recessionary effects.
- The plan should help to address transport issues through locating development sites in order to maximise access to community facilities particularly by sustainable modes of transport. The plan can also help to ensure appropriate contribution towards appropriate community services and encourage provision of on-site services and access to public transport where appropriate.

3.10 Waste

3.10.1 The scope of the plan

It is important to consider the influence that the Placemaking Plan DPD can have on the issues. The Placemaking Plan DPD can influence waste in the following way:

Appropriate development management policies in order to:

- Ensure appropriate provision of waste management services, for example space for recycling.
- Encourage good design that minimises waste.

These issues have been taken into account in the review of the SA framework that will be used to assess the Placemaking Plan DPD (see Section 4 of this report).

3.10.2 Policy review

The key policy framework for waste is as follows:

Policy	Details of relevance to the plans and SA
<p>Key International Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Framework Directive (2006/12/EC) • Europe Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC) • Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) (2003/108/EC) 	<p>The European Landfill Directive requires the UK to reduce the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste that it sends to landfill to:</p> <p>75% of that produced in 1995 by 2010</p> <p>50% of that produced in 1995 by 2013</p> <p>35% of that produced in 1995 by 2020</p>
<p>Key National / Regional Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Strategy for England 2007 • PPS 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management 2005 and A Companion guide to PPS 10 Nov 2005 • South West Regional Assembly From Rubbish to Resource: The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West 2004 – 2020 • Draft Joint Residual Municipal Waste Management Strategy v0.7 (January 2007), West of England Waste Management & Planning Partnership • West of England Joint Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Document (adopted March 2011) 	<p>PPS10 sets out the Government's policy to be taken into account by waste planning authorities and forms part of the national waste management plan for the UK.</p> <p>The aim of the Waste Strategy for England is to break the link between economic growth and waste growth. Most products should be re-used or their materials recycled. Energy should be recovered from other wastes where possible. For a small amount of residual material, landfill will be necessary.</p> <p>The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West sets out how we can deliver the 'South West Vision for Waste: Minimum Waste, Maximum Benefit'. It aims to ensure that by the year 2020 over 45% of waste is recycled and reused and less than 20% of waste produced in the region will be landfilled.</p>
<p>Key Local Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOWARDS ZERO WASTE 2020; A Waste Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset 2005 – 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This strategy details the steps we need to take now and over the next 5 years to reduce the amount of waste that we produce, to recycle as much as possible and to develop new ways of treating the remaining waste to maximise its value and divert it from landfill.

3.10.3 Baseline review

What the Core Strategy SA baseline said:

B&NES is one of the top recycling authorities within the country, recycling 41% of household waste in 2009/10.

Every day B&NES sends 15 containers by road to Shortwood Landfill Site in South Gloucestershire and Dimmer Landfill Site in Somerset.

Waste infrastructure: 2 x waste transfer stations (Bath and Radstock), 9 x Recycling Collection Points, 3 x Recycling Centres (bulkier items), 1 x railhead, and 2 x refuse collection and cleansing depots

Recent changes and trends:

B&NES is 50th (up from 100th) of the 351 local authorities in the UK in terms of recycling.

Combined recycling and composting has continued to increase since 2005 from 31.67% to 42.59% in 2008/2009 to 52% in 2011/2012.

B&NES disposes of its residual waste at Shortwood Landfill Site in South Gloucestershire and Dimmer Landfill Site in Somerset. Waste is now also treated at the New Earth Solutions site at Avonmouth. This is a mechanical biological treatment plant (MBT).

Two residual waste facility sites have been allocated in the Waste Local Plan; the Former Fuller's Earth Works in Bath and Broadmead Lane in Keynsham.

3.10.4 Key issues

- The Regional Waste Strategy for the South West aims to ensure that by the year 2020 over 45% of waste is recycled and reused and less than 20% of waste produced in the region will be landfilled
- Combined recycling and composting has continued to increase since 2005 from 31.67% to 42.59% in 2008/2009 to 52% in 2011/2012.
- There is a need to reduce waste generation and to continue with increases in recycling and composting.
- B&NES disposes of its residual waste at Shortwood Landfill Site in South Gloucestershire and Dimmer Landfill Site in Somerset. Waste is now also treated at the New Earth Solutions site at Avonmouth. This is a mechanical biological treatment plant (MBT).
- Two residual waste facility sites have been allocated in the Waste Local Plan; the Former Fuller's Earth Works in Bath and Broadmead Lane in Keynsham.
- The plan should help to address waste issues through ensuring appropriate provision of waste management services, for example space for recycling and through encouraging good design that minimises waste.

4 Developing the SA Framework

4.1 Introduction

The SA framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The process of undertaking a SA involves the identification of sustainability objectives which are used to measure and monitor the success of the plan.

4.2 Development of the framework

The SA framework is based on that used for the Core Strategy SA but has been amended to ensure that it is relevant to the scope of the Placemaking Plan DPD. These are shown in Table 4.1. The framework is therefore broadly consistent with the core strategy, following a similar structure and bringing in key themes where appropriate.

Table 4.1: Placemaking Plan DPD SA Framework	
SA Objectives	Appraisal questions/prompts (Does the policy/option lead to...)
Objective 1: Improve the health and well-being of all communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of adequate supporting health services and improved access to healthcare including through sustainable transport means? • Make it easy to reach everyday destinations (e.g. schools, workplaces, homes, shops, community facilities) by “active” travel e.g. through high quality cycling and walking infrastructure? • Opportunities to engage in structured sport? • Opportunities to engage in play, leisure and informal recreation? • Support local sustainable food production, including the provision of allotments and community gardening? • Maintaining or increasing access to existing open space and in areas of deficiency, the provision of new open or natural space? • Inclusive design which supports social interaction for all ages, including the needs of those with sensory and mobility impairments?
Objective 2: Meet identified needs for sufficient, high quality and affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide viable and deliverable good quality housing and affordable housing to meet identified needs?
Objective 3: Promote stronger more vibrant and cohesive communities and reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate and accessible community social and cultural facilities? • Design out crime and promote a feeling of security through better design? • Promotion of public spaces that might support civic, cultural, recreational and community functions?

Table 4.1: Placemaking Plan DPD SA Framework	
SA Objectives	Appraisal questions/prompts (Does the policy/option lead to...)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the public realm which maximises opportunities for social interaction and connections within and between neighbourhoods?
Objective 4: Build a strong, competitive economy and enable local businesses to prosper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an adequate supply of land diverse range of employment opportunities to meet the requirements of growth sectors? • Correct imbalances between residential and employment development to help reduce travel distances to work
Objective 5: Ensure everyone has access to high quality and affordable public transport and promote cycling and walking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising access to good public transport and safe walking and cycling infrastructure (including segregated cycle lanes), over facilities for private cars? • Incorporation of electric vehicle charging points into new developments or ensuring they can be retrofitted?
Objective 6: Protect and enhance local distinctiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of areas of valued landscape and townscape? • Avoidance of harmful impacts of development on all landscapes including AONB landscape character and its statutory purpose? • Development which values and protects diversity and local distinctiveness including rural ways of life?
Objective 7: Protect and enhance the district's historic, environmental and cultural assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development that affects cultural and historic assets? • Well-designed development that is well related to the surrounding townscape? • Avoidance of potential impacts or loss of ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees
Objective 8: Encourage and protect habitats and biodiversity and geodiversity (taking account of climate change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of potential impacts of development on designated sites (international, national, local)?. • Avoidance of net loss, damage to, or fragmentation and positive enhancement of designated and undesignated wildlife sites protected species and priority species? • Conservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats? • Development which enhances the ecological services of the wider area? • Development which incorporates biodiversity into the design e.g. green corridors, linking open space etc?
Objective 9: Reduce land, water, air, light, noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise increase in traffic congestion?

Table 4.1: Placemaking Plan DPD SA Framework	
SA Objectives	Appraisal questions/prompts (Does the policy/option lead to...)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development that minimises exposure to poor air quality and noise pollution? • The remediation of contaminated sites? • Avoidance of location of potentially noisy activities in areas that are sensitive to noise, <u>including areas of tranquillity</u>? • Development where adequate water supply, foul drainage, sewage treatment facilities and surface water drainage is available?
Objective 10: Reduce vulnerability to, and manage flood risk (taking account of climate change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development which supports and corresponds with appropriate flood risk management guidance including applying a sequential approach and policies for any form of flooding including surface water flooding?
Objective 11 Increase resilience to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development designed to be resilient to future climate of increased extremes of heat, cold and rainfall in line with latest guidance, e.g. passive cooling measures such as deciduous trees and blue infrastructure to adapt to hotter summers?
Objective 12: Encourage careful and efficient use of natural resources including energy and encourage sustainable construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development on brownfield sites? • Development which incorporates SUDS? • Water efficient design and reduction in water consumption? • Development that demonstrates sustainable design and construction including efficient use of materials? • Utilisation of renewable energy opportunities, including low carbon community infrastructure such as district heating? • Development that maximises energy efficiency? • Protection of grades 1- 3a agricultural land from development?
Objective 13: Promote waste management accordance with the waste hierarchy (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision of waste management facilities and where possible include measure to help to reduce the amount of waste generated by development?

5 Next Steps

The next stage of the SA will be an assessment of the options papers and this will begin in late 2014. Once the options papers have been assessed the SA will assess pre-submission versions of each plan and at this stage a formal SA report will be produced.