Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy

Adoption Statement

July 2016

LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy

Adoption Statement

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Acronyms

DCLG   Department of Communities and Local Government

EC   European Commission

SA   Sustainability Appraisal

SoADC   Stratford-on-Avon District Council

SEA   Strategic Environmental Assessment

SUDS   Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

1   Introduction

1.1   Purpose of this Adoption Statement

1.1.1   This Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Adoption Statement has been prepared for the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (the Core Strategy) on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SoADC).

1.1.2   SA is required during the preparation of a Core Strategy. The local planning authority must carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals. This helps the authority to assess how the Core Strategy will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

1.1.3   According to European Directive 2001/42/EC, all plans, programmes and strategies with an impact on the environment require a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA). In order to follow UK best practice, the approach to the SA has integrated the requirements of the SEA Directive. The Core Strategy is a plan in this context.

1.1.4   An SEA involves the systematic identification and subsequent evaluation of the environmental impacts of strategic actions. An SA is an assessment considering the social, environmental and economic effects of implementing a plan or programme.

1.1.5   This SA Adoption Statement is the final stage of the integrated SA process for the Core Strategy.

1.2   Background to the Core Strategy

1.2.1   The Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy has been produced by Stratford-on-Avon District Council, in consultation with a range of stakeholders, as part of the planning strategy for the District, called the Development Plan. The Development Plan is the main consideration when guiding future development in the District.

1.2.2   The district of Stratford-on-Avon (**Figure 1.1**) covers an area of 979 square kilometres of rural south Warwickshire. Amongst the largest of England's lowland districts, it is one of the five Warwickshire districts and boroughs that lie within the West Midlands. The district's population of 120,485 is split between the main settlement of Stratford-upon-Avon (which has a population of 27,445), important rural centres of the district; such as Alcester, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam, and approximately 250 further communities of various sizes.

1.2.3   The Core Strategy will guide development in Stratford-on-Avon area up to 2031. It provides a spatial vision for the district and sets out a development strategy and planning policies, including allocation of strategic sites for housing and employment. The Core Strategy also aims to guide infrastructure and service provision and to help ensure economic and social prosperity, whilst protecting the built and natural environment.
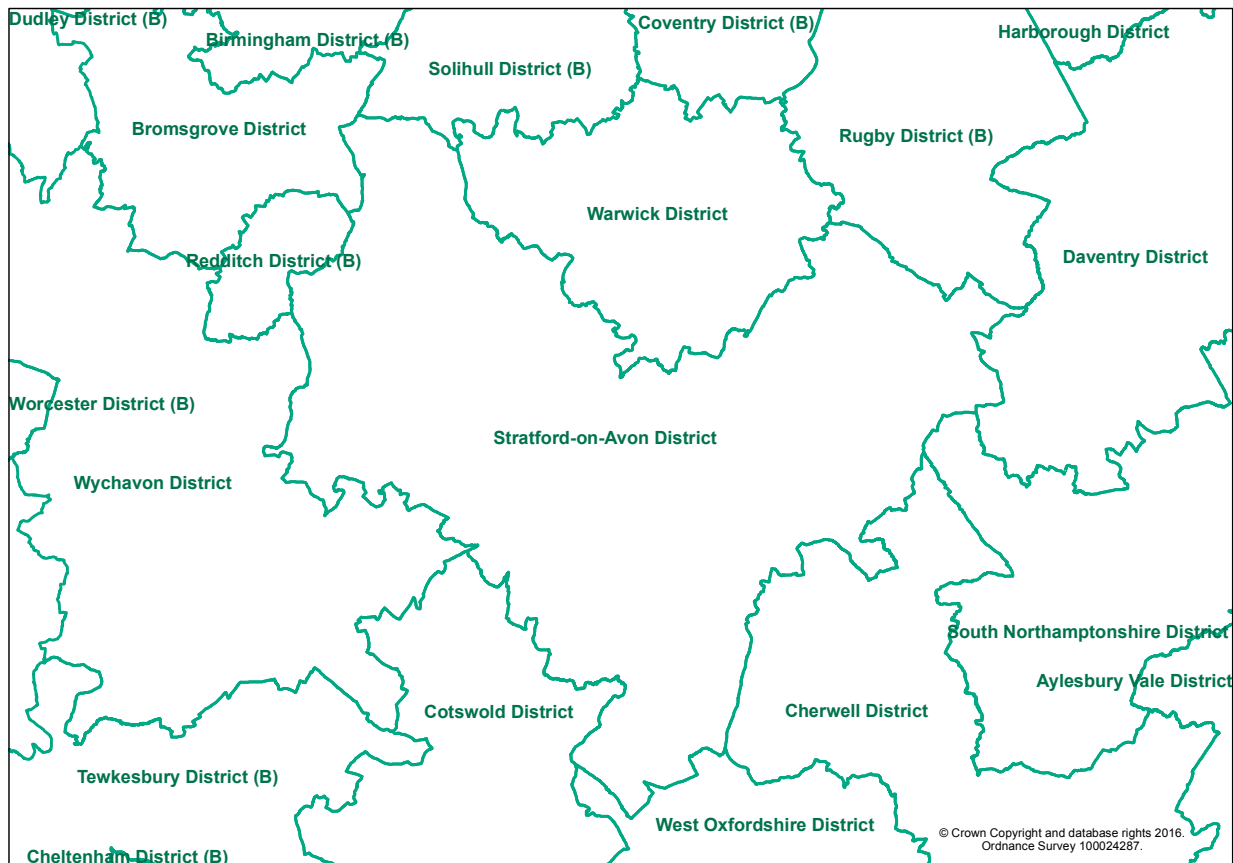
Figure 1.1: Stratford-on-Avon District boundary

1.3   Content of this SA Adoption Statement

1.3.1   SEA Regulations[1] 16.3c (iii) and 16.4 require that a 'statement' be made available to accompany the plan, as soon as possible after the adoption of the plan or programme (see **Appendix A**).

1.3.2   The SEA Regulations highlight that the statement should contain the following information:

- The reasons for choosing the preferred strategy for the Plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives assessed;
- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- How consultation responses have been taken into account; and
- Measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Plan.

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[1] The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (No.1633)

1.3.3   In this context, the purpose of the SA Adoption Statement is to outline how the SA process has influenced and informed the Core Strategy's development process and demonstrate how consultation on the SA has been taken into account.

1.3.4   **Chapter 2** of this SA Adoption Statement summarises how the SA has informed and influenced the Core Strategy, including in light of the other alternatives assessed.   **Chapter 3** highlights how sustainability considerations (including environmental considerations) have been integrated into the Core Strategy. **Chapter 4** discusses how consultation has been carried out and taken into account by the SA. The final chapter, **Chapter 5**, sets out the proposed monitoring regime for the SA, which it is proposed will be carried out alongside monitoring of the Plan.

2   How the SA has informed the Core Strategy

2.1   The SA Process and the Core Strategy

2.1.1   The main aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan making process to maximise the Core Strategy's sustainability value. In this context the SA process has fed into the Core Strategy through providing information at each stage of its development process.

2.1.2   **Table 2.1** highlights the main outputs of the SA process and their timing in relation to Core Strategy milestones. A more detailed description of how the respective stages of the Plan and SA have interlinked is presented in **Sections 2.2** to **2.17**. Details of consultation are presented in **Chapter 4**.

Table 2.1: Main outputs of the SA process

Type of document	Title	Date published	Summary description
SA output	Part 1 Options Assessment	Oct 2011	The Part 1 SA Housing Options Report assessed six Initial Housing Options (2008) and four subsequent housing options (2010).
SA Output	Part 2 Options Assessment	Nov 2011	Assessed three different housing quanta projections for the district.
SA Output	Part 3 Options Assessment	Jan 2012	The assessment presented in this Part 3 Housing Development Options SA report appraises the options for distributing the amount of housing development SoADC seek to provide for in their Core Strategy.
SA Output	SA of the Draft Core Strategy; Policy Options	Jan 2012	Assessed 29 policy options and 9 area policy profiles (these related closely to Stratford-upon-Avon and the Main Rural Settlements).
Core Strategy Consultation	Draft Core Strategy	Feb 2012	The District Council published a third full draft of the Core Strategy for consultation purposes from February to March 2012. This version superseded the previous drafts published in October 2008 and February 2010.
SA Output	Potential Development Options Report	Jan 2013	Some 84 potential broad locations were assessed. All of the potential broad locations are situated in and around Stratford-upon-Avon and the eight Main Rural Centres: Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Kineton, Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, Studley and Wellesbourne.
SA Output	SA of Potential Strategic Allocations	June 2013	Assessment of land at the following locations: Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath South East Stratford Long Marston Airfield Sutton Lane, Brailes East of Moreton-in-Marsh West of Alcester

			North of Wootton Wawen Long Marston Estate Southam Cement Works Harbury Estate South of Bidford-on-Avon
Core Strategy Consultation	Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy	**July 2013**	This draft version of the Core Strategy provided the strategic context for development decisions up to the year 2028. It set out a Development Strategy and planning policies, including the allocation of strategic sites for employment and housing, and to guide infrastructure and service provision.
Core Strategy Consultation	New Proposals Consultation	**Aug 2013**	Consultation on specific new proposals relating to regeneration of the 'Canal Quarter' along with new employment sites in Stratford-upon-Avon, and a new settlement at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath. These new proposals originated from the need to increase the District housing requirement for the period 2008 to 2028 from 8,000 homes to 9,500 homes.
SA Output	SA of the Stratford-on-Avon Alternative Strategic Options	**Jan 2014**	Assessment of land at the following locations: Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath South East Stratford Long Marston Airfield North of Southam West of Southam (Stoneythorpe)
Core Strategy Consultation	Housing Requirement and Strategic Sites Options Consultation	**Feb 2014**	New technical evidence required further important changes that affect how many and where new homes are built across the District. This consultation sought comments on the following aspects of the Core Strategy: • changes to the timeframe of the Core Strategy (see section 2) • the total number of new homes that need to be built (see section 3) • a range of alternative strategic options for meeting an increased housing requirement
SA Output	SA of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy	**May 2014**	Assessment of the June 2014 Proposed Submission Core Strategy. Includes a history of the evolution of the Core Strategy and SA process. This report is an Environmental Report following the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
Core Strategy Consultation	Proposed Submission Core Strategy	**June 2014**	Submission version of the SA.
SA Output	Addendum	**Sept 2014**	Assessment of minor modifications and Council's rationale behind reasonable alternatives selection and rejection.
Core Strategy Consultation	Proposed Submission Version: Schedule of Proposed Minor Modifications	**Sept 2014**	Published with modifications to the submission version of the SA.

Examination			
SA Output	Interim SA Report	**July 2015**	Assessment of various sites across the district.
Core Strategy Publication of certain policies	Proposed Modifications	**July 2015**	In June 2015 the Council published a Core Strategy Proposed Modifications document and adopted, on an interim basis, policies that are not subject to significant representations or unresolved concerns to inform decisions made under the development management process.
Core Strategy Consultation	Proposed Modifications	**August 2015**	Modifications to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
SA Report	SA of Core Strategy Proposed Modifications	**August 2015**	Assessment of Core Strategy with proposed modifications.
Core Strategy Consultation	Proposed Modifications	**March 2016**	Modifications to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
SA Output	Addendum	**March 2016**	SA of Main Modifications proposed following January 2016 examination hearings.
Inspector's report	Inspector's report	**June 2016**	Report concluding the examination of the Core Strategy, including modifications to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.
SA Output	Technical Note	**June 2016**	SA of updated proposed Main Modifications including Main Modifications to the proposed submission Core Strategy required for the plan to be sound.
SA Output	Addendum	**June 2016**	Amendments to August 2015 SA of Core Strategy with Proposed Modifications.

2.2   SA of Development Plan Documents: Scoping Report (March 2007)

2.2.1   The first phase of preparation for the SA was the scoping stage. This was carried out in-house by SoADC. Scoping is the process of deciding the scope and level of detail of a SA, including the sustainability effects and alternatives to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.

2.2.2   The purpose of the Scoping Report was to set the criteria for assessment (including the SA Objectives), and establish the baseline data and other information, including a review of relevant policies, programmes and plans. The scoping process involves an overview of key issues, highlighting areas of potential conflict.

2.2.3   The Scoping Report included information about:

- Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;
- Collecting baseline information;
- Identifying sustainability issues and problems; and
- Developing the SA Framework.

2.3 Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal (2008)

2.3.1 This document presented an SA of the first draft of the Core Strategy. This was carried out in-house by SoADC; all following work on the SA was carried out by UE Associates (the former name of Lepus Consulting) or Lepus Consulting.

2.4 SA Scoping Report Update (May 2011)

2.4.1 This Report provided an update to the 2007 Scoping report, providing updated baseline information, any new or altered plans, policies and programmes and key sustainability issues in the district. This report updated the SA Framework and methodology to be used in future assessments of the Core Strategy. The SA Framework is the key instrument for preparing the assessment of the Core Strategy. A summary of the updated SA Framework is presented in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2: SA Framework

SA Objective		Sustainability theme
1	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	Historic environment
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	Landscape and townscape
3	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Biodiversity and geodiversity
4	Reduce the risk of flooding.	Climate change, water and flooding
5	Minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	Climate change mitigation
6	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Climate change adaptation
7	Protect and conserve natural resources.	Natural resources, material assets, water and soil
8	Reduce air, soil and water pollution.	Air, water and soil pollution
9	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle/compost, energy recovery and disposal.	Material assets and waste
10	Improve the efficiency of transport networks by increasing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel.	Accessibility and transportation
11	Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas.	Quality of life, population
12	Protect the integrity of the district's countryside.	Landscape and natural resources
13	Provide environmentally sound and good quality	Housing

	affordable housing for all.	
14	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing.	Health
15	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.	Economic factors

2.5 Options Report Part 1 (August 2011), Part 2 (November 2011) and Part 3 (January 2012)

2.5.1 These reports assessed a set of initial and further reasonable alternatives that were considered by SoADC. The Part 1 report assessed six alternatives related to broad distributional patterns of development. The Part 2 report assessed three reasonable alternatives for housing quanta to be met by the Core Strategy. The Part 3 report assessed further options for distributing the quanta of housing development across the district. This assessment considered the sustainability impacts of allocating various percentages of future housing provision between the following:

- Stratford-upon-Avon;
- Main Rural Centres;
- Villages; and
- Rural Brownfield Sites.

2.6 Policy Options Appraisal (January 2012)

2.6.1 This report recorded the assessment of 29 policy options and 9 area policy profiles. The policy options considered various development management options for the district as a whole, whereas the area policy profiles set out development management and design considerations for individual settlements in Stratford-on-Avon District.

2.7 Potential Development Options Report (January 2013)

2.7.1 This report assessed the potential development options for Stratford-upon-Avon and the Main Rural Centres, as set out in the February 2012 Draft Core Strategy. The potential development options consisted of broad sites for development, without specific red lines. Sites were considered in and around the following settlements:

- Stratford-upon-Avon;
- Alcester;
- Bidford-on-Avon;
- Henley-in-Arden;
- Kineton;
- Shipston-on-Stour;
- Southam;
- Studley; and
- Wellesbourne.

2.8 Sustainability Appraisal of Potential Strategic Allocations (June 2013)

2.8.1 This document recorded appraisals of 14 strategic sites identified by the Council. Some of these sites were adjacent to each other and were considered by the Council as one, larger site, resulting in 11 sites, all of which were subject to SA.

2.9 Sustainability Appraisal of Stratford-on-Avon District Council Core Strategy Policies (June 2013)

2.9.1 This document recorded the SA assessment of draft policies for the Core Strategy, as prepared by the Council in June 2013. These policies represented a 'direction of travel' rather than the final content of the Core Strategy. These policies included district-wide development management policies and development strategies for particular areas and settlements within Stratford-on-Avon District.

2.10 Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Alternative Strategic Options (January 2014)

2.10.1 This report was prepared to support the consultation of Core Strategy options undertaken by SoADC in January 2014. This consultation regarded a change to the timeframe of the Core Strategy and an increase in housing numbers. This report also considered five reasonable alternatives for a strategic site allocation to meet the additional housing need identified. All of these options related to a specific site, with the exception of an option for meeting housing need through further dispersal around existing settlements.

2.11 Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (May 2014)

2.11.1 This document presented a SA Report of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy in its entirety and met the full requirements of the SEA Directive. This report was submitted to the Secretary of State as part of the evidence to accompany the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

2.12 Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (September 2014)

2.12.1 This addendum was produced to address consultation comments made in response to the SA of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (May 2014). This report set out why preferred options were taken forward and why alternative options were rejected. This report screened further changes to the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and assessed a new proposed policy relating to accommodating housing need arising from outside the district. This addendum was submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the May 2014 SA Report as part of the evidence to accompany the Proposed Submission Core Strategy.

2.13   Interim SA Report (July 2015)

2.13.1   This report was produced in response to the Inspector's interim conclusions (March 2015) and verbal communications during the January 2015 examination hearings. This assessed a range of alternatives for sites, some of which were assessed in previous SA work. This included assessments of (i) the revised housing figure, (ii) strategic development sites for Stratford-upon-Avon and the Main Rural Centres (MRCs) and (iii) strategic development sites around Stratford and MRCs. This report also assessed implications of proposed modifications to the Core Strategy. This iteration of the SA considered all information from promoters in the assessment of each.

2.14   SA of Core Strategy Proposed Modifications (August 2015)

2.14.1   This report presented a full SA of the Core Strategy including all modifications proposed since submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State. The Interim SA Report (July 2015) was published as an appendix to this report. This SA Report was submitted to the Inspector as part of the evidence base to inform the resumed examination hearings into the Core Strategy.

2.15   Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (March 2016)

2.15.1   Both before and after the January 2016 examination hearings, Stratford-on-Avon District Council put forward a number of proposed modifications to the Core Strategy. The purpose of this addendum was to screen each of these modifications and consider whether any further sustainability issues were likely to arise from them. This addendum concluded that the extent of changes was small and modifications were assessed as performing either well or neutrally in terms of sustainability performance.

2.16   Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (June 2016)

2.16.1   This addendum documented changes to the SA of Core Strategy Proposed Modifications (August 2015) as a result of responses to SoADC's consultation on proposed modifications and the Inspector's report (June 2016).

2.17   Sustainability Appraisal Technical Note (June 2016)

2.17.1   This technical note reviewed the latest set of proposed modifications to the Submission Core Strategy. Main modifications that differed from those previously assessed were screened to determine whether they would affect the sustainability implications of the Core Strategy. This technical note concluded that new or amended modifications to the Core Strategy would not have any sustainability implications.

2.18 Accessing the documents linked to the Plan and SA process

2.18.1 All documents and background information associated with the Core Strategy, including those linked to the SA process, can be accessed on the Stratford-on-Avon District Council website at: www.stratford.gov.uk/planning/core-strategy-examination-2.cfm.

3   Integrating findings from the SA process into the Plan

3.1   Sustainability considerations and the Plan

3.1.1   As discussed in **Chapter 2**, the SA process has informed and influenced the Core Strategy throughout its preparation process. The SA has highlighted at different stages the sustainability issues that had the potential to arise as a result of the implementation of earlier and later versions of the Core Strategy's policies and proposals.

3.1.2   The Core Strategy has addressed these potential sustainability issues by taking into account the findings of the SA process. In this context most minor impacts relating to specific policies or groups of policies and proposals have been addressed by other components of the Core Strategy.

3.1.3   Besides the various SA Reports that were prepared as part of the SA process, the SA team attended regular project meetings with the Plan making team. This served to keep abreast of proposals and provide direct input to the plan making process.

3.2   How did the Core Strategy incorporate SA findings?

3.2.1   Earlier SA reports identified a number of potential negative effects that may have arisen from the Core Strategy. Examples of how the sustainability implications of the Core Strategy have improved in response to the SA include:

- Greater emphasis on avoiding development at risk of flooding and implementing measures to reduce flood risk, such as sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS);
- Promoting protection and enhancement of green infrastructure;
- Greater emphasis on promoting sustainable transport, particularly with regards to site allocations; and
- Giving non-designated heritage assets protection as well as designated heritage assets.

3.2.2   Arguably the most influential role of the SA was in helping SoADC to select a preferred approach from a range of reasonable alternatives. Where uncertain or negative effects were identified against the preferred approach, SoADC addressed these issues in the policy wording, where appropriate. Chapter 7 of the August 2015 SA Report details the reasons why the preferred approach was selected and why those options that were rejected were not taken forward.

3.3   Recommendations

3.3.1   The SA suggested measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects of implementing the Core Strategy. These measures were collectively referred to as 'mitigation measures'. The most up to date set of recommended mitigation measures can be found in Appendix C of the August 2015 SA Report. Chapter 8 of the August 2015 SA Report gives a series of recommendations to further enhance the sustainability credentials of the Core Strategy.

3.3.2   The August 2015 SA identified the following residual potential adverse effects:

- **SA Objective 1: Cultural Heritage** Development sites may lead to loss of heritage assets, such as ridge and furrow, and may negatively impact the setting of nearby historic assets.
- **SA Objective 2: Landscape** Some development sites are located in areas of medium to high landscape sensitivity.
- **SA Objective 3: Biodiversity** Development may lead to habitat loss and fragmentation.
- **SA Objective 7: Natural Resources** Effects of development in minerals safeguarding areas remains uncertain, as it is not known whether minerals will be worked prior to construction.
- **SA Objective 12: Countryside** Development may lead to loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

3.3.3   The SA recommended that these potential adverse effects should be monitored since the potential effects depend on implementation issues such as design and layout; or an uncertainty in how a policy could be interpreted.

3.3.4   The SA guidance suggests that SA monitoring and reporting activities can be integrated into the regular planning cycle. As part of the monitoring process, SoADC will be required to prepare annual Authority Monitoring Reports. It is anticipated that elements of the SA monitoring programme for the Core Strategy could be incorporated into these processes.

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4   Consultation stages

4.1   Consultation on the SA

4.1.1   The SEA Directive requires consultation responses to be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption or submission to a legislative procedure.

4.1.2   Consultation has been an integral part of the SA. In addition to enabling the opinions of the statutory environmental bodies and other stakeholders to be taken into account, it has provided an opportunity for the public to be informed as to how decisions are made.

4.2   Consultation on the Scoping Report

4.2.1   The first stage of the SA process was the preparation of a Scoping Report. The Core Strategy SA Scoping Report was produced in-house by SoADC. This was subject to a five-week consultation with the public and statutory consultees. An updated Scoping Report was published by UE Associates in May 2011. This was published for consultation from 20th May 2011 until 24th June 2011.

4.3   Consultation during subsequent stages of the SA

4.3.1   There were a number of SA outputs linked to the SA process following the Scoping Report. These included SAs of Options for housing quanta, distribution of development, broad locations for development, development sites and policy options (see **Table 2.1**).

4.3.2   Consultation was carried out by SoADC alongside each Core Strategy consultation (see **Table 2.1**) for a period of six weeks. Comments were managed by SoADC and distributed to the SA team as necessary.

5 Monitoring the effects of the Plan

5.1 Monitoring proposals

5.1.1 The SEA Directive states that 'member states shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes...in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action' (Article 10.1). In addition, the Environmental Report (or SA Report) should provide information on a 'description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring' (Annex I (i)).

5.1.2 The monitoring requirements typically associated with the SA process are recognised as placing heavy demands on authorities with SA responsibilities. For this reason, the proposed monitoring framework should focus on those aspects of the environment that are likely to be negatively impacted upon, where the impact is uncertain or where particular opportunities for improvement might arise.

5.1.3 The SA process has identified some areas that would benefit from being monitored due to their residual uncertain effects. The areas specified for monitoring include:

- Levels of public transport patronage;
- Loss of ridge and furrow and quality of ridge and furrow in the area;
- Further archaeological detection prior to development;
- The farming needs of the area;
- The effect on farming production;
- The effect on biodiversity;
- The effect on sensitive landscapes; and
- The supply and demand for raw cement, building stone, sand and gravel.

5.1.4 Monitoring is particularly useful in answering the following questions:

- Were the assessment's predictions of sustainability effects accurate?
- Is the Development Plan contributing to the achievement of desired sustainability objectives?
- Are mitigation measures performing as well as expected?
- Are there any unforeseen adverse effects? Are these within acceptable limits, or is remedial action required?

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5.1.5   The purpose of monitoring is to measure the environmental effects of a plan, as well as to measure success against the Core Strategy's objectives. It is beneficial if the monitoring strategy builds on monitoring systems which are already in place. It should also be noted that monitoring could provide useful information for future plans and programmes.

5.1.6   **Table 5.1** details the measures envisaged in monitoring the sustainability implications of the Core Strategy. This is largely drawn from Chapter 9 of the August 2015 SA Report.

Table 5.1: Discussion of effects to be monitored

Potential adverse effect, or area to be monitored	Indicator	Frequency of monitoring and scale	Trigger
Increased use of private cars for transportation	Traffic flows on key routes	Annually, key routes.	Traffic flows increase year on year.
Lack of use of sustainable transport	Proportion of the population using public transport or travelling by foot / bike	Annually, key routes.	Sustainable transport use decreases year on year
Needs of those living in rural areas are not met locally	Accessibility and capacity of nearest necessary services and amenities	Annually, all rural settlements	No increase in accessibility and facilities are at capacity due to additional residents
Decrease air quality due to increases in traffic	Levels of air pollution	Annually, district-wide but focus on Studley and A435	Air pollution increases year on year
Degradation and reduction of areas of priority habitat	Area and quality of BAP priority habitat	Annually, local to BAP priority habitats	Area and quality of priority habitat decreases year on year
Decline in biodiversity, particularly as a result of the South Western Relief Road	Species richness in green areas	Annually, local to BAP priority habitats	Decrease in species richness year-on-year
	Condition of the Racecourse Meadow SSSI	Annually, local to Racecourse Meadow SSSI	Decrease in condition year-on-year
Stratford-on-Avon's increasing contribution to climate change.	Carbon footprint of the District: carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide emissions	Annually, borough wide.	When emissions increase year on year.
Lack of economic growth in the Vale of Evesham Control Zone	Number of jobs (vacant and occupied) and businesses in the Vale of Evesham Control Zone	Annually, local to Vale of Evesham Control Zone	Number of jobs and businesses decrease year-on-year
Health services inaccessible to some residents	Accessibility and capacity of nearest doctors surgery	Annually, district-wide	No increase in accessibility and facilities are at capacity due to additional residents

Potential adverse effect, or area to be monitored	Indicator	Frequency of monitoring and scale	Trigger
Loss of historical and archaeological assets	Number of developments on sites with historic features (e.g. ridge and furrow) or historic finds (e.g. Roman coins)	Annually, local to areas with known archaeological and historical assets	Increasing number of developments on sites with historic features and finds
Degradation in best and most sensitive landscape areas	Amount of new development within close proximity to best and most sensitive landscape areas and number of important landscape features lost	Annually, district-wide	Increasing development in close proximity to best and most sensitive landscape areas and loss of important landscape features
Loss of greenbelt land	Amount of new development on designated greenbelt land	Annually, local to areas in and surrounding greenbelt land	Increasing amount of development on greenbelt land
Loss of Grade 3a and above agricultural land	Amount of new development on Grade 3a or above agricultural land	Annually, local to areas of Grade 3a or above agricultural land	Increasing amount of development on Grade 3a or above agricultural land
Loss of important mineral resources and access to these	Availability of mineral resources	Annually, district-wide	Availability of mineral resources is lower than demand
Decreasing integrity of the countryside, including its soils	Quality and connectivity of countryside	Annually, district-wide	Decreasing quality and connectivity of countryside

5.2   Links with the Annual Monitoring Report

5.2.1   The SA guidance suggests that SA monitoring and reporting activities can be integrated into the regular forward planning cycle. As part of the monitoring process for the Core Strategy, SoADC will be required to prepare monitoring reports on an annual basis. It is anticipated that elements of the SA monitoring programme for the Management Plan could be incorporated into these processes.

5.2.2   The monitoring of individual schemes/proposals should also be addressed at project level.

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Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 1633

Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, Statutory Instruments 2004 No. 2204

APPENDIX A

SEA Post Adoption Procedures

2004 No. 1633

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

PART 4

POST-ADOPTION PROCEDURES

Information as to adoption of plan or programme

16. (1) As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall—

    (a) make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge; and

    (b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring to the attention of the public—

        (i) the title of the plan or programme;

        (ii) the date on which it was adopted;

        (iii) the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of it and of its accompanying environmental report, and of a statement containing the particulars specified in paragraph (4), may be viewed or from which a copy may be obtained;

        (iv) the times at which inspection may be made; and

        (v) that inspection may be made free of charge.

    (2) As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme—

    (a) the responsible authority shall inform—

        (i) the consultation bodies;

        (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and

        (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State; and

    (b) the Secretary of State shall inform the Member State with which consultations in relation to the plan or programme have taken place under regulation 14(4),

of the matters referred to in paragraph (3).

    (3) The matters are—

    (a) that the plan or programme has been adopted;

    (b) the date on which it was adopted; and

    (c) the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of—

        (i) the plan or programme, as adopted,

(ii) its accompanying environmental report, and

(iii) a statement containing the particulars specified in paragraph (4),

may be viewed, or from which a copy may be obtained.

(4) The particulars referred to in paragraphs (1)(b)(iii) and (3)(c)(iii) are —

(a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme;

(b) how the environmental report has been taken into account;

(c) how opinions expressed in response to—

(i) the invitation referred to in regulation 13(2)(d);

(ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4),

have been taken into account;

(d) how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account;

(e) the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and

(f) the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

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