



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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Local Development Framework

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# Sustainability Appraisal Modifications update

Submission Local Plan, Part 1

## Non-Technical Summary

January 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 Modifications Report (January 2016) for the South Derbyshire Part 1 Local Plan. It summaries how the Sustainability Appraisal has been carried out, the main finding and the next steps.
- 1.2 Sustainability Appraisal is a process that has been carried out as in 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 government through legislation and is subject to public consultation and scrutiny in parallel with the Local Plan.

## **2.0 The South Derbyshire Part 1 Local Plan**

- 2.1 The Council has been preparing the Part 1 Local Plan, which when adopted, will establish a long-term strategy (to 2028) to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities. It comprises the spatial vision and objectives and a spatial strategy (setting out how much growth is required and where strategic growth will be located).
- 2.2 Included within the Plan will be a number of key policies to inform the detail of new development and a section setting out how we will implement and monitor the strategy. Its effectiveness will be monitored through the Council's Monitoring Report.
- 2.3 The Part 1 Local Plan (hereafter referred to as "the Plan") will form the principle document within South Derbyshire's Local Development Framework (LDF) and will be a key consideration in the determination of future planning applications. An allowance for 600 homes which will be met chiefly in village locations is to be defined through Part 2 of the Local Plan. The first stage of consultation on the Part 2 Local Plan commenced in December 2015. Further information on the Part 2 Local Plan is available to view at [www.south-derbys.gov.uk/localplanpart2](http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/localplanpart2)

## **3.0 Habitat Regulations Assessment**

- 3.1 In addition to Sustainability Appraisal we 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 nature conservation site protected by European law.
- 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 SPA 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 Districts Councils [website](#).
- 3.4 The conclusions from the Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment are:

- There is no likely significant impact on any SPAs or SACs located outside of the District as a result of implementing the Plan.
- There is no potential for growth earmarked within the Plan to increase foul water flows to waste water treatment works within the Mease SAC catchment.
- There is no significant potential for growth earmarked within the Plan to increase diffuse water pollution within the River Mease catchment.
- 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.
- As the Plan will not have a significant impact on any SAC or similarly protected site in isolation it will not have any impact in combination with other plans and strategies.

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”<sup>1</sup>.*

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 effects of the 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 our 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.

#### **5.0 Sustainability Appraisal – Context and Objectives**

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<sup>1</sup> Our Common Future Brundtland Report, World Commission on the Environment and Development, 1987

- 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 needed before the Sustainability Appraisal can be undertaken. It established an evidence base for 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 our 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 October 2008 after a comprehensive and wide ranging public consultation exercise. The Scoping Report, although a separate document, forms part of the environmental report required by the SEA Directive.
- 5.4 The scoping work is subject to continual review as evidence becomes outdated and new information is made available. In order to update the information contained in the Scoping Report the Council undertook a review of the scoping report in July 2012. This review was triggered mainly by changes to National Government policy and alterations or deletion of national indicators. The Council alerted relevant stakeholder to the publication of an updated scoping report in July 2012 and invited comment during a five-week consultation period, which closed September 2012. A copy of the updated Scoping Opinion together with a summary of comments received is available to view on the Council's website.

## 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 provide a way in which the effects of the Plan can be described, analysed and compared which then 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 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 protect and enhance the cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the District
	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 Local Plan, the reasonable alternatives are the different options identified during plan preparation.
- 7.2 Given the duty on authorities preparing Local Plans to contribute to sustainable development, South Derbyshire District Council began developing options early in the plan preparation process. The Sustainability Appraisal has informed the preparation of the plan since 2009 when the Council undertook it's first 'Issues and Ideas' consultation.
- 7.3 The Sustainability Appraisal provides information on, at which stage of the plan process options were identified and highlights other options (alternatives) identified iteratively throughout the process including those put forward by consultation bodies and stakeholders. The appraisal indicates which options have been taken forward and where appropriate indicates how the effects of policy can be improved.
- 7.4 The Sustainability Appraisal provides information for options identified at each stage of the plan process. It also highlights alternatives identified iteratively throughout the process including those put forward by consultation bodies and stakeholders. The appraisal indicates which options have been taken forward and where required indicates how the effects of policy 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 identified 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. The value and vulnerability of certain areas and populations also affects the evaluation. It is not always possible to accurately predict sustainability effects when considering plans at such a strategic scale and where uncertainties exist or data gaps uncovered that make evaluation difficult this has been acknowledged.

8.3 The appraisal has recognised six categories of predicted effects, as illustrated in the following key:

✓✓	Major beneficial effect
✓	Minor / Moderate beneficial effect
--	Neutral/no effect
X	Minor / Moderate undesirable effect
XX	Major undesirable effect
?	Uncertain effect

## 9.0 Likely Significance of Effects of the South Derbyshire Part 1 Local Plan

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 specific mitigation measures either included within thematic policies in the plan or within site based policies for individual housing or employment sites.

9.3 The significant effects of the Plan are likely to be cumulative and result from the overall proposed level of housing and employment growth (between 2011-2028), and associated infrastructure – this will include 12,618 new homes and around 82ha 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 cemetery space.

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, significant effects, both positive and negative, are likely to relate to the following:

### Biodiversity

9.5 As previously stated the Plan will have no effect on the River Mease SAC. The Plan is also unlikely to have a discernible effect on any other statutory wildlife sites such as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs –there are six in South Derbyshire) or on identified National Nature Reserves (Calke Park) or designated Local Nature Reserves (Elvaston Castle and Coton Park).

- 9.6 The Plan could impact on a small number of county wildlife sites (CWS), or regionally important geological sites (RIGS) although these are non-statutory designations of local rather than national importance. In respect of wildlife sites where effects have been identified policies have been included in the Plan to protect these sites from built development and maintain the integrity of the site.
- 9.7 Most strategic sites identified in the Plan have the potential to affect protected species, although clearly these are protected by existing laws. Nonetheless, in the short term the Sustainability Appraisal identifies that new development could have a negative effect on local habitats and species as sites are cleared or prepared for development. The Council has sought to include a number of policies in the plan to ensure that new development offers long term biodiversity gain, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. Policies are also included in the Plan to deliver green infrastructure and connect up existing green spaces, protect and enhance valued habitats and species, secure new habitat creation including National Forest Planting. Individual site based policies detail those biodiversity elements on site which require careful attention in delivering new development.

### **Population and Human Health**

- 9.8 The Plan will deliver 742 new homes a year within South Derbyshire between 2011-28 and will allow the District to meet, in full, its objectively assessed need. These homes will include 3,013 homes to partially address a shortfall in supply of 5,388 homes that are needed in Derby City but cannot be accommodated within their boundary due to a lack of suitable sites. The Plan requires that sites brought forward within the Plan period deliver up to 30% affordable housing (subject to viability). The Plan will therefore have a major beneficial effect in respect of housing delivery over the lifetime of the Plan.
- 9.9 In addition the Council has sought to provide greater flexibility to accommodate some new affordable homes away from strategic development locations by including a policy to accommodate small scale affordable housing exceptions sites relative to settlement size, where there is a clear and demonstrable local need which cannot be met elsewhere. Similarly, the inclusion of a policy to promote a mix of housing types and tenures has also been included in the Plan.
- 9.10 The Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects in respect of healthcare provision, although at a local level some developments could have a negative effect on existing healthcare services. The Plan includes appropriate infrastructure policies and requirements and where appropriate these are included in site policies to ensure new development is supported by necessary provision of built facilities, or that developer contributions are made to improve the capacity of existing facilities. Similarly the Plan makes provision for new green infrastructure and sports and leisure provision associated with development. Again, provision is required within the site based policies and thematic policies included in the Plan.
- 9.11 The Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects in respect of improving community safety and reducing crime and fear of crime. However, the reuse of a number of derelict sites, for example in Aston on Trent and Swadlincote could provide an opportunity to address problems associated with vandalism and antisocial behaviour which are locally important. Some developments would also present opportunity to deliver highways capacity or safety measures (around Woodville and Sinfyn), improvements in flood risk infrastructure (Hatton and around Sunny Side in Derby) or improve off road cycling provision (sites in Woodville, Swadlincote and around Mickleover, Chellaston and Drakelow).

- 9.12 The Plan could have a significant effect in respect of education provision but particularly secondary school places. Within the Derby Urban Area secondary school provision is especially problematic as there may not be sufficient capacity to accommodate all growth proposed through the Plan period both in South Derbyshire and Derby City. At least one new school will be required to accommodate growth in the Derby Urban Area, although, as yet the preferred location of any school remains to be identified through Part 2 Local Plan. Within Swadlincote, primary school capacity is more problematic, especially around Woodville where local schools are unable to expand. The Council is continuing to work with the Local Education Authority for Derbyshire and Derby City to identify how best to meet needs through an agreed strategy. Away from the main urban areas it is likely that primary and secondary school needs can be accommodated due to the relatively small scale of growth proposed, coupled with the capacity of existing schools to expand and subject to the delivery of further primary school in Hilton.
- 9.13 The Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects in respect of promoting social inclusion or tackling inequalities. However, the Plan could have notable impacts at the local level close to areas where new development is proposed. The Plan will seek to deliver a step change in affordable housing provision up to 2028 as well as the delivery of new social and community facilities. It will also provide for the delivery of exceptional housing sites (where specific need is identified), as well as deliver new employment land close to existing communities including in communities close to Swadlincote, Hatton and Hilton which have higher than (South Derbyshire) average levels of deprivation and unemployment.

## **Material Assets**

- 9.14 The Plan could have significant impacts in respect of improving local access to healthcare, education, employment, food shopping, facilities and recreational resources (including open spaces and sports facilities) and in respect of promoting healthy and sustainable travel or non-travel choices. As previously noted growth is likely to deliver new educational, community and health facilities required to meet the needs of growing communities. New employment development is also proposed close to key settlements such as Swadlincote, Hatton, Hilton, Foston, Sinfin Moor (edge of Derby) and Drakelow (edge of Burton on Trent). Growth will also be supported by improvements to local walking and cycling provision and public transport provision. In particular development around Boulton Moor could support the delivery of a proposed park and ride facility, whilst elsewhere the plan will support the delivery of new integrated transport links around Sinfin (Derby), Woodville, Hatton and Drakelow.
- 9.15 Evidence gathered for the preparation of the Plan through transport modelling, the Water Cycle Study and ongoing engagement with utility companies indicates that the growth proposed to 2028 (i.e. 12,618 homes) will increase demand on existing infrastructure over the course of the Plan period. The Plan is seeking to minimise the need for new infrastructure provision, by using headroom or capacity efficiently, although a number of strategic infrastructure projects will be required to support growth. These include new transport routes (Sinfin, Woodville, Hatton and Drakelow), capacity improvements to the sewerage (southern edge of Derby City) and electricity transmission systems (around Hilton Hatton, Church Broughton and the western edge of Derby City), water supply (villages in the South Staffordshire water supply area) and waste water treatment works improvements (around Swadlincote and Milton).
- 9.16. The overall employment land needs of the Derby Housing Market Area have been calculated having regard to the overall growth in population and changing demographic needs of residents and proposed employment land need will be fully met through the proposed employment land allocations.

- 9.17 The Plan will make a significant positive contribution towards the delivery of employment land within the plan period by providing sites for continued economic development throughout the District. Policies in the Plan support employment land delivery for a range of types and size of business development across a number of urban and rural locations. Employment land delivery will be at existing employment locations in Swadlincote, Hilton, Hatton and Dove Valley (Foston), together with new employment provision at Sinfin Moor (Derby City), Drakelow (Burton on Trent) and Woodville.
- 9.18 The Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect in respect of enhancing the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres. However, the Plan does support the continued enhancement of Swadlincote and key village centres either directly through policy provisions to support the continued growth of Swadlincote town centre, or indirectly through allocating new development, or by allowing for growth in larger villages through the settlement hierarchy. This growth would increase the number of residents using existing shops and other services locally and could help deliver new shops or services in some locations. The plan also supports the delivery of a number of new local centres on large urban extensions to Burton on Trent (Drakelow Park) and Derby City (Hackwood Farm, Land West of Mickleover, Highfields Farm, Wragley Way, Chellaston Fields and Boulton Moor).
- 9.20 The scale of housing and employment growth proposed could have a significant impact on townscape character and local distinctiveness. The Plan is seeking to ensure that development reflects local context and contributes towards the delivery of high quality design. The plan includes an urban design policy, which will be augmented through the adoption of a Design Supplementary Planning Document.

#### **Soil, Water and Air**

- 9.21 Individually no specific development locations are likely to have significant effects in respect of waste generation. However, the scale of proposed growth across the District and throughout the Plan period is likely to increase waste generation significantly during and following construction of the sites. Impacts will be lessened through requirements for developers to minimise waste during construction and through requirements to include adequate storage areas for recycling, include bring-sites within new developments, and by supporting new waste treatment opportunities at a site level (for example composting). 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.
- 9.22 The plan directs growth to 'sustainable' locations which are accessible by a number of transport modes and well related to existing employment, shops and services. The Plan also seeks to support government policies to deliver zero carbon homes and protect finite resources such as sand and gravel through sterilisation by development and ensuring the use of previously developed land ahead of greenfield land.
- 9.23 Development is likely to increase noise and light pollution as a result of new housing and employment development and associated transport infrastructure. However effects are unlikely to be significant given existing similar uses close to proposed development locations. Development close to Derby City, and to a lesser extent Drakelow could increase traffic congestion and reduce air quality within existing Air Quality Management Areas in Derby and Burton on Trent and could lead to a deterioration in air quality in combination with other housing and employment development that is proposed outside of South Derbyshire. Similarly, large scale growth could also increase both foul and surface water flows related to development. Point source (pollution from sewage

treatment works) and diffuse pollution (general pollution from urban development such as roads or hardstanding) could lead to a deterioration in water quality in receiving water courses.

- 9.24. The Plan will lead to significant greenfield land losses, especially around the southern edge of Derby City. This is inevitable in a rural district such as South Derbyshire which has limited previously developed land available to accommodate the scale of growth proposed through the Plan. However, away from Derby City many of the sites identified to accommodate growth for example in Swadlincote, Woodville, Hilton, Drakelow and Aston on Trent are previously developed or poorly restored minerals sites and their use will safeguard productive agricultural land elsewhere in the District.
- 9.25 The plan is unlikely to significantly increase flood risk as, in line with government policy as development has been largely directed to areas at lower flood risk. Development in a number of locations including Hatton, Primula Way, Drakelow Park, Hilton Depot and Occupation Lane, Woodville could potentially reduce flood risk within or around the development site by providing contributions towards the maintenance of flood defences (Hatton); through the provision of flood alleviation works which would reduce flooding off site (Primula Way), the potential removal of culverts on site (Hilton Depot and Drakelow) or improvements to local surface water drainage required to support development (Occupation Lane).
- 9.26 The Plan is unlikely to have a notable effect on water quality and in some locations, including within the catchment of the River Mease SAC will support water quality improvements to 2028. Where new development comes forward the Plan will seek to ensure that new development is water efficient (reducing the overall quantity per person of water discharged into receiving watercourses) and ensure that waste water is not discharged to the existing foul sewer network unless other alternatives are not available. All new development will also be expected to manage surface water on site in a way which mimics natural drainage.
- 9.27 In addition to steering development away from areas at flood risk (which are not defended) the plan also includes policies to ensure surface water is managed on site and does not increase flood risk elsewhere by requiring sustainable drainage on development sites, securing the removal of culverts and other man-made structures from water courses which could increase flood risk and to protect the alignment of existing flood defences.

### **Climatic Factors**

- 9.28 Greenhouse gas emissions are recognised as being one of the causes of climate change. These are likely to increase notably as a result of energy use in new homes and businesses and rising traffic volumes, although this could be offset by wider Government policy to reduce the emission of climate change gases over the plan period and beyond. The Plan will provide opportunities to minimise any increases in carbon emissions by promoting growth in locations close to existing services and facilities and served by a range of transport modes. The Plan also promotes the efficient use of resources and includes policies to deliver appropriate new energy infrastructure and District heating and support a modal shift towards more sustainable transport modes.

### **Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)**

- 9.29 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. In particular it could help safeguard a number of at risk listed buildings including the Grade 2\* listed TG Green Bottle Kilns in Woodville and the stables and walls of the Sunken Garden within the Drakelow Park Development.

The designation of Green Belt to the immediate south of London Road in Shardlow could also help protect the setting of Elvaston Castle Park and Garden. Other developments could have more limited effects on locally important heritage features.

- 9.30 The Plan will continue to support the long term strategy of creating The National Forest. This is an important environmental and cultural resource and has already delivered landscape and environmental enhancements to much of the District.
- 9.31 The Plan will make a limited contribution towards improving access to many of the District's important heritage assets. In particular, development around Derby City and Aston could contribute towards improving connectivity to Elvaston Castle, Trent and Mersey Canal, the Derby and Sandiacre Canal (if permission to restore this canal is implemented) and Radbourne Hall. Drakelow Park could improve public access to listed buildings on site, whilst development around Occupation Lane in Woodville could present opportunities to improve access to a number of listed buildings within and around the site, including the at risk bottle kilns.

### **Landscape**

- 9.32 The plan is likely to have a significant negative effect on the local landscape in the short term as new strategic sites are prepared for development. Where a number of development locations are built out in close proximity at the same time the plan could give rise to cumulative effects. However the Plan includes policy to minimise landscape and townscape effects through the retention of existing landscape elements; through the creation of new landscaping or strategic buffers and through requiring developers to consider the local context and design locally sensitive development. These measures could significantly reduce landscape and townscape effects and in particular are likely to reduce the negative effects of growth in the long term.

### **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 the Plan to reduce the effects of development cover issues such as biodiversity, historic environment, landscape, green infrastructure, transport, flood risk management, water efficiency, site remediation and environmental quality.

### **Biodiversity**

- 10.2 The Plan 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. Specific requirements are also included in housing site policies to protect features of wildlife interest on specific sites.

### **Population and Human Health**

- 10.3 The Plan includes specific policies to support the delivery of infrastructure necessary to support new housing and employment development. In particular, policies to support new transport provision, open space and community facilities are included in the Plan. Site specific requirements are included

in housing site policies in respect of issues such as transport, education provision, health care and other community facilities which will need to be delivered alongside growth.

- 10.4 The Plan also includes policies to ensure that the homes which are delivered within the plan period fully meet objectively assessed local needs. 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 are also included within the Plan. Policies are also included in the plan regarding gypsy and traveller provision and the delivery of exceptions sites (affordable housing on greenfield sites outside of settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that there is a local need which cannot be delivered in any other way).

### **Material Assets**

- 10.5 The Plan includes policies to support the delivery of new road infrastructure and highways capacity improvements needed to support growth. Site specific requirements are within housing policies. The Plan also includes policies to support improved walking and cycling provision and improvements to public transport in order to support a modal shift towards more sustainable transport modes.
- 10.6 In addition the Plan makes provision for new employment land to meet the needs of a growing population. Policies support the delivery of a range of employment types from large plots to starter and grow on units. The Plan also includes policies to allow for expansion of existing businesses as well as the inclusion of an exceptions site around Dove Valley Park (only to be released where a single large end user cannot be accommodated elsewhere in the District). A tourism policy is also included in the Plan to accommodate the continued growth of an increasingly important sector of the local economy. Taken together this flexible approach to economic development will support the continued growth and diversification of the local economy.
- 10.7 Also included in the Part 1 Local Plan are policies to support the continued enhancement of Swadlincote Town Centre and support the development of new local centres within large scale urban extensions on the southern edge of Derby. The need for new local centres is also specified in appropriate housing policies. A design excellence policy is included in the plan to ensure that new development contributes towards improved townscape and reflects local distinctiveness and good design principles.

### **Soil, Water and Air**

- 10.8 Thematic policies are included in the plan 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 waters. Policies are also included in the plan in respect of amenity and environmental quality (to control effects associated with noise, light air and water quality) and protection of the best and most valuable agricultural land. The Plan also promotes the reuse (and where appropriate the remediation of, contaminated or unstable land) ahead of greenfield sites. Specific housing policies also require noise attenuation or the inclusion of strategic buffers to protect environmental quality. Together these policies will help reduce the negative effects of development on the natural environment.

### **Climatic Factors**

- 10.9 The plan includes a policy to encourage developers to improve the environmental performance of their developments on a voluntary basis. The plan also includes policies to promote more

sustainable transport and travel choices and support the delivery of zero, low carbon and reduced carbon energy sources. The plan also includes policies to support the delivery of communities which can adapt to climate change, for example by supporting water efficient development and the provision of green infrastructure on site to manage surface water and provide urban cooling.

### **Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)**

10.10 The plan includes a thematic policy to ensure the protection of heritage assets within South Derbyshire. This policy is supported through specific requirements included in housing policies to safeguard heritage assets and their setting and where appropriate highlight opportunities to improve public access to heritage assets. The Plan also includes a policy which requires up to 30% tree planting and habitat creating for development sites in the National Forest in order to contribute towards the continued delivery of the Forest.

### **Landscape**

10.11 The Plan has incorporated a landscape and design excellence policy to help ensure that developments reflect local character and are designed to take account of existing landscape elements. In particular the landscape policy in the plan requires that developments reflect local landscape character. This policy has been supported, where appropriate, by specific requirements in the housing allocations policies. Taken together these policies will contribute towards lessening the effects of development in the short term, whilst in the long term could significantly reduce landscape and visual effects of development as mitigation to screen developments matures.

### **Policy Evolution**

10.12 The need for the policies identified to mitigate the effects of the Plan were initially identified during the preferred options appraisal undertaken by the Council. The Sustainability Appraisal process has allowed policies to be further refined following their appraisal against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. Further changes to the policies have been made through the Local Plan Examination process and where significant changes to these policies have been made, or where new policies have been added to the Plan these have been reappraised through the Sustainability Appraisal process.

### **11.0 Overall Sustainability of the Part 1 Local Plan**

11.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Report has investigated the likely significant effects of implementing the Part 1 Local Plan and it has indicated that significant effects, both positive and negative, are likely in a number of areas. There will be significant benefits in terms of housing and employment provision, and associated infrastructure that can help resolve many existing issues. Negative effects mainly relate to the level of growth and its effects on the natural environment. In many case 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 the Plan to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into site design, and implementation.

11.2 Given the scale of growth it is unlikely that the effects of development can be mitigated fully. However, by investing in necessary infrastructure, working with partner agencies and developers together with members of the local community it is likely that more sustainable developments can be delivered. In particular the plan will:

- Provide decent and affordable homes which fully meet local needs.

- Ensure adequate provision of high-quality employment land and fully meet forecast employment requirements reflecting the districts increasing population and changing demographic profile.
- Improve access to local services and facilities reducing the need to travel and promote more sustainable transport choices.
- Ensure efficient and effective use of land and the reuse of previously developed land and buildings.
- Use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.
- Minimise climate change effects associated with the delivery of new home and economic growth and reduce our vulnerability to future climate change effects.
- Protect and enhance the character and quality of the district's landscape and townscape.
- Continue to support the delivery of green infrastructure and environmental enhancement of the District.

## **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 October 2008. 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 in the main report: An updated version of the Scoping Report and a complete list of the changes made in response to this consultation can be found in Appendix 1 of Technical Appendices to the Main Report.
- 12.3 In addition to the Scoping Report consultation undertaken in October 2008, the Council has also alerted relevant authorities to a number of minor changes to the Authority's Scoping Report which have arisen as a result of changes to National Government policy and alterations or deletion of national indicators. The Council alerted relevant authorities to the publication of an updated scoping report in July 2012 and invited comment during a five-week consultation period, which closed in September 2012. A copy of the updated Scoping Opinion together with a summary of comments received back is available to view on the Council's website.
- 12.4 Previous consultation on the interim Draft of the Sustainability Appraisal was first carried out on the Draft Part 1 Local Plan in autumn 2013. An updated version of the Sustainability Appraisal was then published alongside the Pre-Submission document for the consultation period of 6 weeks from 10 March 2014 to the 22 April 2014 before being submitted to the Inspector alongside the Part 1 Local Plan.
- 12.5 Further Sustainability Appraisal work was then undertaken jointly with Derby City and Amber Valley regarding the apportionment of Derby City's Unmet Need. The Addendum Report, which was consulted upon between August 28<sup>th</sup> and October 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 can be viewed in full at Appendix 9 of the Technical Appendices to the Main Report. The outcomes of this work have informed how Derby City's unmet need is being apportioned between South Derbyshire and Amber Valley and has informed the housing final housing requirement for South Derbyshire.
- 12.6 A further (Sustainability Appraisal Update) consultation was then undertaken by South Derbyshire District Council to propose the addition of a further strategic allocation in the Part 1 Local Plan at Land West of Mickleover. This consultation considered the likely effects of including this site in the

Plan and consultation on the updated Sustainability Appraisal Report to reflect the inclusion of this site ran from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

12.7 The current consultation, which this document supports will run for 6 weeks between 29 January to the 11<sup>th</sup> March. It highlights the proposed modifications to the Plan which have been identified through the Examination process. This current iteration of the Sustainability Appraisal considers the likely effects of the Part 1 Local Plan including those modifications proposed.

### **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 Part 1 Local Plan 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 significant sustainability effects 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 The Sustainability Appraisal report Modifications Update (which this Non-Technical Summary forms part of) will be consulted upon between 29<sup>th</sup> January and the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016. A copy of the report will be made available online and at the Council Offices as well as at Local libraries in South Derbyshire and Burton Upon Trent and Mickleover, Derby. A copy of the Council's Sustainability Appraisal will also be provided to the Planning Inspector and will help her to determine whether the Plan is sound.

14.2 Following the receipt of the Inspectors report, subject to the Plan being found sound the District Council will look to adopt the Local Plan as soon as practicable.

South Derbyshire District Council  
Community and Planning Services

Local Development Framework

**Sustainability Appraisal**

**Modifications update**

**Local Plan Part 1**

**Non-Technical Summary**

January 2016

