



**South
Derbyshire**
District Council
Community and
Planning Services

Local Development Framework

SA

South Derbyshire Sustainability Appraisal

LOCAL PLAN PART 2

**Non-Technical
Summary**



October 2016

South Derbyshire Changing for the better

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1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This document is the non-technical summary of the Sustainability Appraisal Report (October 2016) for the South Derbyshire Local Plan Part 2. It summaries how the Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out, the main findings and the next steps.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal is a process that has been carried out as an integral part of developing the Plan with the aim of promoting sustainable development through the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations. It is required by the Government through legislation and is subject to public consultation and scrutiny in parallel with the Local Plan.

2.0 The South Derbyshire Local Plan

The Local Plan Part 1 (LP1)

- 2.1 The Council is preparing its Local Plan in two parts. The first part (the LP1) comprises the spatial vision and objectives and a spatial strategy that sets out the amount of growth required. It also includes strategic policies together with strategic housing and employment allocations. The LP1 was adopted on the 13th June 2016 and establishes a long-term strategy for growth in South Derbyshire to 2028 to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities.

The Local Plan Part 2 (LP2)

- 2.2 The LP2 sets out a number of non-strategic policies to guide development management decisions. These cover a range of issues including heritage, retail, Local Green Spaces and development in the countryside, (alongside a review of settlement boundaries that has been undertaken to support this policy). The LP2 also includes non-strategic housing allocations, which will deliver a minimum of 600 homes in the plan period.

Together the LP1 and LP2 will enable the Authority to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities up to 2028.

3.0 Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 3.1 In addition to Sustainability Appraisal, the Council are also required to undertake a separate form of assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) when preparing the Plan. This assessment known as Habitat Regulations Assessment is required to ensure that a Strategy or Plan either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would not have a significant effect on a European Site.
- 3.2 Where the Plan could affect a European Site the Council is required to undertake an 'Appropriate Assessment'. European sites referred to include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA). Within South Derbyshire there is one SAC; the River Mease. There are a number of other SACs and SPAs located in surrounding Districts and Boroughs.
- 3.3 The Plan has been subject to a screening assessment by the planning team to help identify which European Sites could be affected by the proposals included within it. The results of the full screening report have been published on the District Council's website.
- 3.4 The conclusions from the Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment are:

- There is only limited potential for growth earmarked within the Plan to increase foul water flows to waste water treatment works within the Mease SAC catchment and the likely effects of this increased growth would be fully offset through contributions to the River Mease Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS).
- There is no significant potential for growth earmarked within the Plan to increase diffuse water pollution within the River Mease catchment given existing policies included in the LP1.
- Water companies operating in the District have undertaken Habitat Regulations Assessment of their water resource management plans. These have concluded that proposed growth in water demand (associated with new development and changes in demand) will not have any significant impact on water dependent wildlife sites such as the River Mease SAC.
- There is no likely significant impact on any SPAs or SACs located outside of the District as a result of implementing the LP2 either alone or in combination with LP1 and other identified plans/programmes

3.5 Even though the Plan has been identified as unlikely to have any discernible effect on the River Mease SAC, the Council remains committed to working with the Environment Agency, Natural England, Severn Trent Water and adjoining Planning Authorities to improve water quality in the Mease Catchment.

4.0 Sustainability Appraisal – Purpose and Requirements

4.1 The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to promote the objectives of sustainable development. This is often defined as:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”¹.

4.2 The Sustainability Appraisal allows the Council to create a Plan which is ‘sustainable’ by providing us with an understanding of the likely social, environmental and economic impacts of a Plan from the outset. We can therefore consider how development proposals interact with others in the Plan and also other plans prepared or being prepared by other neighbouring planning authorities. In reviewing these effects, we have an opportunity to try and reduce the effects the Plan could have on the environment, the economy or on society either by selecting less harmful development options, seeking to mitigate the negative effects of the Plan, or wherever possible enhancing the positive effects.

4.3 The Sustainability Appraisal process is governed by European and national legislation and supported by Government policy, which includes:

- The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.
- The requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC (often known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive) which requires the preparation of an environmental report that considers the significant environmental effects of a plan or programme.

4.4 This Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive, by combining the environmentally-focused considerations of SEA with wider social and economic effects.

¹ Our Common Future Brundtland Report, World Commission on the Environment and Development, 1987

5.0 Sustainability Appraisal – Context and Objectives

- 5.1 The context and objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal were established during an earlier stage (often referred to as the scoping stage) of the Sustainability Appraisal process. This involved compiling background information in order for Sustainability Appraisal to be undertaken. The establishment of an evidence base allowed ongoing appraisal work and culminated in a framework of sustainability objectives.
- 5.2 Key tasks in this scoping exercise involved:
- identifying relevant policies, plans and programmes which could influence the Plan
 - collecting baseline information
 - identifying key sustainability issues in South Derbyshire
 - establishing sustainability objectives.
- 5.3 This evidence base work was published by South Derbyshire District Council in a Scoping Report in November 2014. The Scoping Report, although a separate document, forms part of the environmental report required by the SEA Directive.
- 5.4 Following consultation the scoping report was updated to reflect the comments received back and an updated version of the report together with a summary of comments received is available to view on the Council’s webpage: http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/planning_and_building_control/planning_policy/local_plan/local_plan_part2/local_plan_part2_sustainability_appraisal/default.asp

6.0 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 6.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of sustainability objectives which were established during the scoping stage described above; these objectives allow for the effects of the Plan to be described, analysed and compared which forms the basis of the assessment of the Plan.
- 6.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives are different in concept and purpose from the objectives of the Plan, though there is a degree of overlap. They are not necessarily intended to be fully achievable, but are more aspirational in nature, and address the full cross-section of sustainability issues.
- 6.3 The objectives are listed in the following table. The full framework is presented in Section 4 of the main Sustainability Appraisal Report, which includes more detailed ‘decision –making criteria’.

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna*	To avoid damage to designated sites and species (including UK and Local BAP Priority Habitat and Species) and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity across the District
Population and Human Health	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs
	To improve the health and well-being of the population
	To improve community safety and reduce crime and fear of crime
	To improve educational achievement and improve the District’s skills base
	To promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities associated with deprivation across the District

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective
Material Assets	To improve local accessibility to healthcare, education employment food shopping facilities and recreational resources (including open spaces and sports facilities) and promote healthy and sustainable travel or non-travel choices.
	To make best use of existing infrastructure and reduce the need to travel and increase opportunities for non-car travel (public transport walking and cycling)
	To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness
	To diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities
	To enhance the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres
	To improve the quality of new development and the existing built environment.
Soil, Water and Air	To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials
	To promote sustainable forms of construction and sustainable use of natural resources
	To reduce water, light, air and noise pollution
	To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land
	To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water runoff
Climatic Factors	To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution towards the causes
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	To conserve and enhance the historic environment heritage assets and their settings
	To improve access to the cultural heritage of the District for enjoyment and educational purposes
Landscape	To conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character

7.0 Developing and Refining Policies and Reasonable Alternatives

- 7.1 The SEA Directive requires assessment of the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, and “reasonable alternatives”. Developing options and alternatives is an important part of both the plan-making and Sustainability Appraisal process. For development plan documents such as the LP2, the reasonable alternatives are the different options identified during plan preparation that are capable of delivering the Plan objectives.
- 7.2 Given the duty on authorities preparing Local Plans to contribute to sustainable development, South Derbyshire District Council has sought to develop options early in the plan preparation process. The Sustainability Appraisal has informed the preparation of the Draft Plan and will continue to inform the scope and content of the Plan as it progresses towards adoption.
- 7.3 The Sustainability Appraisal provides information on the options identified to deliver the Plan Objectives. The appraisal indicates which options have been taken forward, those which have been considered, but discounted and where appropriate how the effects of the preferred options can be improved.

8.0 Assessing the Significance of Effects

- 8.1 The SEA Directive requires an assessment of the “likely significant effects...taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme”. It is, therefore, necessary to assess only those effects of the Plan that are likely to be significant, not all possible effects.
- 8.2 In the Sustainability Appraisal Report, the social, environmental and economic effects of the ‘broad strategic options’ and the ‘preferred options’ are assessed. An assessment has also been made of the policies included in the Plan. Prediction of effects involves identifying what changes might occur to the sustainability baseline over time – these changes are then evaluated for their likely significance, in terms of their probability, duration, frequency, geographical area and size of population likely to be affected. However, it is not always possible to accurately predict sustainability effects when considering plans, which are often of a ‘strategic’ nature and where

uncertainties exist or data gaps are uncovered that make evaluation difficult this has been acknowledged within the appraisal.

9.0 Likely Significance of Effects of the South Derbyshire LP2

- 9.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Report has acknowledged that significant effects, both positive and negative, are likely in a number of areas.
- 9.2 The Council's strategy for growth will have a range of sustainability implications. The issues identified are often of a specific and localised nature which can be addressed through site specific mitigation measures either included within thematic policies in the LP1 (or those policies proposed for inclusion in the LP2).
- 9.3 It is unlikely that the LP2 would give rise to significant effects on the environment in isolation given the limited scale and nature of growth proposed within it. However, as previously noted, the LP2 will sit alongside the LP1 and the allocations and the policies it contains could act in combination and give rise to significant effects. Together the two Plans will deliver a minimum of 12,618 new homes (of which LP2 identifies the location of over 600 homes), around 53ha of employment land, new primary and secondary schools, new roads, public transport provision and walking and cycling routes; community facilities, healthcare provision, recreational facilities and green infrastructure provision such as allotments and Local Green Spaces.
- 9.4 The actual effects of proposed growth cannot be known precisely and will depend on the nature of development in any given location and the range of measures to reduce impacts. However, effects, both positive and negative, are likely to relate to the following:

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- 9.5 In respect of impacts on wildlife, none of the proposed allocations will affect local nature reserves or local wildlife sites. Two sites, both located in Overseal could have potential to affect the River Mease Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This site receives a high level of protection owing to its ecological significance at a European level. However, both the sites allocated in the Plan already have planning consent and will contribute financially to the River Mease Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS1 or DCS2). These schemes allows mitigation measures to be undertaken within the river to reduce phosphate levels. The removal of phosphate ensures development will have no net impact on water quality in the river and ensures that development will not affect the integrity of the site. As both the allocated sites in Overseal already benefit from planning consent a Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment has been undertaken for each confirming that neither will give rise to likely significant effects on the SAC, either alone or in combination with other development in the catchment. No sites would have any effect on regionally important geological sites.
- 9.6 A number of sites have got tree preservation orders on their boundary, although the inclusion of a policy to protect trees, hedgerows and woodland has been included in the Plan to minimise the likely potential for negative effects on protected trees. Policy BNE3 (Biodiversity) included in the LP1 requires that development sites contribute towards delivering biodiversity gain wherever possible in line with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 9.7 Most of the sites identified in the Plan have the potential to affect protected species, although clearly these are protected by existing laws. Nonetheless, development could disturb existing habitats and species during both the construction phase and operational stages of development. The Council has sought to include a number of policies in the LP1 and LP2 to ensure that the proposed

allocations offers long term biodiversity gain, as required by the NPPF and offer protection to existing habitats and species affected by development.

Population and Human Health

- 9.8 in excess of 600 homes will be delivered across 14 sites. This is likely to lead to an increase in the Districts population of around 1,600 people. The growth is across Swadlincote, Woodville and the villages.
- 9.9 Based on standard requirements and discounting sites which will accommodate 15 or less homes the site proposed through LP2 could provide up to 200 affordable homes. However, it is likely that brownfield sites, particularly those in Swadlincote and Woodville may not be capable of delivering the full 30% affordable housing on site. As such affordable housing provision in Swadlincote may be constrained compared to village locations which tend to offer greater returns for developers.
- 9.10 In respect of schools provision development of all the proposed sites would require a further 140 primary school places. These would be spread across the District and would be required over the period up to 2028, although demand could be focussed in the early to middle part of the plan period given the scale of sites. Similarly this level of growth could require the delivery of a further 104 secondary school places, although it is possible that sites in Swadlincote and Woodville, could be met within existing capacity at Granville and Pingle schools. Should this be the case actual secondary school places needed to support growth proposed in the LP2 could be around 90 additional spaces. These would need to be met in the existing local schools, John Port Academy, Chellaston Academy and the three Swadlincote Schools, or in the proposed new secondary school which will come forward in the DUA before 2028. It is likely that primary school places would need to be met by existing schools (including through their expansion where necessary) including those to be delivered by strategic sites included in the LP1.
- 9.11 Given the scale of growth proposed it would also increase demands (albeit not significantly) on existing health and open space provision. However, new development will be required to make financial contributions to support and enhance existing facilities where these have insufficient capacity to support growth in line with the Council's existing developer contributions Supplementary Planning Document.
- 9.12 The plan is unlikely to have any significant effects in respect of improving community safety or reducing crime and fear of crime. However the Plan could help secure the reuse of previously developed (and in some cases unused sites) including in Swadlincote and Woodville. Some sites could also offer opportunity to reduce speed limits on roads within the District and enhance pedestrian facilities including crossings (for example Derby Road Hilton). However prior to further assessment the potential for such benefits remains unclear.
- 9.13 LP2 could have minor benefits in respect of tackling social inclusion within the plan period by delivering affordable homes across a range of rural locations, many of which have an identified need for social housing and are often relatively unaffordable compared to Swadlincote or sites in the Derby Urban Area.

Material Assets

- 9.14 The Plan is likely to have only minor effects in respect of improving access to local services and facilities. However the Council has sought to locate LP2 sites in the most sustainable locations. However the majority of sites allocated are in villages, albeit targeted mainly at Key Service Villages. In respect of the Local Service Villages receiving growth these are identified in the settlement hierarchy topic paper as being relatively sustainable. Indeed Mount Pleasant is well related to the

Swadlincote Urban Core and in the 1998 Adopted Local Plan was included in the Swadlincote settlement boundary.

- 9.15 Given the limited scale of development sites proposed and the dispersed nature of that growth it is unlikely that strategic infrastructure improvements will be required to accommodate the LP2 sites either in isolation or combined. There may, however be a need for local capacity enhancements to accommodate sites, particularly in combination with other sites proposed within the District (or those which come forward as windfalls within the Plan period).
- 9.16 Development on the scale proposed will generate a further need for employment land provision, though not in addition to that provided by LP1. The LP1 includes a requirement for the delivery of a minimum of 53ha to 2028 outside of the DUA. This requirement takes account of the full extent of likely housing growth in the District and wider Derby housing market area, including the strategic sites in the LP1, the non-strategic sites to be delivered through LP2 as well as windfall sites.
- 9.17 The inclusion of existing employment land policies in the LP1, including Policy E7 (Rural Development) supports the delivery of rural enterprises outside of existing settlements where these support the economic and social needs or rural communities.
- 9.18 The Plan would have a notable beneficial impact in respect of supporting the vitality and viability of town and village centres. In particular LP2 proposes policies to support the continuing growth and development of Swadlincote Town Centre, both through providing flexibility for accommodating appropriate retail, leisure and business use within the town centre and through the identification of future redevelopment areas which could support the delivery of new town centre uses to strengthen local retail and leisure offer. Policy RTL1 also includes policy to guide development in Key and Local Service Villages as well as control changes of use and retail losses.
- 9.19 The scale and distribution of development proposed will help ensure that significant effects on townscape character can be avoided. In particular the relatively low density of allocations proposed (around 19 homes per hectare across proposed allocations) will help ensure that sites can be designed and built sensitively reflecting the character of the District's villages and adequate provision is made for landscape mitigation, sustainable drainage provision and biodiversity gain. Policies included in the LP1 including BNE1 (Design Excellence) require that LP2 sites will be built out to respect local townscape character. Further policies proposed in LP2, including in respect of, trees, woodland and hedgerows (BNE7) local green space (BNE10), and heritage (BNE10) will ensure that the development schemes reflect local townscape character.

Soil, Water and Air

- 9.20 Individually no specific development site is likely to have any significant effects in respect of waste generation. However growth at the scale proposed through LP2 will increase waste generation by around 346 tonnes per year (based on existing waste generation levels per household). Impacts will be lessened through requirements for developers to minimise waste during construction and through requirements to include adequate storage areas for recycling within new developments as included in Policy BNE1 of the LP1. The overall effects of growth within the Plan period will be further mitigated by on-going improvements to waste collection and recycling required by European and UK legislation. It is unlikely that growth would lead to any increase in waste landfilled as waste within South Derbyshire is either recycled (49%) or diverted from land fill for use in an energy from waste (EFW) plant (51%).
- 9.21 Development is likely to increase noise and light pollution as a result of new housing development. However effects are unlikely to be significant given the scale of growth proposed and given existing

similar land uses close to proposed development locations. Development on the scale proposed would be unlikely to have any discernible impact on air quality management areas (the closest of which are located in Derby City and Burton on Trent).

- 9.22 In respect of flood risk, all of the sites are capable of accommodating development solely in areas located in flood zone 1 (low flood risk) with the exception of the site in Scropton. This site is located in Flood Zone 3a (high flood risk), although the recently completed flood defences in Scropton protect the site up to and including a 1:100 year flood event. It is however worth noting that Kingfisher Lane (Willington) which would provide access to the Willington site does fall in an area at high flood risk, although a potential secondary pedestrian access could ensure a dry means of escape should this road become flooded. Further detail on the flood risk of each site from all sources is included at Appendix 4 of the Technical Appendix to the Sustainability Appraisal.
- 9.23 All greenfield sites proposed through the LP2 will be expected to ensure that surface water runoff is managed on site and released from the site at greenfield rates. This will be achieved through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) in accordance with Policy SD2 (Flood Risk) and SD3 (Sustainable Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage Infrastructure) both of which are in the LP1.
- 9.24 As noted previously the sites allocated are unlikely to have any discernible impact on water quality in the River Mease SAC, given that appropriate mitigation, financed by the development to offset any increases in phosphates associated with housing growth will be delivered through the River Mease Developer Contribution Scheme (DCS1 or DCS2).
- 9.25 In combination the LP2 housing allocations will lead to the loss of around 37.5ha of land. Of this, around 31.0ha will be greenfield and 6.5ha will consist of previously developed sites. In the Draft Local Plan a total of 693 homes will be delivered across the sites giving a net density of around 19 homes per hectare.

Climatic Factors

- 9.26 Greenhouse gas emissions are recognised as being one of the causes of climate change. These are likely to increase as a result of energy use associated with the development and occupation of new homes and rising traffic volumes, although this could be offset by wider Government policy to reduce the emission of climate change gases, for example through decarbonising electricity generation or promoting the use of electric vehicles over the plan period and beyond. The development plan as a whole also promotes the efficient use of resources and includes policies to deliver appropriate new energy infrastructure and District heating and supports a modal shift towards more sustainable transport modes.

Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)

- 9.27 The Plan is unlikely to have any significant effect on the architectural and archaeological heritage of the District, but could have a number of locally important effects. A number of the sites allocated could have the potential for negative effects on heritage assets. In particular there are heritage records within or adjoining sites in Aston, Willington, Milton Road (Repton), Scropton and Mount Pleasant, as well as the Montracon and HK Wentworth sites in Woodville and Swadlincote. However it is likely that the records at Willington, HK Wentworth (Swadlincote) Mount Pleasant, Scropton and Montracon (Woodville) have been disturbed by previous land uses. Records within sites at Aston on Trent and Milton Road, (Repton) consist of ridge and furrow and are likely to be of local importance only. However both these sites are located close to sites of archaeological importance (i.e. prehistoric Barrow in Repton and Aston Cursus Complex in Aston on Trent) and any future development would need to take account of the potential for archaeological features within the site. In addition the site at Jacksons Lane, Etwall, whilst not containing a heritage record has been

archaeologically evaluated and found to contain a later prehistoric enclosure which are of regional importance. This would need to be addressed by planning conditions in line with NPPF para 141 and would require archaeological excavation and recording prior to commencement of any development.

- 9.28 In addition to potential archaeological impacts, development in a number of locations could also affect the setting of listed buildings, or conservation areas including sites at Scropton and Melbourne. However given the characteristics of existing sites and the proximity to heritage assets it is likely that impacts on these area could be appropriately mitigated. Policy BNE10 (Heritage) to be included in the LP2 provides policy to ensure that appropriate mitigation is secured through the development management process.
- 9.29 Of the sites put forward in the LP2, 15.7ha fall within the National Forest area and will be required to deliver at least 20% tree planting and other habitat creation. On this basis the Plan will deliver around 3ha of National Forest Tree Planting. Sites outside of the National Forest area would also be likely to deliver new planting, and habitat creation although this may not be as focussed on tree planting as that within the 'Forest'.
- 9.30 The plan could make a limited contribution towards improving access to the District's Heritage Assets. Where sites contain locally or regionally significant heritage assets that will be disturbed by development it is likely that appropriate investigations and appropriate action will undertaken to preserve the site in situ or in record as appropriate. Policy BNE10 (Heritage) requires that any investigations and recording of a site as part of any works are published and archived.

Landscape

- 9.31 Given the nature of sites proposed (most are urban or village extensions) it is likely that the Plan will have a detrimental impact on landscape character. However the significance of effects will be moderated, in part by the small scale nature of developments to be allocated and existing Policy requirements to protect landscape character in the LP1 including BNE1 (Design Excellence), BNE4 Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness) and LP2 including Policy BNE7 (Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows).
- 9.32 New planting will be required to help mitigate the effects of development on the local landscape. Further details on the nature of landscape mitigation are likely to come forward as the Plan moves forward and site layouts become available for the proposed allocations. However given the dispersed nature of sites and their limited scale, it is unlikely that growth on the scale proposed would give rise to significant long term effects on the local landscape or visual impact, especially once mitigation measures are considered. Moreover due to the dispersed nature of sites, cumulative effects from multiple developments would be unlikely to occur, although such cumulative effects could occur in Etwall and Repton where Part 1 and Part 2 developments are located close to each other.

10.0 Mitigation Measures

- 10.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Report has included consideration of mitigation measures to reduce or avoid significant adverse effects and ways of maximising the positive effects. This includes recommendations on ways to improve development so that sustainability benefits are increased. The Sustainability Appraisal report indicates that it is possible to reduce or avoid many of the predicted adverse effects of implementation. The policies included in both the LP1 and LP2 to reduce the effects of development, which cover issues such as biodiversity, historic environment,

landscape, green infrastructure and local green spaces, transport, flood risk management, water efficiency, site remediation and environmental quality.

Biodiversity

- 10.2 LP1 includes a thematic policy to protect biodiversity and secure biodiversity gain (i.e. improvements in the wildlife value of sites). This policy is further augmented by policies to deliver green infrastructure (including National Forest planting) and improve water quality. A further policy (BNE7) is also proposed in the LP2 to protect trees, woodland and hedgerows that could be impacted by development. Policy H23 (Non-Strategic Housing Allocations) requires that site consider the biodiversity impacts of development.

Population and Human Health

- 10.3 The Plan includes a range of housing allocations to meet the requirement in the LP1 to deliver a minimum of 600 homes on non-strategic sites. In combination with LP1 policies to ensure a mix of homes (both in terms of tenure and size) and to require up to 30% affordable housing on sites of 16 or more homes this will help meet objectively assessed housing need within the District and address local housing needs.
- 10.4 LP2 also proposes a number of housing policies in respect of replacement dwellings in the countryside (H24), residential conversions (H28) and rural workers dwellings (H25) as well as Development in the Countryside (BNE5) which seeks to provide for limited housing development in rural locations.

Material Assets

- 10.5 The sustainability appraisal has informed decision making on the sites identified for allocation. The sites allocated are predominantly located in urban areas or key service villages with access to public transport and other services and facilities. Where local service villages have been identified to accommodate growth the scale of development proposed and the relative sustainability of settlements have informed the scale of sites included in the Plan. It is unlikely however given the small scale nature of sites that significant new infrastructure could be supported or be required.
- 10.6 LP2 includes policies to support the continuing growth of town, local and village centres as well as policies to resist of the loss of existing retail facilities in local centres and villages. However given the scale of growth proposed through LP2 it is unlikely that allocations will support the provision of new retail and built leisure provision.
- 10.7 Policy INF6 included in the LP1 requires that new development makes appropriate contributions towards providing new facilities or improve existing facilities. Given the scale and dispersed nature of sites it is likely that non-strategic allocations would make financial contributions towards expanding existing community facilities where there is a lack of capacity to accommodate growth.

Soil, Water and Air

- 10.8 The sites allocated by the Authority in the LP2 assume a relatively low density of growth at around 19 homes per hectare. This is partly to protect local character but also to ensure that appropriate green infrastructure including sustainable drainage can be accommodated on site. Thematic policies are included in the LP1 to reduce flood risk, require sustainable management of surface water on site, restrict foul flows from non mains sewerage treatment unless no other treatment methods are available, and deliver improvement in water quality in the River Mease and other surface waters. These together with the requirement included in Policy H23 (Non-Strategic Housing Allocations) will ensure that sites do not have a significant effect on the water environment and manage flood risk on site.

10.9 The Plan has sought to allocate previously developed sites where these are appropriate and around 160 homes will be on brownfield land, with a further 50 on a former minerals site which has been restored. However around three quarters of the proposed development will be located on greenfield sites.

Climatic Factors

10.10 The Plan has sought to allocate non-strategic sites mainly across Key Service Villages which are relatively sustainable and offer access to local services and facilities. This could help reduce the need to travel. Policy H23 (Non-Strategic Housing Allocations) also requires that walking and cycling links be considered in site development.

Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)

10.11 LP2 proposes the inclusion of a thematic policy (BNE10 Heritage) to ensure the protection of designated and non designated heritage assets and their settings within South Derbyshire and requires investigation of assets and the publication of archaeological reports where these are undertaken to inform development projects. A further policy on shopfronts (BNE11) is proposed within the plan to help ensure that the character of Swadlincote Town Centre and historic village centres are not eroded through inappropriate treatments of shopfronts. A further requirement to consider the impact of sites on designated and non designated heritage assets is set out in Policy H23 (Non-strategic Housing Allocations).

10.12 LP1 also includes a policy which requires up to 20% tree planting and habitat creation for sites between 0.5ha and 10ha for development sites in the National Forest in order to contribute towards the continued delivery of the Forest. Of the 14 proposed allocations 5 are located in the National Forest and would be expected to deliver in excess of 3ha of National Forest Planting or other appropriate habitat creation.

Landscape

10.13 The LP1 includes policies on Design Excellence (BNE1) and Landscape Character and Local Distinctiveness (BNE4) to help ensure that developments reflect local character and are designed to take account of existing landscape elements. These policies are supported by additional proposed policies in the LP2, which seek to minimise loss of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows (BNE7) and designate Local Green Spaces (BNE8). Policy H23 (Non-Strategic Housing Allocations) also requires that new development consider the impact of development on the surrounding landscape and townscape. The density of LP2 allocations are generally low (with the highest density development likely to yield 33 homes per hectare and many sites being significantly lower). On average density will be at around 19 homes per hectare and this should ensure that the necessary landscape mitigation can be accommodated on development sites.

11.0 Overall Sustainability of the LP2

11.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Report has investigated the likely significant effects of implementing the LP2 and it has indicated effects, both positive and negative, are likely in a number of areas. There will be notable benefits in terms of housing provision. Negative effects mainly relate to impacts on the natural environment from further housing development within the allocations and elsewhere in South Derbyshire (including within the countryside where strict criteria are met). In many cases the effects of development can be reduced or avoided through measures taken at the local or site level to mitigate effects. Policies are included in both parts of the South Derbyshire Local Plan to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into site design, and implementation.

12.0 Consultation

- 12.1 In undertaking consultation the Council has sought to engage the statutory environmental bodies, as required by the SEA Directive, the public and a wide range of other stakeholders and community organisations.
- 12.2 Consultation has previously been undertaken on the scope and level of detail of the Sustainability Appraisal (the 'Scoping Report') for a five week period from November 2014. Comments submitted regarding the 'scope' of the Sustainability Appraisal and the amendments made to the information set out in the Scoping Report following this stage of consultation are set out on the Councils website and Appendix 1 of the Technical Appendices to the Main Report.

13.0 Monitoring Requirements

- 13.1 The SEA Directive requires the significant environmental effects of plans and programmes to be monitored, in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to take appropriate action where necessary.
- 13.2 The monitoring undertaken on the LP2 will help to:
- monitor the significant effects of the plan.
 - track whether the plan has had any unforeseen effects.
 - ensure that action can be taken to reduce / offset the significant effects of the plan.
 - provide baseline data for future sustainability appraisals, and
 - provide evidence of how the environment / sustainability criteria of the area are evolving.
- 13.3 The requirements of the SEA Directive focus on monitoring the effects of the plan. This equates to both the plan's significant effects and also unforeseen effects. It may be difficult to implement monitoring mechanisms for unexpected effects, or to attribute such effects to the implementation of the Plan when they occur, as often other plans, projects or programmes could all effect the quality of environment, economic performance or the social aspects of the plan.
- 13.4 It is good practice for the monitoring of significant sustainability effects to be integrated with other monitoring of the Local Development Framework. For this reason, the Council will report significant sustainability effects as part of its existing monitoring regime. Proposed indicators are included in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. These have been drawn from the baseline information and key sustainability issues identified within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and are identified to monitor potential significant adverse effects highlighted in the main report

14.0 Next Steps

- 14.1 Following the Pre-submission consultation the Authority will review any comments made on the Plan and will submit the Pre-submission Plan alongside any proposed modifications to the Secretary of State for Examination. The Secretary of State will then appoint an inspector to examine the Plan. Examination is likely to take place in early 2017. The role of the Inspector during the examination process will be to consider the soundness of the LP2, using the sustainability appraisal as part of the evidence base.
- 14.2 If any significant changes are made to the LP2 as a result of the examination process that may lead to additional significant effects not already covered in the sustainability appraisal needing to be addressed. The SA will therefore be further updated, prior to Plan Adoption.

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South Derbyshire Sustainability Appraisal Local Plan Part 2

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