Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy

Policy Options Appraisal

January 2012

Prepared by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council

LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY, PLANNING AND URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy Policy Options

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Cover page picture: view along Bidford-on-Avon High Street, (Source Neil Davidson)

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Abbreviations

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
CLG	(Department of) Communities and Local Government
CO_2	Carbon dioxide
DPD	Development Plan Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SDC	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SOx	Sulphur Oxide
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
WCC	Warwickshire County Council

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Executive Summary

E1 Introduction

E1.1 Lepus Consulting is preparing a sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC). This report documents the appraisal of the Core Strategy's Policy Options.

E1.2 This appraisal has been conducted in order to assess the sustainability performance of the Consultation Core Strategy 2012. The Core Strategy contains 29 policy options and 9 policy profiles. Each Core Strategy policy corresponds to one of the following sections;

- Section 5: Sustainability Framework;
- Section 6: Resources;
- Section 7: District Designations;
- Section 8 District Assets;
- Section 9: Spatial Strategy;
- Section 10: Area Policy Profiles; and
- Section 11: Infrastructure.

E1.3 Each policy option and policy profile has been assessed against the SA Framework. The appraisal findings are presented in matrix format (see **Chapter 3**). The assessment matrix uses a traffic light colour code system to illustrate the sustainability performance of each policy in terms of likely effect. A commentary accompanies the assessment matrix. This offers a rationale and transparent interpretation of each policy and its likely sustainability performance in relation to the SA objectives.

E2 Findings

E2.1 The assessment shows the majority of the Core Strategy policy options positively support the aspirations of the SA objectives. There is uncertainty as to the effects of some policies in relation to SA objectives, notable Objective 5 (climate change).

E2.2 The appraisal found that the following policy options were likely to lead to negative effects:

- CS 16 Spatial Distribution of Development;
- CS 22 Economic Development; and
- CS 25 Countryside and Villages.

E2.3 The following recommendations can be made with regards to the next stage of plan making:

1. Stratford-on-Avon District Council should seek to overcome those policies which have been identified to cause adverse effects within the district.

2.   Stratford-on-Avon District Council should seek to clarify those policy options where the SA process has not been able to accurately appraise the potential effects.

1   Introduction

1.1   Background

1.1.1   Lepus Consulting is conducting the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process for the Stratford-upon-Avon District Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy (referred to as the Core Strategy throughout this document) on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC). SA is the process of informing and influencing the development of the Core Strategy to maximise the sustainability value of the document. In this context this report should be considered through the on-going evolution of the Core Strategy.

1.2   The SA Process

1.2.1   The SA process is iterative. Best practice (PAS, 2008) shows that it is most effective as it tracks the different stages of the development plan document (DPD) plan making process. To date, the process has scoped the methodology and prepared appraisals of different housing numbers, and their strategic distribution, across the district.

1.2.2   The Scoping Report establishes the assessment methodology for the SA process. It also provides baseline sustainability information about the district identifies key issues and presents a review of relevant plans, policies and programmes. During May 2011, the Scoping Report was issued to the consultation authorities: English Heritage, Environment Agency and Natural England. Subsequent to the receipt and consideration of responses received, the Scoping Report was updated to take into account the comments and to reflect new information that has recently become available. A summary of scoping responses was provided to SDC at the SA project meeting of 1st July 2011.

1.2.3   The preparation of an options report is an integral part of the DPD creation process. Options are an important phase of plan making. They provide alternative ways in which the plan can take shape. The exploration of options is a helpful means of shaping and influencing the final format of the DPD. The SA process provides a basis for appraising the effects of each option. It is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) that reasonable alternatives are assessed during the preparation of a plan or programme; the SEA Directive requires that 'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated' and 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with' (Article 5.1 and Annex I (h)) is given.

1.2.4   This Policy Options SA Report follows a series of assessments that have appraised housing numbers proposed in the district. See **section 1.5** for more details.

1.3 What is the Stratford-upon-Avon District Core Strategy?

1.3.1 The Core Strategy is the key document within the Stratford-on-Avon District LDF. The Core Strategy is the first and most important document in the LDF. It will set out the long-term spatial vision and strategy for Stratford-on-Avon district and identify which broad areas are suitable for housing, employment and other strategic development needs.

1.4 About Stratford-on-Avon

1.4.1 The district of Stratford-on-Avon 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 which lie within the West Midlands. The district's population of 118,900 is split between the main settlement of Stratford-upon-Avon (which has a population of 26,150), important rural centres of the district such as Alcester, Shipston-on-Stour and Southam, and approximately 250 further communities of various sizes.

1.4.2 The district enjoys a distinctive settlement hierarchy from Stratford-upon-Avon to the market towns and beyond into the many picturesque villages and hamlets. It also has a strong rural character which is reflected by vernacular building styles and clearly demarcated field patterns. The Landscape includes features such as ridge and furrow, old and young hedgerows and undulating landscapes with relief features gently carved by the various water courses, which flow across the area. Much of the north of the district lies within the West Midland Green Belt, and the Cotswolds AONB extends into the southern fringes of the district. Central to its distinctive character, Stratford-on-Avon has a rich historic environment and cultural heritage resource, reflected by the 76 conservation areas, 3,332 listed buildings and 84 scheduled monuments located in the district. The historic and cultural legacies of the district's past, combined with the attractive rural landscapes are important economic drivers, to tourism and the visitor economy.

1.4.3 The character and natural environment of Stratford-on-Avon is distinguished by the many rivers and canals which flow through the district. These include the Rivers Avon and its tributaries, the Alne, Arrow, Dene, Itchen and Stour, as well as the Grand Union, Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon canals. The River Avon and its tributaries present a significant challenge in flood management terms, as highlighted by the floods of July 2007.

1.4.4 The district has a rich biodiversity resource, reflected by various statutory and non-statutory nature conservation designations, including 39 SSSIs. The various biodiversity assets in the district are also recognised and prioritised by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007), which includes 26 species action plans and 24 habitat action plans.

1.4.5 Residents of Stratford-on-Avon generally have favourable levels of health, are highly skilled and enjoy a good quality of life. This however masks a number of socio-economic challenges for the district, including an ageing population, issues surrounding the affordability of housing, significant out-commuting for employment purposes and difficulties surrounding access and service provision in rural areas.

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1.5 The Options Process: Identification, Sequencing and Iteration

1.5.1 The plan making process is presently at a stage of exploring policy options. Previously, the Council have explored strategic options relating to housing numbers and distribution. All strategic options have been assessed by the SA process and are documented in three parts:

- Part 1 : Appraisal of the 2008 and 2010 options;
- Part 2: Appraisal of the GL Hearn Review findings; and
- Part 3: Appraisal of revised strategic options and distribution alternatives.

1.5.2 The Council has selected a housing figure of 8,000 dwellings for the district during the plan period 2008-2028. Cabinet has taken the decision to depart from the GL Hearn recommendation of 11,000 - 12,000 dwellings based on the following rationale:

- Aim for lower net in-migration;
- Lack of certainty in GL Hearn based forecasting;
- GL Hearn has not assessed the contribution of tourism to the local economy where visitors, not residents are the economic driver;
- Preserve the special nature of the district;
- Duty to protect our countryside for future generations;
- No need for mass building in Stratford-upon-Avon; and
- Emerging District Council Policy position.

1.5.3 A number of policy preferences were also recommended by the Cabinet on 5th September 2011, which can be listed as follows:

- New housing to be dispersed across the district;
- Strong growth of affordable family homes;
- Encourage building to cover the deficit of three bedroom housing;
- Preserve the character of settlements;
- Provide for extra care accommodation ;
- Maximum estate size of 100 homes, but aim for small developments, especially in rural settlements;
- Re-use brown field sites, in preference to new green field sites; and
- Review policy of redundant rural buildings.

1.6 The Core Strategy Policy Options and Policy Profiles

1.6.1 **Table 1.1** presents the full suite of 29 policy options and 9 policy profiles. These have been derived from the Core Strategy.

Table 1.1: Core Strategy Policy Options and Policy Profiles

Core Strategy Policy Options
Section 5: Sustainability Framework
CS. 1: Sustainable Development
Section 6: Resources
CS 2: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
CS 3: Safeguarding the Water Environment
CS 4: Managing Waste
CS 5: Minerals
Section 7: District Designations
CS 6: Green Belt
CS 7: Areas of Restraint
CS 8: Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CS 9: Vale of Evesham Control Zone
Section 8: District Assets
CS 10: Landscape
CS 11: Natural Features
CS 12: Heritage Assets
CS 13: Green Infrastructure
CS 14: Earlswood Lakes Country Parks
CS 15: Design and Distinctiveness
Section 9: Spatial Strategy
CS 16: Distribution of Development
CS 17: Affordable Housing
CS 18: Protection of Housing Stock
CS 19: Specialised Accommodation
CS 20: Housing Mix and Type
CS 21: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers, and Travelling Show People
CS 22: Economic Development
CS 23: Retail Development and Town and Local Centres
CS 24: Tourism Development
Section 10: Area Policy Profiles
10.1: Stratford-upon-Avon
10.2: Alcester
10.3: Bidford-on-Avon
10.4: Henley-in-Arden
10.5: Kineton
10.6: Shipston-on-Stour
10.7: Southam
10.8: Studley
10.9: Wellesbourne
CS 25: Countryside and Villages
CS 26: Large Rural Brownfield Sites
Section 11: Infrastructure
CS 27: Community Facilities and Open Space
CS 28: Transport and Communication
CS 29: Infrastructure for Growth - Developer Contributions

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2 Methodology

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1   This chapter sets out the appraisal methodology used to assess the Policy Options for the Stratford-on-Avon Draft Core Strategy 2012. The chapter also discusses how the findings of the appraisal have been presented in

2.2. Assessment of the Policy Options for the Core Strategy 2012

2.1.2   There are 29 Core Strategy Policy Options and 9 Area Policy Profiles contained in the Core Strategy. All have been assessed for their sustainability performance. The assessment of the Policy Options has engaged a strategic level assessment technique using the SA Framework (see **Table 2.1** and **Appendix A**), the SA evidence baseline (Scoping Report, 2011) and a review of plans, programmes and policies to assess each policy option. The findings of the appraisal are presented in a matrix format that illustrates the relative sustainability performance of each option against the SA objectives. A traffic light code system indicates whether the effects of each policy or profile are likely to be positive, negative or neutral (see **Table 3.1**).

2.1.3   The assessment matrix is accompanied by a commentary relating to each Policy Option and Policy Profile. The commentary offers an interpretation of the assessment findings and, where relevant, includes recommendations to enhance the sustainability performance of each option.

2.1.4   The following objectives have been used to appraise the Core Strategy.

Table 2.1: SA Framework

	SA Objective	Relevance to 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, historic environment.
3	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Biodiversity and geodiversity.
4	Reduce the risk of flooding.	Water, climate change.
5	Minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	Climate change.
6	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Climate change, water.
7	Protect and conserve natural resources.	Material assets, soil, water.

	SA Objective	Relevance to sustainability theme
8	Reduce air, soil and water pollution.	Air, soil, water.
9	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and achieve the sustainable management of waste.	Material assets.
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 transport, population and quality of life.
11	Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas.	Accessibility and transport, population and quality of life.
12	Protect the integrity of the district's countryside.	Population and quality of life, landscape, historic environment, soil, economic factors.
13	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	Housing, population and quality of life.
14	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and well being.	Population and quality of life
15	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.	Economic factors

3   Appraisal Findings

3.1   Introduction

3.1.1   **Table 3.1** presents the appraisal matrix summarising the assessment carried out for the Policy Options and Policy Profiles. An explanation of the table's assessment findings is presented in subsequent sections. Each Policy Option and Policy Profile is cited with its own extract from **Table 3.1** and a commentary discussing the relative sustainability performance of each policy in relation to the fifteen SA Objectives.

3.1.2   The purpose of **Table 3.1** is to provide a strategic perspective on the sustainability performance of each of the proposals conveyed in the Core Strategy Policy Options and Policy Profiles. Strategic Environmental Assessment is characterised by high level assessment of this nature. In presenting the analysis of policy options in the context of the fifteen SA objectives, the matrix provides a rapid snapshot of appraisal findings. It is important to read the associated text in the sub-sequent sections of this chapter to understand why the policies have been assessed in the way they have.

3.1.3   The following sections, which provide commentary on the options, have been arranged to reflect the structure of the Core Strategy:

- Section 5: Sustainability Framework
- Section 6: Resources
- Section 7: District Designations
- Section 8: Assets
- Section 9: Spatial Strategy
- Section 10: Area Policy Profiles
- Section 11: Infrastructure.

Table 3.1: High Level Appraisal Matrix

Core Strategy Policies	SA Objectives														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Section 5: Sustainability Framework															
CS 1: Sustainable Development	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	++
Section 6: Resources															
CS 2: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy	0	0	+/-	+	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	+/-	++	0	+
CS 3: Safeguarding Water Environment	0	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
CS 4: Managing Waste	+	+	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
CS 5: Minerals	+	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
Section 7: District Designations															
CS 6: Green Belt	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
CS 7: Areas of Restraint	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
CS 8: Cotswolds AONB	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
CS 9: Vale of Evesham Control Zone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+/-
Section 8: Assets															
CS 10: Landscape	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
CS 11: Natural Features	+	+	++	0	0	+/-	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
CS 12: Heritage Assets	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
CS 13: Green Infrastructure	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	+	+	+
CS 14: Earlswood Lakes Country Park	+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
CS 15: Design and Distinctiveness	+	++	+	+	+	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	++	+	0
Section 9: Spatial Strategy															

CS 16: Spatial Distribution of Development	0	+/-	+/-	0	-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	+	0	0
CS 17: Affordable Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	++	0	0
CS 18: Protection & Adaptation of the Existing Housing	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0
CS 19: Specialised Accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
CS 20: Housing Mix and Type	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
CS 21: Provision for Gypsies, Travellers etc	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
CS 22: Economic Development	0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	-	0	0	++
CS 23: Retail Development - Town and Local Centres	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	+	0	+	+
CS 24: Tourism Development	+	+	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	+	0	+/-	+	+/-	0	+	+
Section 10: Area Policy Profiles															
CS 25: Countryside and Villages	+	+	+/-	0	0	0	+	+/-	0	-	++	+/-	+	+	+
CS 26: Large Rural Brownfield Sites	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+
APP: Stratford-upon-Avon	+	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Alcester	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Bidford-on-Avon	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Henley-in-Arden	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Kineton	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Shipston-on-Stour	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Southam	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Studley	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+

APP: Wellesbourne	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
Section 11: Infrastructure															
CS 27: Community Facilities	0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	++	0	+/-	0	++	0
CS 28: Transport and Communication	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	++	+	+/-	0	+	+
CS 29: Infrastructure for Growth – Dev. Contributions	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+

Key to Table 3.1

++	Likely strong positive effect
+	Likely positive effect
0	Neutral/no effect
-	Likely adverse effect
--	Likely strong adverse effect
+/-	Uncertain effects

3.2 Sustainability Framework

Policy Option CS 1: Sustainable Development

3.2.1 This policy seeks to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are reflected in development within Stratford-on-Avon and contribute to the enhancement and maintenance of the district's sustainability performance. The policy contains eleven core principles which encompass a range of economic, social, and environmental aspects to which future development must conform and reflect.

3.2.2 The high level assessment of the Sustainable Development Policy clearly shows a strong positive relationship towards the SA objectives. The policy's principles support all of the SA objectives. Many of the policy's eleven core principles support multiple SA objectives, reflecting the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	+	++	++	++	++
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.2.3 All but SA objectives 8 and 11 have a strong positive relationship towards the SA objectives. Objectives eight and eleven are positively supported, but this support is gained through reflecting other SA objectives. This policy could include reference to reducing barriers to rural areas through improving transport networks and connections to local services. The policy could also include wording that makes direct reference to objective 8 rather than relying on an indirect positive relationship against the SA objective.

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3.2.4   Overall sustainable development is a positive policy which has strong environmental, economic, and social sustainability focuses.

3.3   Resources

Policy Option CS 2: Climate Change and Sustainable Development

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	+/-	+	++	++	++	+	0	0	0	+/-	++	0	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.3.1   This policy sets out the strategic direction for guiding development in relation to climate change and energy needs. The policy is presented in five sections:

> A. Climate Change
> B. Sustainable Buildings and Carbon Reductions Targets
> C. Renewable energy Generation
> D. Biomass Energy Development
> E. Wind Energy Development

3.3.2   The assessment shows that this policy reflects positively against the SA objectives with the majority being assessed as having a positive or neutral effect.

3.3.3   Objectives 5 and 6 directly relate to climate change adaptation and mitigation. The policy includes strong reference to climate change adaptation in terms of design, layout and construction materials and effectively integrates reducing flood risk. Climate change mitigation is prominent within the policy which includes reducing carbon emissions through reducing energy consumption and promoting sustainable alternatives.

3.3.4   It remains uncertain as to how the policy will affect SA objectives 3, and 12. According to the Lawton Review (Lawton, 2010) climate change is a significant threat to biodiversity, especially if habitats have become fragmented. This policy could be strengthen from an environmental perspective by recognising that biodiversity is vulnerable to climatic change and highlight the link between adapting development to climate change that can also enhance biodiversity by supporting and strengthening its resilience.

3.3.5   Uncertain effects remain relating to objective 12. Whilst supporting renewable energy generation from wind is positive from a climate change perspective, it could cause negative impacts on the integrity of the countryside. According to the SA Scoping report (UE Associates, 2011, much of the agricultural land of the district is grade two and three. This policy could lead to the loss of agricultural land.

Policy Option CS 3: Safeguarding the Water Environment

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	+	+	++	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.3.6 This policy seeks to support the sustainable management of the water environment, taking into account the potential impacts of climate change.

3.3.7 The assessment of the water environment policy has a strong positive relationship against the SA objectives. All SA objectives have been assessed as being either positively reflected or having a neutral affect. The policy is divided into four subsections:

   A. Flood Risk Areas
   B. Surface water run-off and sustainable urban drainage systems
   C. Protection of the water environment
   D. Water quality

3.3.8 There is a historic fluvial flood risk in the Stratford-on-Avon district and it continues to be significant issue for many areas and settlements. This policy aims to reduce flood risk and supports the sustainable management of the water environment.

3.3.9 Through Section A the policy recognises the need to ensure development is directed away from flood risk areas. The policy supports the maintenance and restoration of flood plains to reduce flood risk, as well as supporting their roles in landscape and biodiversity terms.

3.3.10 Section B encourages the sustainable management of surface water run-off. There is strong support for the incorporation of sustainable urban drainage to manage run-off at source with a focus for development not to result in an increase in the volume and rate of run-off.

3.3.11 Through section C the policy encourages development to support and incorporate watercourses into proposals for the benefit of people, landscape and biodiversity. This section of the policy recognises the multifunctional aspects of the water environment and encourages development to reflect this.

3.3.12 Section D recognises the importance of water quality and its relationship with development. This part of the policy seeks to ensure development does not lead to negative impacts on water quality, either through pollution of surface and groundwater or through overloading waste water treatment works. This part of the policy is welcomed as the HRA of the Draft Core Strategy (Levett-Therivel, 2010) identified waste water treatment work capacity problems for a number of locations within the district. This aspect of the policy is a positive shift in future planning and the water environment.

3.3.13 Overall this policy encompasses a diverse range of issues relevant for the water environment and recognises its multifunctional importance and need for sustainable management.

Policy Option CS 4: Managing Waste

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	0	0	+	+	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.3.14   The high level assessment has concluded that the policy on managing waste fairs favourably against the SA Objectives with the majority being assessed as either having a positive or neutral affect.

3.3.15   The policy consists of three sections

> A. Waste management plans;
> B. Design of new development; and
> C. Provision of waste management facilities.

3.3.16   Section A requires development projects over £300,000 to submit waste management plans for the site. This is welcomed as it seeks to minimise and manage waste during construction phases of development.

3.3.17   Section B encourages new development to provide dedicated on-site storage of waste and recycling material. The policy encourages well designed facilities for the storage of waste and, more importantly, the segregation of waste and recycling. This focus on separating out recycled materials will lead to multiple benefits, including the use of natural resources, and energy use. In addition, the policy promotes the provision of space within development to accommodate home composting. This is welcomed as it seeks to address waste at source and could also lead to biodiversity improvements, especially if it involves providing garden space.

3.3.18   Section C supports the provision of waste management facilities providing they do not adversely impact upon the environment or communities. This section sets out criteria for which proposals will be assessed against. It is anticipated that the criteria will ensure that any potential adverse effects are mitigated. Overall this policy will aid in supporting numerous SA objectives, including SA objectives 1,2,3,5, and 7.

Policy Option CS 5: Minerals

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.3.19   The high level assessment shows that the majority of SA objectives will not be affected by this policy. SA Objective 8 will be positively supported by the policy whilst it is uncertain as to how the policy will affect SA objectives two, three and twelve.

3.3.20   This policy consists of three sections:

> A. Safeguarding;
> B. Applications for Mineral extraction; and
> C. Opportunities for restoration.

3.3.21   This policy reflects positively against SA Objective 8 by identifying important areas for minerals and safeguarding these areas from development.   The policy also makes provision for protecting mineral sites not listed. For development to be permitted on sites not listed the proposal must demonstrate that there would be no adverse effect on mineral reserves of importance (as defined within the Warwickshire County Council's Minerals Safeguarding Areas).

3.3.22   In the short term this policy, by safeguarding minerals sites, will also protect landscapes, agricultural land and biodiversity. However, in the long term these mineral sites may need to be used to extract the resources that are in demand. This could adversely affect biodiversity, the countryside and landscape characteristics.   It is expected that mitigation would be proposed during the EIA of a mineral extraction site. Section B seeks to ensure applications for minerals extraction do not result in any unacceptable harm to the natural or historic environment or effect public health. This will positively support SA Objectives 1,2,3 and 14.

3.3.23   The restoration of former mineral sites would be a positive in terms of biodiversity, landscape and countryside integrity. This would be subject to careful design and consideration and would conform to the highest environmental standards.   All proposals would be determined in accordance with the Warwickshire Minerals Core Strategy.

3.4   District Designations

Policy CS 6: Green Belt

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.4.1   The objective of this policy is to control development within the Green Belt to protect its openness and character. The high level assessment shows this policy has a positive relationship with the SA objectives, graded as being positive or neutral. The policy itself seeks to resist inappropriate development and sets out five scenarios in which development would be permitted. Through the protection of green belt, this policy will also aid in the protection of the wider countryside, including agricultural land, habitats and biodiversity and help preserve the rural landscape character of the district.   Within the wider countryside and especially on the urban fringe of settlements this policy could also positively support the protection and enhancement of areas of historical significance including archaeological remains.

3.4.2   This policy, despite being considered positive, could be strengthened in number of ways. Firstly, the policy could refrain from explaining what development would be appropriate as this could encourage and lead to the nibbling away of green belt in the long term.   Secondly, the scenarios which indicate development would be permitted could be linked to other policies such as green infrastructure, design, and landscape. This would strengthen the criteria against which development would be assessed.

Policy Option CS 7: Areas of Restraint

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

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3.4.3   The aim of this policy is to preserve the character of areas of land which make a valuable contribution to the form or setting of a particular settlement.   The high level assessment shows that overall this is a positive policy with SA objective aspirations either being affected in a neutral or positive means.

3.4.4   Through designating areas of restraint in order to preserve the character of a settlement, this policy will also help to preserve archaeological features and areas of ecological significance. Many of the areas which would need preserving within or on the edge of a settlement are often important habitats and ecologically significant features, such as river corridors. This policy through designating areas of restraint will positively support multiple SA objectives, such as flood alleviation (4), protecting natural resources (7) and community wellbeing (14).

3.4.5   Despite being a positive policy, there is scope for strengthening the policy. The policy could expand the criteria for designating an area of restraint to include historical/archaeological features and areas of local ecological significance through further links to policies CS 11 and CS 12.

Policy Option CS 8: Cotswold AONB

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.4.6   The aim of this policy is to enhance the character, natural beauty and setting of that part of the Cotswold AONB that lies within the Stratford-on-Avon district. Overall the high level of assessment shows this policy to be positive with all SA objectives being positive or neutral in terms of impact.

3.4.7   Through seeking to enhance the character and natural beauty of the Cotswold AONB, the policy will also contribute to enhancing biodiversity and landscape and could aid in the protection of key habitats and areas of historical significance. The policy could also have positive implications in terms of air pollution through seeking to minimise traffic congestion, providing these involve promoting sustainable modes of transport.

3.4.8   The policy suggests that large scale proposals will be resisted, whilst small scale schemes in conjunction with the policy on countryside would be appropriate. The policy also sets out provision to ensure that for small scale developments to be appropriate they must not undermine the historic, built character and local distinctiveness or landscape quality of the AONB. In addition, development outside of the AONB will also have to ensure that it does not adversely impact the character and setting of the AONB.

Policy Option CS 9: Vale of Evesham Control Zone

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+/-
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.4.9   This policy seeks to control the extent to which new development or the expansion of existing business generates additional HGV (heavy goods vehicles) movements in the Vale of Evesham area. It is a regulatory policy that spatially serves to provide positive sustainability effects.

3.4.10   HGV movements across Stratford-on-Avon and through the wider areas of the vale, which includes parts of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, have been identified in association with potential adverse effects on a range of factors. These include, but are not limited to: rural tranquillity (see SA objectives 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 12, and 14); and expanded carbon footprints (see SA objective 5).

3.4.11   Associated with rural tranquillity are the sustainability topics of landscape, biodiversity, and noise. Increased HGV volumes are likely to carry potential negative effects. The magnitude and frequency of effect is difficult to quantify without detailed facts and figures.

3.4.12   It is suggested that the policy is expanded to include reference to rural tranquillity and climate change. In the case of larger schemes which are likely to require HGV movements as part of the business, Environmental Impact Assessment will be considered. In cases where the size, magnitude, and location of proposals do not reach minimum standards for EIA, the policy wording should be strong enough to ensure that potential environmental impacts are not overlooked.

3.4.13   The policy advocates a 5 per cent threshold beyond which any increase in HGV traffic will trigger a requirement to demonstrate various conditions. It is not clear how this figure relates to environmental, economic, or social thresholds. The policy might benefit from clarification in this case.

3.5   Assets

Policy Option CS 10: Landscape

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.1   This policy aims to protect Stratford-on-Avon's distinctive and historic landscape and ensure that development respects its character and individual features. The high level assessment shows the policy in relation to the SA objectives is positive with all policies being categorised as being positive or neutral when assessed against the SA objectives.

3.5.2   The policy consists of three sections:

       A. Landscape Character Enhancements;
       B. Visual Impacts; and
       C. Trees, Woodland and Hedges.

3.5.3   Section A seeks to support local distinctiveness and the historic landscape of different landscapes by encouraging development to avoid detrimental effects to features and patterns within the landscape which make a significant contribution to the setting and character of an area. The policy encourages development schemes to enhance the landscape of their locality. This section would bring multiple benefits and conform to the aspirations set out within multiple SA objectives including, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 14.

3.5.4   Section B focuses on the visual impact of development and requires proposals to consider the landscape and townscape of the sites immediate setting. For large scale proposals full Landscape and Visual Impacts Assessments must accompany applications.   The policy also sets out provision for mitigating any impacts on landscape.

3.5.5   Section C recognises the multifunctional importance of woodlands, veteran trees and hedgerows. The section requires development to demonstrate how ancient semi natural woodland would be safeguarded if they were to be affected by proposals. The policy also encourages development to aid in the expansion and climate change resilience of native woodland.

3.5.6   This policy supports the aspirations of a number of SA objectives, and will lead to a positive approach towards the districts' landscape and important features. There is scope to strengthen the policy to maximise the sustainability performance. The policy should include provision for the restoration of landscapes that have become degraded or damaged by previous development. The focus on enhancement is welcomed. It would be worth adding protection and restoration into the policy to make it more robust.

3.5.7   The policy could benefit from stronger wording relating to ancient woodland. Ancient woodland consists of areas of woodland that have been continuously wooded since 1600 or before. This resource contains some of the richest wildlife of all woodlands and remains an important and scarce resource in the district. Strengthening policy wording to ensure no development will be permitted where it would lead to the loss or damage of ancient woodland may be appropriate. This policy could be further strengthened through enhanced links to policies CS 13, CS 6 and CS 25 detailing green infrastructure, green belt, and countryside respectively.

Policy Option CS 11: Natural Features

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	++	0	0	+/-	++	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.8   This policy aims to protect and enhance the biological and geological assets as an integral part of the character of the district and to manage the impact of development on them. The high level assessment shows the policy to be positive, with all but one policy being either positive or neutral in terms of relationship to SA objectives.

3.5.9   The policy comprises two distinct sections:

    A. Biological features; and
    B. Geological features.

3.5.10   Section A seeks to bring about a net gain of natural features by safeguarding existing habitats of:

    A. National and international designation;
    B. Irreplaceable in terms of unique characteristic;
    C. Local designation;
    D. Those not yet subject to formal designation but known to make a positive contribution to biodiversity; and
    E. Those which host habitats or species of conservation importance.

3.5.11   The wide remit of this policy encompasses a range of designation and captures the wider ecological network. By doing so, this policy has the potential to bring a number of benefits in relation to the SA objectives particularly 1, 2, 3, 7 and 12.

3.5.12   It is uncertain as to how the policy performs against Objective 6. Climate change and the ability of natural features to adapt is an important issue. This policy does not mention climate change. This policy could bring about a positive effect in terms of acting as a carbon store, but adapting to climate change, should be a key part of the policy. The current wording does not detract from adapting to climate change but should be strengthened to ensure development supports biodiversity adaptation and resilience to climate change. To achieve this policy wording should be strengthened to ensure development maximises habitat connectivity where appropriate. Development should avoid causing or facilitating habitat fragmentation. The policy does, through Section A, seek to create new habitats and strengthen networks but a stronger focus on connectivity and de-fragmentation should be made. Linking this policy to the Stratford-on-Avon District GI Study (UE Associates 2011) and GI policy CS 13 would help in interpretation and understanding of this policy.

3.5.13   Section B seeks to conserve and enhance geo-diversity features. This section is positive in respect of SA objective 1, and 7.

3.5.14   Both sections of this policy could be enhanced by supporting the role of geodiversity sites and natural features, in terms of tourism, health and wellbeing, where this would not lead to adverse impacts on the integrity of the sites. Such an approach may lead to funding for the management of sites currently not governed by designations.

Policy Option CS 12: Heritage Features

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.15   This policy aims to protect and enhance the heritage assets found within the Stratford-on-Avon District. The high level assessment shows this policy to be positive with all SA objectives assessed as either leading to likely positive effects or having a neutral impact.

3.5.16   This policy consists of two sections:

    A. Preservation and enhancement; and
    B. Management and interpretation.

3.5.17   Section A provides strong focus on protecting and enhancing heritage and cultural assets that contribute to the heritage significance of the district. These include listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens and the Battle of Edge Hill Historic Battlefield. The policy gives particular priority to:

1. Upholding the international importance of Stratford-upon-Avon and its association with Shakespeare;
2. Maintaining the distinctive character of market towns;
3. Ensuring new development reflect local distinctiveness through protecting vernacular building styles and choosing appropriate building material;
4. Retaining and enhancing historic farmsteads; and
5. Protecting, managing and enhancing features associated with canals and navigation.

3.5.18   The policy encourages development to be integrated with the historic context of its locality and the retention of historical features. This section of the policy reflects the aspirations of SA objective 1, 2 and 14. This section focuses mainly on historic character and protecting features, but it could be strengthened. The Historic Environment Assessment conducted by Warwickshire County Council (2008) identifies a rich archaeological heritage throughout the district, as well as indicating a potential for undiscovered archaeological deposits. This should be reflected within this policy.

3.5.19   Section B encourages the positive management of heritage assets through the use of management plans and conservation area appraisals. It also seeks to encourage opportunities to be taken to assist in peoples understanding of historical assets through public access and interpretation boards. This aspect of the policy supports SA objectives 14 and 15. Recognising the role of climate change could strengthen this policy and how this will impact upon the historic environment in terms of visitor pressure, especially during periods of hot weather. In addition, many historical features throughout the district also support biodiversity and a strong tourist economy. There is scope within this policy to link with other policies such as the tourism policy CS 24, green infrastructure CS 13 and natural features CS 11.

Policy Option CS 13: Green Infrastructure

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	++	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	+/-	+	+	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.20   The aim of this policy is to protect and enhance the green infrastructure features of the district in order to secure a wide range of environmental, economic, and social benefits. The high level assessment shows that this policy has a positive relationship towards the SA objectives with the majority likely to have strong positive effects. The policy will have a neutral effect on SA objective 9 whilst it is unsure how the policy will affect SA objective 11.

3.5.21   The policy makes good links to the role of green infrastructure in supporting a range of social, environmental, and economic aspects. There is a strong focus on the key principles of GI, such as promoting connectivity and multi-functionality. The policy has a strong focus towards access and availability of open space and green infrastructure features, and how this will contribute in a positive way to a range of objectives.   The policy also has a strong focus towards protecting current open space provision.

3.5.22   This policy will have a positive impact upon the majority of the SA objectives due to the nature of GI as a bridging mechanism between multiple disciplines and its versatility towards social, economic, and environmental issues. The strong focus on GI access and open space protection is positive but the policy could be strengthened further to ensure the multiple benefits GI can provide are fully integrated into the Core strategy.

3.5.23   It is uncertain as to how this policy will impact upon SA objective 11. The policy alone will not remove barriers present in rural areas but could be part of the strategy to reduce and remove these barriers. Using GI features such as river or canal corridors to promote accessibility could enable rural areas to become better connected to key services using non-motorised modes of transport. Green infrastructure features could be used as part of a wider strategy to reduce barriers within rural areas from a accessibility perspective.

3.5.24   A key function of GI is its ability to provide multiple benefits and support a wide range of activities. In order to strengthen this policy it needs to become integrated and linked to other policies in core strategy. The policy could support economic, social and environmental policies within the core strategy such as the tourism, economic development, design, landscape, and transport policy.

3.5.25   The policy would benefit from including policy wording, supported by the explanation text, referencing the GI Study and the role of the GI Framework.   A stronger focus on the GI study and Framework would provide a more comprehensive understanding of GI and how it can support a wide range of other policies cited within the core strategy.

Policy Option CS 14: Earlswood Lakes Country Park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	++	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.26   The high level assessment shows this policy has a positive relationship towards the SA objectives with the majority likely to have positive effects. Although the policy relates to investigating the creation of a Country Park at Earlswood Lakes, this would lead to numerous environmental, economic and social benefits. This is a welcomed policy and would lead to multiple benefits relating to biodiversity, tourism, recreation and quality of life. This policy coupled with CS 14: Green Infrastructure will ensure the principles and benefits of enhancements to this GI asset are fully appreciated and realised.

Policy Option CS 15: Design and Distinctiveness

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	++	+	+	+	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	++	+	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.5.27 This policy seeks to ensure future development conforms to a high standard of design which promotes the distinctiveness and enhances the appearance of the Stratford-on-Avon district. The high level assessment shows the policy is positive with the all but SA objective 6 being graded as having a positive or neutral affect.

3.5.28 This policy encourages development to be of high quality design and where appropriate be:

    A. Attractive;
    B. Sustainable;
    C. Adaptable;
    D. Sensitive
    E. Distinctive;
    F. Innovative;
    G. Connected;
    H. Accessible; and
    I. Safe.

3.5.29 The range of criteria above enables the policy to positively meet the aspirations of the majority of the SA objectives. It remains uncertain as to how the policy will impact SA objective 6. A key factor is to ensure development is able to adapt to climate change impacts. The section "Adaptable" does not make reference to climate change adaptation. To ensure this policy reflects the need to respond to climate change, the policy wording for criteria C should be amended to incorporate text relating to responding to climate change. For example the layout and orientation of a building could be designed to maximise the potential for natural ventilation and cooling to respond to heat waves associated with extreme weather events. Clearly, citing the need for the design of buildings to respond to anticipated levels of climate change would ensure this policy is robust, when viewed against the aspirations of the SA objectives.

3.6 Spatial Strategy

Policy Option CS 16: Spatial Distribution of Development

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	+/-	+/-	0	-	0	+/-	0	0	+/-	0	+/-	+	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.1 The policy describes the spatial distribution of development within the district. The policy indicates that the distribution of development during the twenty year life of the core strategy will follow a pattern of wider dispersal, based upon the defined settlement hierarchy. The high-level assessment has identified a number of positive and uncertain effects.

3.6.2   The positive effects are for SA objective 13. Throughout the policy at each hierarchical level detailed information is given concerning the development of new homes. It has been estimated by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Market Review (2009) that the district will need an additional 532 homes per year. A total of 8,000 new dwellings have been proposed within the plan period with a further 2,400 already having been completed, under construction, and with planning permission. This leaves a total of 5,600 to be delivered through the plan.

3.6.3   There are a number of uncertainties within this policy, which could be remedied through cross-referral to the specific policies within the core strategy. For example the policy is unclear on the effects to the landscape/character of the district, it states "the hierarchy reflects the character and function of the Districts landscape and settlements", and the preservation of character is also mentioned through limiting estate sizes and volumes at each spatial scale. Paragraphs (ii) and (iii) in sections A, B and C all provide limits; however, this development could affect the character of the settlements and wider area. Any possible effects would be assessed against other policies within the Core Strategy in Section 8 (Assets) including Policy CS 15 Design and Distinctiveness.

3.6.4   There is also uncertainty as to the effect on the bio/geo-diversity and natural resources as regeneration adjacent to the built-up area boundary could have a negative effect upon important features in proximity. It is anticipated any possible negative effects relating to this policy will be mitigated through other policies within the Core Strategy, such as CS 11: Natural Features.

3.6.5   Limited references to infrastructure are present within the document, investment and development of the districts network and the increase in sustainable travel are vital to manage the increased development. However, the policy does suggest development in relation to this policy is subject to the conditions of Policies CS 6: Green Belt, CS 25: Countryside, and CS 26: Rural Brownfield sites. It is anticipated that monitoring carried out to ensure the polices within the Core Strategy remain effective will, after five years, enable analysis in order to assess the policies effectiveness. Any unexpected adverse effects could be addressed at this point.

3.6.6   It is anticipated that this policy will lead to negative effects in relation to SA Objective 5. This policy has the potential to support a reliance on motor vehicles for those living within rural areas. This may lead to an increase in emissions from the transport sector thus does not support reducing Stratford-on-Avon's carbon footprint.

Policy Option CS 17: Affordable Housing

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	+	0	++	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.7   This policy will help meet future requirement for affordable housing in Stratford-on Avon and the main rural centres as identified in SDC Development Viability Assessment (2009) and the Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Market Review (2009). The policy focuses primarily upon the provision of affordable housing and makes no specific reference to other sustainability themes.

3.6.8   The high level assessment has indicated that this policy has the potential to lead to both positive and uncertain effects against the SA Objectives. The assessment shows that the policy is likely to provide strong positive effects with regard to SA objective 13 as, in-combination with the policy on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy; it fulfils the aspirations of the SA objective. Positive effects have also been identified with SA objective 11. Increased availability of rural housing is likely to provide an improved choice of housing options for some rural communities.

3.6.9   Uncertain effects have been identified in relation to SA objective 8. This objective seeks to reduce air, soil, and water pollution. This SA objective seeks to ensure that air, soil, and water pollution is avoided. Good design and environmental impact assessment both need to be carefully prepared as part of any policy decision to pursue affordable housing in this way.

Policy CS 18: Protection and Adaptation of the Existing Housing Stock

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+/-	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.10   This policy aims to protect and adapt the existing housing stock within the Stratford-on-Avon district. This policy focuses upon the management and protection of existing dwellings as valuable resource and aims to limit the loss to this resource through change of use. The focus of this policy limits reference to other sustainability themes. The high level assessment has indicated that this policy has the potential to lead to positive and uncertain effects against the SA Objectives.

3.6.11   Objectives 1 and 2 have been assessed to provide likely positive effects and objective 13 has been assessed to provide uncertain effects. The policy identifies the need to protect the historic character of existing housing and that any redevelopment would require sensitive design to retain the important features. This would assist in maintaining the character and appearance of the landscape/townscape by supporting the distinctiveness of the district. Redevelopment and adaptation of existing, vacant dwellings has an uncertain effect in regards to objective 13 as older properties may not match the sustainability performance a new build would meet. This policy could be strengthened by requiring that when older properties are being brought back into use, there must be an improvement of the sustainability performance of that property.

Policy CS 19: Specialised Accommodation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.12   This policy aims to provide specialised accommodation which caters to the needs of older and vulnerable people. The current trends of aging population throughout the UK will result in increased pressure upon care housing and health facilities.

3.6.13   The high level assessment has indicated that this policy has the potential to lead to positive effects against the SA Objectives. This policy is highly specific in its remit and will fulfil the requirements to provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all as is stated within SA objective 13.

Policy CS 20: Housing Mix and Type

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.14   The Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Housing Market Assessment: Market Review 2009 and the District Council Housing Provision Options Study (2011) identifies increased requirement for smaller dwellings within the district. This could be attributed to changes in the socio-demographics of the Stratford-on-Avon district. The policy identifies that housing needs to be accessible (which links to the policy on Affordable Housing) and should be able to support the changing needs of households. For example, ensuring that the developments conform to Lifetime Homes Standards, which seeks to enable the general needs that housing should provide. The high-level assessment identified that the policy has likely positive effects in regards to SA objective 13, through the provision of good quality housing that meets the demographic needs of the district.

Policy Option CS 21: Gypsies and Travellers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.15   The SDC Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment (2011) concluded that there was little requirement at present for the increased provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites. However, the policy will provide additional permanent and temporary pitches with a five yearly increase for the planned period (until 2028). The high-level assessment has identified a number of likely positive effects of the policy and no uncertain or negative effects. Proposals for gypsy and traveller sites have to conform to criteria as described in the policy, to ensure that their impact is minimal. The policy provides support for accessibility to services and suitable provision of transportation links. The location and use of the site will not have an adverse impact upon the landscape, biodiversity or built environment including adverse effects upon local residential amenity. Overall, the effects of this policy are positive and take into account a wide range of factors. The policy has the potential to meet future demand for Gypsy and Traveller sites for the duration of the Core Strategy.

Policy Option CS 22: Economic Development

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	+/-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	+	-	0	0	++
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.16   The policy aims to support the development of a strong and diverse district economy, to maintain economic competiveness and support the growth of local businesses. It seeks to encourage the development of knowledge-based and other high value-added employment and the provision of more highly skilled and paid employment.

3.6.17   The high-level assessment of this policy has identified a number of positive, negative and uncertain effects in regards to the themes of the SA Objectives. The policy aims to provide a dynamic and diverse economy which focuses on innovation and high-value and coincides strongly with the themes of objective 15.

3.6.18   The continued growth of firms at their existing locations, homeworking and the scope for business development at sites in rural areas, would reduce barriers to rural areas and take advantage of existing transport links. The redevelopment of previously developed rural sites could lead to uncertainty relating to the impacts of the redevelopment upon the integrity and character of the rural landscape. However, this is dependent upon the nature of the activities and the sites own character and accessibility.

3.6.19   The development outside of urban areas may result in adverse effects upon the efficiency of transport networks throughout the district, by increasing the load on infrastructure with limited capacity, increasing car dependency in rural areas and increasing the need to travel.

Policy Option CS 23: Retail Development, Town and Local Centres

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	+/-	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+/-	+	+	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.20   This policy seeks to manage and direct the future provision of suitable retail and commercial development within Stratford-upon-Avon and local rural centres. The spatial development aspect of the policy focuses on Stratford-upon-Avon as the strategic centre and the most appropriate location for any major retail, leisure, commercial or business developments. The surrounding main rural centres are supported as secondary centres with a focus on attracting new business and a wide choice of products.

3.6.21   The high-level assessment has identified a number of potential positive and uncertain effects against the SA objectives. Increased development could have a variety of effects upon the character of the district, as the proliferation of high street chains may result in the loss of diversity, local character and the demise of small local businesses. The development of main local centres in the region could result in a likely positive effect upon minimising the district's contribution to climate change. A strong retail and commercial sector provides a variety and diversity of products, which decreases the likelihood that residents are travelling to larger regional centres such as Birmingham or Coventry.

3.6.22   The development and diversity of services in the main rural centres also reduces the barriers to rural areas, through accessibility and increased quality of life. There is uncertainty as to the effect upon the district's transport networks as the policy provides no further provision for increasing transport by sustainable travel. The policy appears to provide limits and controls on the encroachment of large out-of-town developments upon the district's countryside. This is by promoting development within or on the edge of Stratford-upon-Avon town centres of >1000m². Any large-scale development elsewhere in the district would require a comprehensive retail impact assessment, in line with Planning Policy Statement 6.

3.6.23   The development of town and local centres will have a positive knock-on effect to the district's economy, as a thriving retail sector can consequently improve surrounding businesses, such as hospitality (bars, cafes, pubs) and result in a diverse and dynamic economy.

Policy Option CS 24: Tourism Development

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+/-	0	+/-	0	+	+	0	+/-	+	+/-	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.6.24   This policy seeks to strengthen the tourism sector within the district, by supporting a wider range of attractions and accommodation throughout the district. Areas which are designated for their natural or cultural heritage qualities have some scope for tourist and leisure related activities. However, the development would need to ensure that any negative impacts were mitigated to safeguard the features that justify the designation. The distribution of tourism attractions with large-scale schemes located within or in close proximity to Stratford-upon-Avon would need to limit impacts upon the landscape character town and wider countryside.

3.6.25   The tourism sector could provide a wealth of new employment opportunities, with a strong economic multiplier associated with tourism. There is some uncertainty regarding potential effects upon several aspects of the district. These include bio/geo-diversity, climate change, transport networks and integrity of countryside. While increased numbers of tourists could have adverse effects upon bio/geo-diversity, their visits could assist in funding the effective management of the site. However, recognition of biodiversity value is cited via statutory designations only and appears to fail to recognise the importance of Local Wildlife Sites, which represent an integral component of the ecological fabric of the district.

3.6.26   Increases in tourism related activities, resulting from supporting tourism in the wider countryside, could put further pressure on the district's ability to minimise its impacts on the climate. Increased pressure could be placed on the infrastructure/transportation networks if the majority of visitors are travelling by car especially in rural areas. However this could be mitigated through the enhancement of existing public transport networks and Public Rights of Way linking rural areas to main urban areas.

3.6.27 Stratford-upon-Avon has been highlighted by Visit England as an "Attract Brand" as its strong history and Shakespearean heritage are a continuing attraction to the town. While there is a level of uncertainty regarding the protection of the districts countryside, the policy recommends that development should be sensitive to the character of the respective area being redeveloped. Similarly it seeks to ensure the particular qualities or features of designations (natural, cultural) are also protected.

3.7 Infrastructure

Policy Option CS 27: Community Facilities and Open Space

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	+/-	0	0	0	+/-	0	0	++	0	+/-	0	++	0
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.7.1 Policy CS 27 focuses on the provision of community facilities such as sport, leisure and health-care and type of open space per 1000 people. The policy described criteria for the retention of existing community infrastructure and sets out the details for the provision of new community infrastructure dependent upon the size, function and needs of the individual settlement in accordance with the spatial and scale hierarchy set out in Policy CS 16 (Distribution of Development).

3.7.2 The high-level assessment has identified a number of strong positive and uncertain effects of the policy upon the SA objectives. The policy makes strong reference to Policy CS 29 – Infrastructure for Growth and states that development will be dependent on sufficient capacity within existing infrastructure or necessary improvements being provided, in parallel with development to meet the additional requirements. The provision of suitable community infrastructure and the provision of green-space can result in a robust benefit to community health and well-being. The policy makes special reference that new provision should be designed to complement and enhance existing green-space provision.

3.7.3 There is some uncertainty about the effect of this upon bio/geo-diversity and the districts countryside. The policy refers to unrestricted accessible green-space; increased visitor pressures can have a variety of negative effects such as habitat degradation and disturbance. In contrast to this, linking existing areas of green-space with new provision could increase connectivity between habitats and enhance biodiversity features throughout the district. There are similar issues for protecting the district's natural resource, as increased provision could decrease valuable arable land etc. The policies focus upon making use of existing space could be expanded through further enhancing the inter-policy links with CS 13 Green Infrastructure.

Policy Option CS 28: Transport and Communication

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+/	+/-	+/-	0	++	+	+/-	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.7.4 This policy relates to improving transport and access throughout the district. The policy has seven sections A-G:

A. Transport Strategy
B. Transport and New Development
C. Parking Standards
D. Strategic Transport Proposals
E. Other Transport Schemes
F. Aviation
G. Information & Communications Technologies

3.7.5   The high-level assessment shows that the policy has a range of potential effects against the SA objectives, with the majority having an uncertain effect, several positive effects and several neutral effects.

3.7.6   Objective 6 has been categorised as uncertain as there is no reference within the policy to the potential impacts of climate change. The transport strategy should have strong links with the policy on Climate Change as the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) identifies that 70% of residents travel to work by car with only 3% using public transport. The ability for transport networks to respond to climate change effects in a key issue and should feature more strongly within this policy.

3.7.7   Sections B and C have a number of clauses which promote improvements to transport networks and infrastructure, sustainable travel through access to rail, provision of new and existing pedestrian and cycle routes, limitation of onsite parking by ensuring that developments do not have excessive parking facilities. These are in-line with the findings of the LTP3 and recommendations in PPG13 and contribute to the positive score under SA objectives 5 and 10.

3.7.8   Section D offers district-wide strategic proposals for major infrastructure redevelopment which supports the aspirations of SA objective 10. Extensive infrastructure development also provides uncertainty in regards to SA objectives 1, 2, 3, 8 and 12.

3.7.9   Section F indicates that any further aviation development will be confined to existing sites within established existing boundaries. While increased aviation can have a positive economic effect, the controls in place through this policy limit negative impacts upon landscape, character and biodiversity. This could reduce uncertainty within the high-level assessment in regards to SA objectives 2, 3, 7, 8 and 12. Section G may lead to a positive effect as the use of the latest ICT technologies can impact travel decisions reducing the necessity to travel.

Policy Option CS 29: Infrastructure for Growth - Developer Contributions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

3.7.10   This policy refers to the delivery of strategic infrastructure and community facilities necessary to accommodate growth. To facilitate this, a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has been introduced. This levy covers a wide range of development types and is based on the cumulative effect of the development. The levy is used in order to finance social infrastructure in general.

3.7.11   The high-level assessment has identified numerous positive effects of this policy. The provision of infrastructure and public services through CIL, in tandem with residential and commercial developments has the potential to fulfil the criteria as set out within the SA objectives 11, 13, 14 and 15. The CIL could assist in the improvement of transport networks, by increasing mobility of population, reducing barriers for people living in rural areas. The development of community facilities, such as healthcare, can enhance quality of life. This is especially in a larger scale development which can be isolated from necessary facilities. CIL in combination with New Homes Bonus, S278, can also reduce pressure on the LA budget allowing the delivery of other public services, facilities and infrastructure. Overall this policy is positive.   However, additional information could be included to state that CIL payments could be used to facilitate the improvement of Green Infrastructure within the district as described in policy CS 13.

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4   Area Policy Profiles

4.1   Policy Options for Area Policy Profiles

Policy Options for the Area Policy Profiles

Table 4.1: High Level Assessment of the Area Policy Profiles

Core Strategy Policies	SA Objectives														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Section 10: Area Policy Profiles															
CS 25: Countryside and Villages	+	+	+/-	0	0	0	+	+/-	0	-	++	+/-	+	+	+
CS 26: Large Rural Brownfield Sites	+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+
APP: Stratford-upon-Avon	+	+	+	+/-	+	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Alcester	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Bidford-on-Avon	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Henley-in-Arden	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Kineton	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Shipston-on-Stour	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	++	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Southam	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+
APP: Studley	+/-	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+
APP: Wellesbourne	+	+	+	+	+/-	+/-	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+

4.1.1   In order to support the Core Strategy and facilitate development in the main population centres, SDC has produced separate Area Policy Profiles. The function of which is support the development, act as an evidence base, describe current baseline, and inform future strategy/policy development. The policies are structured around three primary themes of Sustainability Appraisal:

1.   Environmental;
2.   Social; and
3.   Economic.

4.1.2   Transport is a fourth theme within the Stratford-upon-Avon Area Policy Profile.

4.1.3   Detailed supplementary information has been provided for Stratford and the main local centres, specific polices have been compiled for the wider countryside and brownfield sites.   The profiles provide geographic coverage of the entire district at a range of scales.   These scales range from the primary urban area of Stratford-upon-Avon and decreases in scale through the main rural centres, to policies affecting the wider countryside and large rural brownfield sites. The range of scales allows for wider spatial analysis of policy and puts focus upon the areas of primary importance in regards to development of policy directing the district.

Policy Option CS 25: Countryside and Villages

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+	+/-	0	0	0	+	+/-	0	-	++	+/-	+	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

4.1.4   This policy seeks to ensure the character and qualities of the countryside are protected while providing scope for development which meets the needs of the district. This policy covers a range of topics which are described comprehensively in other policies within the Core Strategy, such as landscape. The high-level assessment identified positive, negative and uncertain likely effects of this policy in regards to the SA Objectives. The policy is directed by five principles, which will be applied in the assessment of any development proposals:

a.   The use of best and most versatile agricultural lands should be avoided;
b.   The re-use of brownfield land and existing buildings should be maximised;
c.   Undue harm would not be caused to existing uses and occupants of properties in the vicinity of the site;
d.   Undue harm would not be caused to character of the local landscape and communities and important environmental assets; and
e.   A significant increase in traffic on rural roads would not be created.

4.1.5   There are potential negative impacts relating to transport networks.   Increased development in the countryside and rural areas could result in increased road use as a dispersed settlement pattern can cause an increase in car dependency.   High car usage can lead to increased carbon, NO_x and SO_x emissions contributing to air pollution.

4.1.6   Principle 5 states that a significant increase in traffic would be not created. The strict criteria could result in increased barriers for future development of the transport network; conversely improvement in sustainable modes of travel could effectively mitigate this impact. This does not account for cumulative impacts of several non-significant increases in road usage.   The protection of natural resources is encapsulated in the first principle protecting the best and most versatile agricultural lands. This is supported by the fourth principles aims to prevent adverse effects upon the integrity of the districts countryside.

Policy Option CS 26: Large Rural Brownfield Sites

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
+	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+/-	+/-	+/-	0	+	+
History, Cultural Heritage	Landscape	Biodiversity	Flood Risk	Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Natural Resources	Air Soil Pollution	Waste	Transport	Rural Barriers	Countryside	Affordable housing	Health Well-being	Economy

4.1.7   The policy aims to focus development to previously developed sites within the countryside, while maintaining a suitable scale and form to minimise the impact upon the character of the area. The high-level assessment has identified both positive and uncertain effects in regards to this policy. The policy has identified several sites within the district with potential uses outlined. The policy identifies that impacts on statutory or locally important features and the character and function of local communities must be protected and any impacts mitigated. As there is limited detail about the nature of potential developments except which uses are appropriate, the potential effects are difficult to quantify further. The large-scale schemes cited in this policy are likely to have numerous and wide ranging impacts, of which the effects could be significant. The policy needs to strengthen its resolve to minimise adverse impacts.

4.1.8   The high-level assessment (refer to SA Assessment Table) determines that the area policy profiles for the district are generally positive in reinforcing the themes described in the SA objectives. They appear to have strong positive trends in regards to protecting the historic environment, landscape, bio/geo-diversity, reduction of pollution, improvement of transport networks, the integrity of the districts countryside, the provision of housing, the local economy and community health and wellbeing.

4.1.9   There is a trend displaying uncertainty of effects in regards objectives 4, 5 and 6 with some further scattered uncertainty in other policies. The uncertainty can be attributed to vague and general references regarding the issues described in the SA objectives. While certain individual area policies may make specific reference to effects of flooding or mitigating for climate change e.g: Alcester. The others make only general reference, they may however be relying upon the more detailed information and description in the specific policies e.g: Climate Change. There is a strong trend for uncertainty for SA objective 11, the reduction of barriers in rural areas. The area policy profiles make reference to the Local Transport Policy 2011-2026 and place emphasis on: "Seek to improve public transport services in the area, including community transport initiatives", this could result in improving links to other communities, businesses etc. The uncertainty derives from the ambiguity of the proposal as it only "seeks to improve" the transport services and no definitive proposal is provided, hence the uncertainty in the high-level assessment.

4.1.10   The high-level assessment has also identified trends where there will be no/neutral effect in regards to the themes identified in the SA objectives. In regards to SA objective 7 the protection and conservation of natural resources, the area policy plans are primarily focused upon development within the developed area. Consequently further development which could affect natural resources including agricultural land, water resources and other material assets is minimal. There is a strong trend for SA objective 9 which is comprised of the reduction of waste generation and disposal.

4.1.11   It is recommended that monitoring is undertaken and integrated into the monitoring process for the LDF. Monitoring can identify if the high-level assessments predictions of environmental effects were accurate and to inform decision making for amendments to correct any aberrations.

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Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy Policy Options
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January, 2012

5 Conclusions

5.1 Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal has been prepared to accompany the assessment of the Core Strategy Policy Options. Broadly speaking, the majority of policy proposals will deliver positive effects across the district.

5.1.2 The following policies have been assessed and identified as carrying potential adverse effects:

CS 16: Spatial Distribution of Development
The assessment has identified potential adverse effects in regards to climate change. This policy seeks to direct the majority of future housing development within the district towards rural areas. Increased housing within rural areas will support car dependency within the district as public transport and other sustainable modes of transport are limited in most rural areas. An increase in car dependency will contribute significantly to the districts carbon footprint.

CS 22: Economic Development
The SA process has identified that increasing development of business within rural areas without corresponding development of infrastructure has the potential to result in adverse effects upon the efficiency of existing transport networks throughout the district. This in turn has the potential to result in adverse effects to the integrity of the district's countryside.

CS 25: Countryside and Villages
The assessment has identified potential adverse effects on the district's transport network in regards to development throughout the rural countryside. Increased development without matching investment in transport infrastructure and corresponding services may result in significant increases in road use. Independently the effects may be minor. Nonetheless cumulative impacts may result in considerable adverse impacts.

5.1.3 The following recommendations can be made with regards to the next stage of plan making:

1. Stratford-on-Avon District Council should seek to overcome those policies which have been identified to cause adverse effects within the district.
2. Stratford-on-Avon District Council should seek to clarify those policy options where the SA process has not been able to accurately appraise the potential effects.

5.2 Next stage

5.2.1 The SA process will firstly take on-board any comments arising and secondly begin the process of preparing an Environmental Report. This will appraise and accompany the publication version of the Core Strategy.

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Appendix A: SA Framework

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…		Indicators	Targets
1	Protect, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance.	Q1a	Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation and renewal?	Number of Grade I and Grade II* buildings at risk.	None (English Heritage)
				Number of Grade II and locally listed buildings at risk.	None (English Heritage)
		Q1b	Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains?	Proportion of scheduled monuments at risk from damage, decay or loss	None (English Heritage)
				Number/proportion of development proposals informed by archaeological provisions, including surveys	All (English Heritage)
		Q1c	Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding, and enjoyment of the historic environment?	Annual number of visitors to historic attractions	
		Q1d	Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?	Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management plans.	
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	Q2a	Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity?	Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development	
		Q2b	Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the townscape and local distinctiveness and identity?	Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development	

		Q2c	Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?	Proportion of conservation areas covered by up-to-date appraisals (less than five years old) and published management plans.	
		Q2d	Will it help limit noise pollution?	Tranquillity assessments	
		Q2e	Will it help limit light pollution?	Tranquillity assessments	
		Q2f	Will it encourage well-designed, high quality developments that enhance the built and natural environment?	% development meeting Building for Life standards.	
3	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Q3a	Will it lead to a loss of or damage to biodiversity interest?	Extent (and condition) of priority habitats	
				Extent of priority species	
				Area and condition of nationally designated sites in appropriate management	By 2010, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition (target to directly reflect the national PSA target)
		Q3b	Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities?	Area of Nature Conservation designation per 1,000 population (ha).	At least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population (Natural England)
				Area of new habitat creation reflecting Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull BAP priorities	
				Extent and condition of key habitats for which Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been established	
		Q3c	Will it maintain and enhance sites nationally designated for their biodiversity interest and increase their area?	Number, area and condition of nationally designated sites in appropriate management	
		Q3d	Will it increase the area of sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Area designated for geological interest	

		Q3e	Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Condition of geological SSSIs	By 2010, to ensure that 95% of SSSIs are in favourable or recovering condition (target to directly reflect the national PSA target)
		Q3f	Will it link up areas of fragmented habitat?	Extent (and condition) of priority habitats	
		Q3g	Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity assets?	Number of school trips to Stratford-on-Avon's Nature Reserves	
				Number of accessibility improvements to nature reserves and local sites (including geodiversity sites)	
				Number of interpretation improvements (including information boards etc) in nature reserves and local sites	
4	Reduce the risk of flooding.	Q4a	Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from fluvial flooding?	Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area (Flood Zone 3), including an allowance for climate change	Zero (Environment agency)
		Q4b	Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from surface water flooding?	Number of properties at risk of flooding	
				No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS	All (Environment agency)
		Q4c	Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change?	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds	Zero (Environment agency)
5	Minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	Q5a	Will it help reduce Stratford-on-Avon's carbon footprint?	Proportion of electricity produced from renewable resources	UK Government renewable energy target: 15% of electricity to be produced from renewable sources by 2020.

				Proportion of new homes achieving a four star or above sustainability rating for the "Energy/CO$_2$" category as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes	All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (DCLG target)
				Per capita greenhouse gas emissions	
				Emission by source	
				Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van	
				CO$_2$, methane and nitrous oxide emissions per sector	UK Government targets: 80% reduction of carbon dioxide emission by 2050 and a 26% to 32% reduction by 2020
		Q5b	Will it help raise awareness of climate change mitigation?	Number of initiatives to increase awareness of energy efficiency	
6	Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change.	Q6a	Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change?	Amount of new development (ha) situated within a 1:100 flood risk area, including an allowance for climate change	Zero (Environment agency)
				Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds	Zero (Environment agency)
				Number of properties at risk of flooding.	
		Q6b	Will it encourage the development of buildings prepared for the impacts of climate change?	% of developments meeting the minimum standards for the "Surface Water Run-Off" and "Surface Water Management" categories in the Code for Sustainable Homes	

				Thermal efficiency of new and retro fitted development; % planning permissions for projects designed with passive solar design, building orientation, natural ventilation	
				Proportion of new homes meeting Level 4 of the CSH water category.	
				No. of planning permissions incorporating green roofs	
				No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS	All (Environment agency)
			Q6c	Will it retain existing green infrastructure and promote the expansion of green infrastructure to help facilitate climate change adaptation?	Amount of new greenspace created per capita	
7	Protect and conserve natural resources.	Q7a	Will it include measures to limit water consumption?	Average domestic water consumption (l/head/day)	
		Q7b	Will it safeguard the district's minerals resources for future use?	Area of land with potential for minerals use sterilised	
		Q7c	Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land?	% of dwellings built on previously developed land	
				Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than five years	
		Q7d	Will it lead to the more efficient use of land?	Housing density in new development: average number of dwellings per hectare	
		Q7e	Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?	Percentage of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM Very Good Standard or above or equivalent	

				Percentage of housing developments achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes	
		Q7f	Will it lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Area of Grades 1, 2 and 3a agricultural land lost to new development	
8	Reduce air, soil and water pollution.	Q8a	Will it lead to improved water quality of both surface water groundwater features?	% of watercourses classified as good or very good biological and chemical quality	All inland water bodies to reach at least "good status" by 2015 (Water Framework Directive)
				% change in pollution incidents	
				No. of planning permissions incorporating SUDS	All (Environment agency)
		Q8b	Will it lead to improved air quality?	Number and area of Air Quality Management Areas	To meet national Air Quality Standards
				No. of days when air pollution is moderate or high for NO_2, SO_2, O_3, CO or PM_{10}	To meet national Air Quality Standards
		Q8c	Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?	Area of contaminated land (ha)	
				% of projects (by number and value) involving remediation of any kind	
		Q8d	Will it reduce the overall amount of diffuse pollution to air, water and soil?	% change in pollution incidents	

9	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle/compost, energy recovery and disposal.	Q9a	Will it provide facilities for the separation and recycling of waste?	Type and capacity of waste management facilities	
				Household waste (a) arisings and (b) recycled or composted	
		Q9b	Will it encourage the use of recycled materials in construction?	Reuse of recycled materials from former building stock and other sources	
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.	Q10a	Will it reduce the need to travel?	Percentage of completed significant local service developments located within a defined centre	
				Average distance (km) travelled to fixed place of work	
				Percentage of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of a GP, hospital, primary and secondary school, employment and major health centre.	
				Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services.	
		Q10b	Will it encourage walking and cycling?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bicycle or on foot	
				Proportion of new development providing cycle parking.	
		Q10c	Will it reduce car use?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by driving a car or van	
		Q10d	Will it encourage use of public transport?	Percentage of people aged 16-74 who usually travel to work by bus or train	

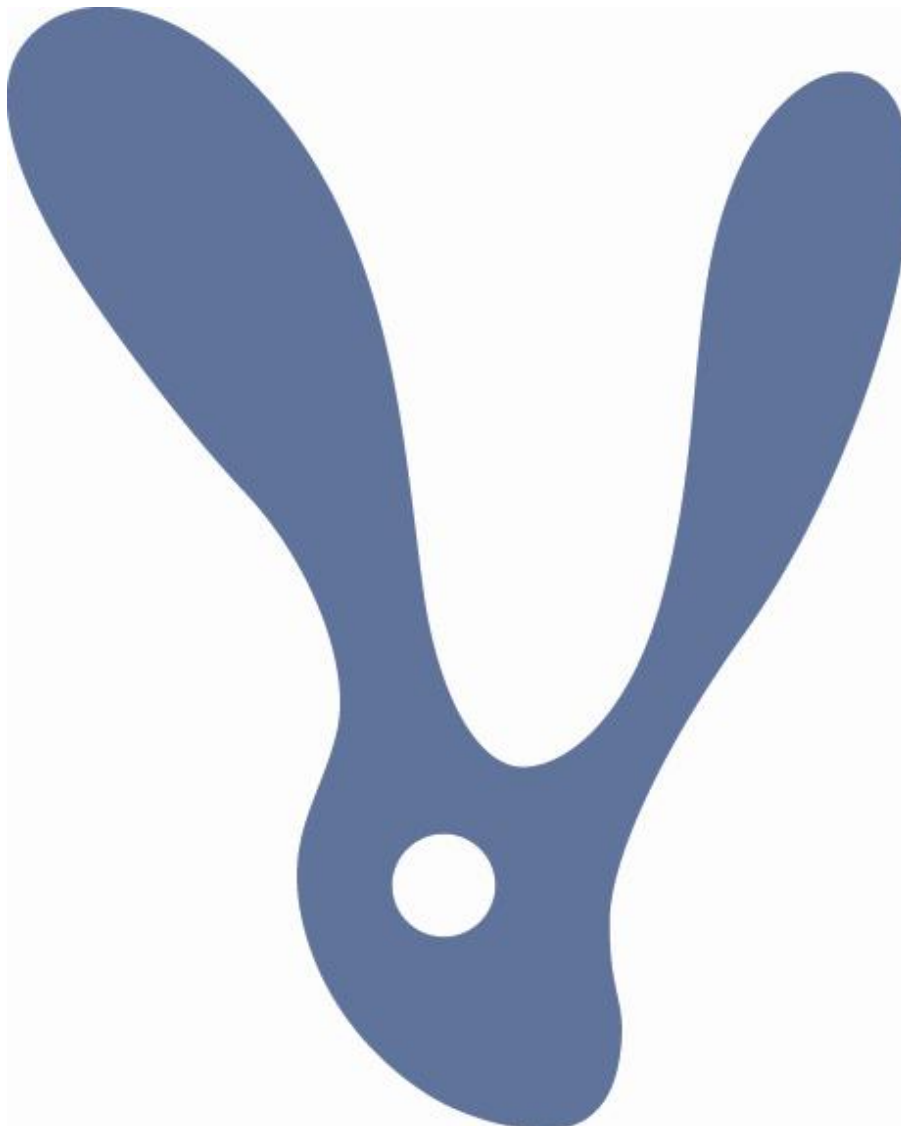| | | | | Number of journeys made by bus per annum | |
				Percentage of development in urban/rural areas within 400m or 5 minutes walk of half hourly bus service	
				Number of journeys made by train per annum	
		Q10e	Will it provide adequate means of access by a range of sustainable transport modes?	Distance of new development to existing or proposed public transport routes.	
				Provision of new walking and cycling links to accompany new development	
		Q10f	Will it help limit HGV traffic flows?	HGV traffic flows	
11	Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas	Q11a	Will it increase provision of local services and facilities and reduce centralisation?	Percentage of residents surveyed finding it easy to access key local services	
		Q11a	Will it improve accessibility by a range of transport modes to services and facilities from rural areas?	Percentage of rural households within 800m of an hourly or better bus service	
		Q11a	Will it support the provision of affordable housing in rural areas?	Affordable housing completions in rural areas	
12	Protect the integrity of the district's countryside.	Q12a	Will it prevent the degradation of land on the urban fringe?	Area of derelict or underutilised land on the urban fringe	
		Q12b	Will it lead to a loss of agricultural land?	Area of agricultural land not in use or under active management.	
		Q12c	Will it safeguard local distinctiveness and identity?	Application of detailed characterisation studies to new development	
13	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	Q13a	Will it ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing?	Affordable housing completions	

		Q13b	Will it identify an appropriate supply of land for new housing?	Net additional dwellings for the current year.	
		Q13c	Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment?	Number of major housing applications refused on design grounds.	
				Accessible Natural Greenspace	100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England) SDC targets for open space are currently being developed.
		Q13d	Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? (DCLG)	Percentage of housing developments achieving a four star or above sustainability rating as stipulated by the Code for Sustainable Homes	All new homes to be carbon neutral by 2016 (UK Government target)
		Q13e	Will it reduce the number of households on the Housing Register?	Number of households on the Housing Register	To reduce the numbers of homeless households in priority need and the number of households in housing need on the housing register
14	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing.	Q14a	Will it improve access for all to health, leisure and recreational facilities?	Travel time by public transport to nearest health centre and sports facility.	
		Q14b	Will it improve and enhance the district's green infrastructure network?	Area of parks and green spaces per 1,000 head of population	SDC open space standards are currently being developed.
				Accessible Natural Greenspace	100% of population with Accessible Natural Greenspace of at least 2ha within 300m (or 5 minutes of their home (Natural England) SDC standards are currently being developed.
				Area of playing fields and sports pitches.	2.83 hectares per 1,000 population for playing field provision (National Playing Fields Association Standard) SDC open space standards are currently being developed.

				Amount of land needed to rectify deficiencies in Open Space Standards (ha)	
				Percentage of eligible open spaces managed to green flag award standard	
				Percentage of residents that are satisfied with the quantity/quality of open space	
		Q14c	Will it improve long term health?	Life expectancy at birth	
				Standardised mortality rates	
		Q14d	Will it ensure that risks to human health and the environment from contamination are identified and removed?	Area of contaminated land (ha)	
		Q14e	Will it encourage healthy and active lifestyles?	% of adults (16+) participating in at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity sport and active recreation (including recreational walking) on three or more days of the week	To increase participation by 1% year-on-year until 2020 to achieve target of 50% of population participants in 30 mins activity, three times a week by 2020 (The Framework for Sport in England)
				The number of sports pitches available to the public per 1,000 population	
		Q14f	Will it reduce obesity?	Percentage of adult population classified as obese	By 2010, stabilise incidences of obesity in children by 2010 (DoH)

		Q14g	Does it consider the needs of the district's growing elderly population?	Percentage of older people being supported intensively to live at home	Increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually (DoH PSA)
		Q14h	Will it enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life?	Percentage of adults surveyed who feel they can influence decisions affecting their own local area	
		Q14i	Will it improve the satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as a place to live?	% respondents very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood	
		Q14j	Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime?	Indices of Multiple Deprivation: Crime domain	
		Q14k	Will it reduce deprivation in the district?	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	
		Q14l	Will it improve road safety?	Number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads per year	
15	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.	Q15a	Will it ensure that new employment, office, retail and leisure developments are in locations that are accessible to those who will use them by a choice of transport modes?	Proportion of residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of key services	
		Q15b	Will it help ensure an adequate supply of employment land?	Ha of new employment land provision	
		Q15c	Will it support or encourage new business sectors?	No. of start-up businesses in the environmental and social enterprise sector	

				Expenditure on R&D as the proportion of GVA	
		Q15d	Will it support the visitor economy?	Visitor numbers	

Sustainability Appraisal of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy Policy Options
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