



**South  
Derbyshire**  
District Council

Planning Services



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Local Development Framework

SR

# Scoping Report

Sustainability appraisal  
Core Strategy Development Plan

July 2012

Main  
Report  
Update



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اگر آپ یہ ڈاکیومنٹ کسی اور زبان میں چاہتے ہوں، یا اگر آپ کو کسی ترجمان کی خدمات درکار ہوں، تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات بڑے پرنٹ، بریل یا آڈیو فارمیٹ میں بھی دستیاب ہیں۔

<b>CONTENTS PAGE</b>		
<b>Section 1 Introduction</b>		
1.1	The Development Plan Process	3
1.2	Sustainable Development	4
1.3	Strategic Environmental Assessment	5
1.4	Sustainability Appraisal	5
1.5	The Combined Process	5
1.6	The Next Steps	6
<b>Section 2 Identifying Other Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Section 3 Collection of Baseline Information</b>		<b>9</b>
3.1	Indicators	9
3.2	Evidence Gathering and the Core Strategy	10
3.3	District Characteristics	12
3.4	Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	12
3.5	Population and Human Health	13
3.6	Material Assets	13
3.7	Soil Water and Air	14
3.8	Climatic Factors	15
3.9	Cultural Heritage	15
3.10	Landscape	15
<b>Section 4 Key Environmental and Sustainability Issues</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Section 5 Developing The Sustainability Appraisal Framework</b>		<b>18</b>
5.1	List of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	19
5.2	Sustainability Appraisal Framework	20
5.3	Compatibility of Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	25
<b>Section 6 Consulting on the Scope of the Sustainability Appraisal</b>		<b>28</b>
<b>Section 7 What Happens Next?</b>		<b>29</b>
<b>Tables</b>		
1	Other Policies Plans and Programmes relevant to the South Derbyshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document	<b>7</b>
2	Evidence Base Collected (or to be collected) to inform the sustainability Appraisal and Local Development Framework Process	<b>10</b>
3	Key Issues	<b>17</b>
4	Sustainability Appraisal Framework	<b>20</b>
5	Internal Compatibility of the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	<b>25</b>
6	Detail of Conflicts Arising between Draft Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	<b>25</b>
<b>Figures</b>		
1	Locational Map of South Derbyshire District	<b>12</b>



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.0.1 South Derbyshire District Council has commenced preparation of its Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy (also known as the the “Local Plan”). The Core Strategy will establish an overall vision for the District and will include policies and development sites (allocations) to guide development within South Derbyshire up to 2028.
- 1.0.2 An important regulatory requirement in undertaking this work is to subject draft policies and proposals - as they emerge - to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). (For practical purposes, these requirements are combined into a single SA process).
- 1.0.3 Essentially, SA provides an objective means of assessing the likely environmental, economic and social effects of implementing any given development option or proposal. Rather than being a single task, it is an ongoing process of assessment which is intertwined with plan-making itself, and involves the publication of formal SA reports at key stages in the preparation of the Plan.
- 1.0.4 This SA Scoping Report is the first step in the SA process. It sets out, for initial consultation with the statutory environmental bodies and other key stakeholders, the following:
- A summary of the Development Plan and Sustainability Appraisal process
  - A review of relevant existing plans, policies and programmes relevant to the future planning of South Derbyshire;
  - A summary of the evidence base upon which the Core Strategy will be prepared;
  - The sustainability issues which the Core Strategy will need to address
  - A set of draft sustainability objectives against which proposals in the emerging Core Strategy can be assessed.
- 1.0.5 Whilst this SA work is being developed to assess the Core Strategy, it will also be relevant to the assessment of other subsequent LDF documents.
- 1.0.6 The following chapter provides more detail on the Development Plan and Sustainability Appraisal processes and the relationship between the two.

## **1.1 THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROCESS**

- 1.1.1 The planning system provides a framework for managing the development and use of land. A key element of this system is the preparation of plans, which establish where and what type of development might take place, and provides the basis for the consideration of planning applications.
- 1.1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which came into operation on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004, (“the Commencement Date”) introduced new rules governing the way development plans are drawn up. Under this system Planning Authorities are required to prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF will replace the existing South Derbyshire Local Plan adopted in 1998 and replace it with a portfolio of documents comprising:
- Local Development Scheme (LDS)
  - Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD)
  - Non Strategic Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)
  - The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
  - Annual Monitoring Report (AMS)

- 1.1.3 **The Local Development Scheme** sets out the Council's programme for preparing the above documents.
- 1.1.4 **The Core Strategy Development Plan Document** will set the long-term vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of South Derbyshire and provide a framework for promoting and controlling development and will include policies and strategic housing and employment site locations.
- 1.1.5 The Core Strategy will provide the strategic direction to (and inform) all local development documents set out within the Local Development Framework.
- 1.1.6 **The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** sets out how the Council intends to engage and consult local communities and others in the preparation of its planning documents. It also sets out how the Council will consult on planning applications and other development control matters within the District. The SCI for South Derbyshire was adopted in March 2006.
- 1.1.7 **The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).** An annual report submitted by the District Council to the Secretary of State on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies set out in the LDF are being achieved. Taken together the documents that will comprise the Local Development Framework will seek to manage future development within South Derbyshire in a manner that is both integrated and sustainable.
- 1.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
- 1.2.1 The Brundtland Report released by the World Commission on the Environment and Development in 1987 defined sustainable development as; *"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"*.
- 1.2.2 In order to promote sustainable development, the UK Government has developed a strategy for sustainable development that it uses to guide its own national policy development and implementation. This strategy, released in March 2005, sets out a number of guiding principles:
- Living Within Environmental Limits
  - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society
  - Achieving a Sustainable Economy
  - Promoting Good Governance
  - Using Sound Science Responsibly
- 1.2.3 The UK Government's Sustainable Development Strategy further sets out a number of priorities for UK action. These are listed below:
- Sustainable Consumption and Production
  - Sustainable Communities
  - Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
  - Climate Change and Energy
- 1.2.4 In addition to the objectives and actions set out in the Government's overarching Sustainable Development Strategy, Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) *Delivering Sustainable Development* (ODPM 2005) places the concept of sustainability at the centre of the planning process. PPS 1 states '*Sustainable development is the core principle underpinning planning. At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone.*'

### 1.3 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1.3.1 Under the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC, on the 'assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment', specific types of plans and programmes are identified which must be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). With the exception of the timetable for the production of the Local Development Framework (the Local Development Scheme) and the Statement of Community Involvement, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be undertaken for every Development Plan Document and Supplementary Planning Document, which is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

1.3.2 The purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment is to consider issues such as *biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archeological heritage and landscape* (2001/42/EC annex 1) and determine how the District Council's proposed LDF could influence each of these.

1.3.3 By ensuring that Local Planning Authorities consider these issues in detail, the SEA Directive seeks to ensure that environmental considerations are fully integrated in the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

### 1.4 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

1.4.1 Whilst SEA focuses upon environmental issues, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) widens the approach to include social and economic issues. The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are taken fully into account when preparing the LDF. In preparing its LDF the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act* (2004) requires that the District Council:

- (a) *carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each document;*
- (b) *prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal*

### 1.5 THE COMBINED PROCESS

1.5.1 In England, the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment have been integrated into one process – still called 'Sustainability Appraisal'. This combined process is designed to extend the ambit of SEA to include other pillars of sustainability, namely social and economic assessment. The combined Sustainability Appraisal process seeks to ensure that all relevant Local Development Framework documents are subject to appraisal during preparation in order that the environmental, social and economic effects of each plan can be adequately tested and modified prior to adoption.

1.5.2 A Scoping Report (such as this document) must be produced and consulted upon for each individual Local Development Document that together will make up the LDF. This Scoping Report will inform the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document only. The Sustainability Appraisal process will involve a number of key steps, undertaken in two stages. The first stage is outlined below:

- A1 **Identifying links to other relevant plans and strategies and sustainability objectives;** identifying the relationships and main implications of international, national, regional and local documents for the South Derbyshire Local Development Framework and outlining the objectives set out within these documents.
- A2 **Setting out the scope of the baseline;** identification of relevant aspects of the current state of the District and its evolution if no plan is implemented.

- A3 **Identifying sustainability issues and problems;** Identification of key sustainability issues and problems likely to affect the District
- A4 **Development of the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework;** identifying and agreeing the key environmental, social and economic objectives that will be used to appraise the policy and site options for each individual plan document.
- A5 **Consultation on the scope of the plan;** ensuring the Draft Scoping Report considers the relevant sustainability issues and that the appraisal is comprehensive.

1.5.3 Steps A1-A5 are the subject of this Draft Scoping Report and are undertaken in advance of the appraisal of policy and site options which will be considered in a later report (called a Sustainability Appraisal Report).

## **1.6 THE NEXT STEPS**

- 1.6.1 Following on from this Scoping Report consultation the Council will assess any responses received back from consultees and use them to inform the remainder of the SA process:
  - Appraising broad policy options. (Where applicable existing appraisal work will be checked for consistency)
  - Selecting preferred options and policies and seeking to mitigate residual impacts of these options.
  - Establishing a monitoring framework.
- 1.6.2 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Report will record the work undertaken by the District Council in assessing the sustainability of various options considered appropriate for the proposed Core Strategy Development Plan Document and log the decisions made by the Council in choosing its preferred options.
- 1.6.3 The Sustainability Appraisal Report will also be subject to a period of consultation, which will be undertaken in parallel with the 'Submission' stage of the Core Strategy. Additional detail on the later stages of the Sustainability Appraisal process is set out after the main report.



## 2.0 IDENTIFYING OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES. (TASK A1)

- 2.0.1 The content of individual development documents and their associated Sustainability Appraisals (SA) should reflect the policies and legislation set out in other relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives reviewed to date, at the international, national, regional or local level. The aim of Task A1 is to review these existing plans, policies and programmes and identify key objectives, indicators and targets in each and review the key influences of other plans and strategies on both the plan and Sustainability Appraisal.
- 2.0.2 Appendix 1 contains details of relevant policies, plans, programmes, strategies and initiatives reviewed to date. The matrix at Appendix 1 further lists definitive targets that other Plans, Policies and Programmes have proposed to measure their own performance towards delivering their objectives. The way in which these wider strategies could relate to the proposed Core Strategy Development Plan Document are also set out. However it should be noted that this list is neither definitive nor its final form. This database will be updated to refer to any new plans and strategies that have been produced and amended to include any that have been inadvertently omitted from the present list.
- 2.0.3 The different plans and strategies scoped for the purpose of informing the South Derbyshire Core Strategy DPD include:

<b>TABLE 1: OTHER POLICIES PLANS AND PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT</b>	
<b>INTERNATIONAL (INCLUDING EU LEVEL) PROGRAMMES, PLANS AND STRATEGIES</b>	
<i>Biodiversity/Flora &amp; Fauna</i>	
i	Convention on biodiversity Rio De Janeiro 1992
ii	European biodiversity strategy 1998
iii	Bern Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats 1979
iv	Habitats Directive (1992/43/EC) Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora
v	Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
<i>Population and Human Health</i>	
vi	European Sixth Environmental Action Programme – Environment 2010. Our future our choice
vii	European Strategy for Sustainable Development A Sustainable Europe for a Better World
viii	Aarhus Convention- Convention to Access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in Environmental matters (UNECE,) 2001
<i>Material Assets</i>	
ix	European Spatial Development Perspective: Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the European Union
<i>Soil, Water and Air</i>	
x	Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste, as amended by Council Directive 91/156/EEC.
xi	Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
xii	Air Quality Framework Directive (96/62/EC) (and Amending Acts)
xiii	The European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)
xiv	EC Groundwater Directive (80/68/EC)
<i>Climatic Factors</i>	
xv	UN Framework convention on climate change 1994
xvi	European Climate Change Programme
<i>Landscape</i>	
xvii	European Landscape Convention
<b>NATIONAL PROGRAMMES</b>	
<i>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</i>	
1	Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services
2	Working with the grain of nature: A biodiversity strategy for England
3	England Biodiversity Strategy Climate Change Adaptation Principles Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate
<i>Population and Human Health</i>	
4	National Planning Policy Framework
5	Planning Policy for Traveller Sites
6	The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy
7	Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (ODPM)
8	Lifetime Homes, Lifetime Neighbourhoods. A National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society
9	Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England

10	Creating a sporting habit for life Sport England strategy 2012-17
11	Strategic Framework for Road Safety
12	Healthy lives, brighter futures – The strategy for children and young people's health
13	Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England
14	World class places The Government's strategy for improving quality of place
15	Noise Policy Statement for England
<b>Material Assets</b>	
16	Creating growth, cutting carbon: making sustainable local transport happen
17	A Strategy for Sustainable Construction
18	Strategy for National Infrastructure
<b>Soil, Water and Air</b>	
19	Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning and Waste Management
20	Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England
21	Water for Life (White Paper)
22	Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011 (Emerging White Paper)
23	Safeguarding our Soils A Strategy for England
24	The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Volumes 1 and 2)
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	
25	Planning our electric future: a White Paper for secure, affordable and low carbon electricity
26	The Carbon Plan: Delivering our Low Carbon Future
<b>Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)</b>	
27	National Heritage Protection Plan
28	(National) Government Tourism Strategy
<b>Landscape</b>	
29	None Identified
<b>REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES</b>	
<b>Biodiversity /Flora &amp; Fauna</b>	
30	Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan
31	National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	
32	East Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Adopted March 2009 (although expect to be abolished shortly)
33	National Forest Strategy 2004-2014
34	Derbyshire's Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-14
35	Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2015 (draft)
<b>Material Assets</b>	
36	Derbyshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 3
37	Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Strategy (2004)
38	East Midlands Airport Masterplan (2006)
<b>Soil, Water and Air</b>	
39	Towards a Regional Waste Strategy January 2006
40	Water Resources Strategy for the East Midlands
41	Managing Flood Risk River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan Draft October 2007
42	The Tame Anker, and Mease Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Draft 2007
43	The Lower Trent and Erewash Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy. March 2008
44	The River Dove Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
45	The Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
46	Waterways For Tomorrow (British Waterways)
47	Minerals Local Plan April 2000 (Incorporating First Alteration: Chapter 13-Coal November 2002)
48	Derby and Derbyshire Waste Local Plan March 2005
49	Looking After Derbyshire's Waste October 2005
<b>Climatic factors</b>	
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<b>Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)</b>	
50	A Vision and Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in The National Forest
<b>Landscape</b>	
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<b>LOCAL STRATEGIES</b>	
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	
51	South Derbyshire Sustainable Community (2009-2029)
52	Saved South Derbyshire Local Plan (Adopted Version) May 1998
53	South Derbyshire Corporate Plan 2009-14
54	South Derbyshire Housing Strategy
55	Homelessness Prevention Strategy for South Derbyshire 2007-2012
56	South Derbyshire Playing Pitch Strategy 2011
<b>Material Assets</b>	
57	Economic Regeneration Strategy 2007-2012
58	Swadlincote Town Centre Masterplan
59	South Derbyshire Cycling Strategy (SPG)
60	Swadlincote Walking Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)
<b>Soil; Water and Air</b>	
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<b>Cultural Heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage)</b>	
61	Heritage Interpretation Strategy

### **3.0 COLLECTION BASELINE INFORMATION (TASK A2)**

- 3.0.1 The collection of baseline information is a key part of the Sustainability Appraisal process (and is a specific requirement of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).
- 3.0.2 The aim of collecting baseline information is to assemble a comprehensive picture of the current and likely future state of the District, to enable the effects of implementing the South Derbyshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document to be predicted.
- 3.0.3 The baseline information collected to inform the development of the Core Strategy DPD and its associated Sustainability Appraisal is set out at Appendix 2 although a brief summary of the key baseline data is considered within the main body of this report. Wherever possible, existing data sources have been used to assemble baseline data, however the District Council acknowledges that there will be some information unavailable at the time of preparing this scoping report and undertaking the appraisal of options. Where such gaps are identified the District Council will consider the resulting uncertainties that may result in the Sustainability Appraisal and how missing data can best be collected in the future.

### **3.1 INDICATORS**

- 3.1.1 Generally speaking baseline information is collected using indicators. Examples of indicators could include the percentage of new homes in the District being classed as 'affordable' or the percentage of people traveling to work by private car. Through monitoring these indicators over time it is possible to identify trends (for example whether something is getting better or worse). Indicators can also be contrasted against other Districts, or wider geographical areas such as Derbyshire County, the East Midlands region or national data. Indicator performance can also be assessed in relation to specific targets where these exist.
- 3.1.2 Indicator data can be used to identify key sustainability issues that the District Council will need to consider when drawing up all local development documents that together will comprise the Local Development Framework (see section A3). For example, if an indicator shows that private car usage by people traveling to work was significantly higher in South Derbyshire than other District averages, all documents included in the South Derbyshire LDF could seek to include an appropriate policy response to help tackle this issue.
- 3.1.3 For each indicator selected, sufficient data should be collected to answer the following questions:
- How good or bad is the current situation? Do trends show that it is getting better or worse?
  - How far is the current situation from any established thresholds or targets?
  - Are particularly sensitive or important elements of the economy, physical environment or community affected, e.g. skills shortages, endangered species or rare habitats, and vulnerable social groups?
  - Are the problems reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary?
  - How difficult would it be to offset or remedy any damage?
  - Have there been significant cumulative or synergistic effects over time? Are there expected to be such effects in the future?
- 3.1.4 The Government's guidance for local planning authorities on Sustainability Appraisal emphasises the need to keep baseline information under review rather than being a snapshot of data at a particular point in time. The Council presently updates much of the information set out within this chapter and in Appendix 2 annually within its annual monitoring report, or through other monitoring activities. Where information is not updated annually the District Council will continue to revisit baseline information

held at appropriate instances in the future in order to ensure that new information and issues are considered within the Sustainability Appraisal process.

### 3.2 EVIDENCE GATHERING AND THE CORE STRATEGY

3.2.1 Core Strategies have major environmental, economic, social and cultural effects. As a result of this planning guidance<sup>1</sup> requires that Core Strategies be justifiable being:

- founded on a robust and credible evidence base, and
- the most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives

3.2.2 Guidance produced by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS)<sup>2</sup> highlights the need for Planning Authorities to prepare and keep up to date a baseline of information on key aspects of the social, economic and environmental characteristics of their area to enable the preparation of sound local development documents. This guidance further states the need to collect data at the earliest opportunity, as the evidence base is key to other aspects of plan production including sustainability appraisal, options generation and community engagement.

3.2.3 Planning guidance identifies a broad list of matters which Council's are required to keep under review. These include:

- The principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the area
- The principal purposes for which space is used
- The size, composition and distribution of the population
- The communications, transport system and traffic (including accessibility by public transport)
- Flood risk and capacity of water infrastructure
- Renewable and low carbon energy capacity and potential
- Any other considerations which may be expected to affect those matters

3.2.4 In order to ensure that the Council has sufficient information on which to base its sustainability appraisal and the preparation of the wider Local Development Framework the following information has already been, or will be collected.

**TABLE 2 EVIDENCE BASE COLLECTED (OR TO BE COLLECTED) TO INFORM THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL AND LDF PROCESS**




Type of Evidence	Study Area	Date Collected (or to be Collected)
Assessment of the principal physical and environmental characteristics and needs of the local area	Sub Regional	Strategic GI Network for the Derby Principal Urban Area and Sub-Regional Centre (issued 2010)
Identification of the principal economic and social characteristics and needs of the local area at the local level	South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire Area Profiles (last updated 2011)
Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	South Derbyshire	Completed October 2008
Housing Market Area Wide Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	HMA-wide	Completed January 2010
Housing Market Area Wide Strategic Housing Market Assessment	Sub regional	Completed March 2009
South Derbyshire Housing Market Assessment	South Derbyshire	Completed October 2008
Housing Requirement Study	HMA-wide	Expected July 2012
Type of Evidence	Study Area	Date Collected (or to be Collected)

<sup>1</sup> Planning Policy Statement 12 Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities through local spatial planning, June 2008, DCLG

<sup>2</sup> Local Development Frameworks: Evidence Base, Planning Advisory Service, March 2008

Gypsy and Travellers Accommodation Needs Assessment	Derbyshire	Completed March 2008
Housing Market Area Wide Employment Land Study	HMA-wide	Completed March 2008
Local Rural Housing Needs Studies	South Derbyshire	Ongoing Studies completed for all parishes with a population greater than 3000 people
Assessment of Retail Needs and Capacity	Swadlincote Town centre	Completed December 2005
National Forest Biodiversity Action Plan (3rd edition)	National Forest	Completed 2011
Assessment of transport accessibility and the identification of planned transport infrastructure proposals	Northern Parishes	Completed April 2009
Derby Housing Market Area Transport Modelling	HMA-wide	Ongoing
Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan (including Lowland Derbyshire LBAP Delivery Plan)	Sub regional	Completed 2011
Up to date information base on biodiversity and geological resources	South Derbyshire	South Derbyshire Environmental Audit completed 2007
Open Space Audit (PPG17 Assessment)	South Derbyshire	Completed September 2005
Consultation findings on community aspirations	South Derbyshire	Ongoing: Consultation findings to be reported as appropriate in line with SCI.
Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	HMA-wide	Need for Study to be kept under Review Not presently required
Assessment of additional utilities, health, education, cultural and community infrastructure programmes	HMA-wide?	Ongoing
Housing Market Area Wide Assessment of renewable energy capacity and potential within the District (Cleaner Greener Energy Study)	HMA-wide	Completed 2009
Identification of hazardous substances establishments and buffer zones	South Derbyshire	To be confirmed
Review of conservation areas and additional conservation areas assessments/character appraisals	South Derbyshire	Completed April 2008
Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment	Derbyshire	Completed 2004
National Forest Landscape Character Assessment	National Forest	Completed 2005
Housing Market Area Wide Water Cycle Assessment Scoping and Outline Study	HMA Wide	Scoping and Outline Study Completed
Detailed Study of Water Cycle issues of Strategic Sites	HMA Wide	Ongoing

Source: South Derbyshire District Council 2009 (based on evidence base guidance published by PAS 2008)

Key	
	Not yet started
	In progress
	Completed

3.2.5 Based on already assembled baseline data (including information taken from completed or draft studies which have been produced) the Council has sought to provide a textual summary of key baseline information below and supplemented this with more detailed dataset in appendix 2. Together this data provides a statistical snapshot of the District, which will be updated iteratively as new evidence becomes available the information set out in the following section has sought to integrate broad-brush findings from already completed or nearly completed studies

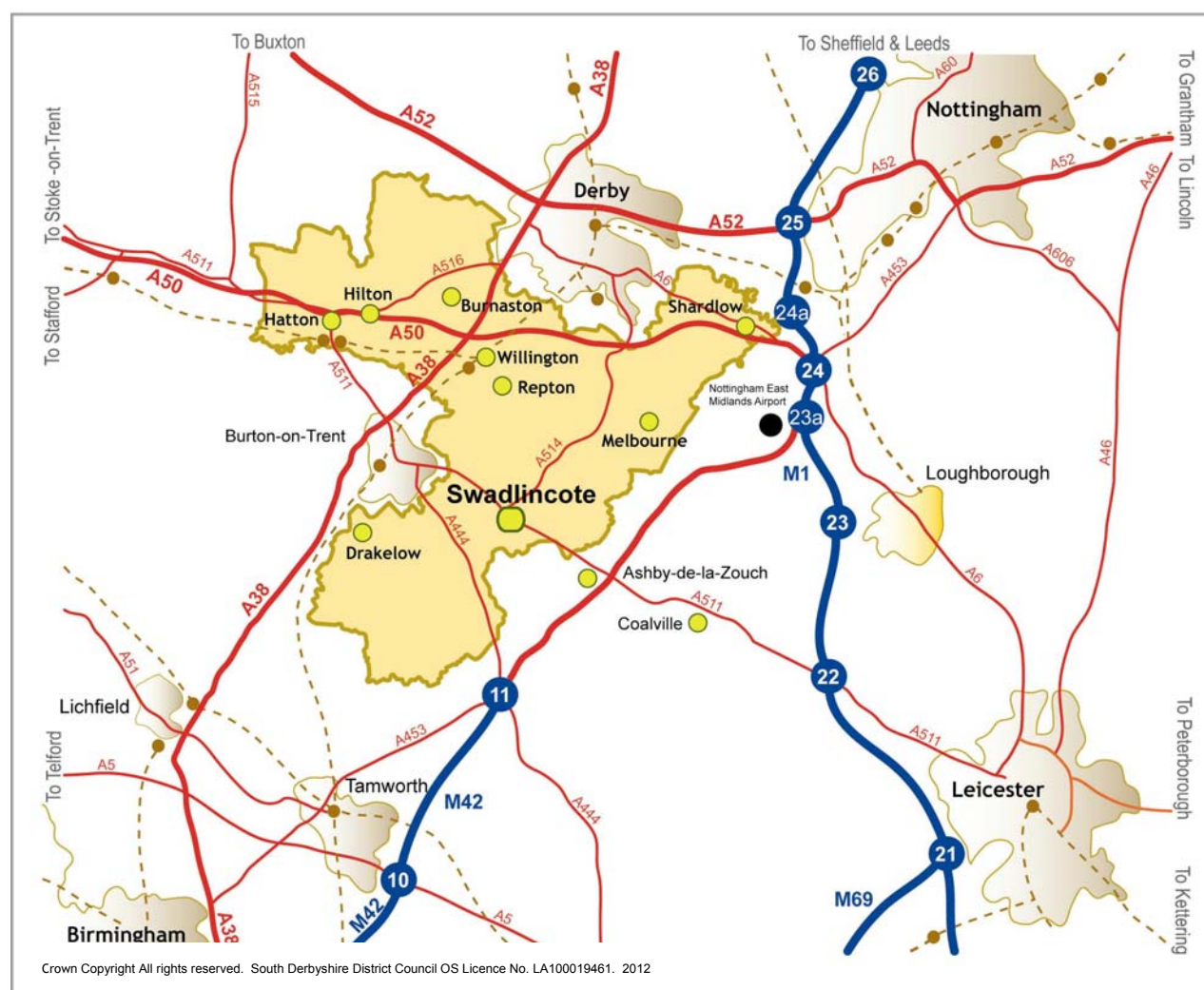
being undertaken to inform the evidence base. However due to lengthy and technical nature of much of the evidence being collected to inform the LDF the council is keen to make all studies set out above publicly available on its website for interested stakeholder or individuals to view at: <http://www.south-derbys.gov.uk/> Where relevant studies have been produced or hosted externally by other organisations the District Council will seek to signpost their location.

### 3.3 DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

3.3.1 The District of South Derbyshire covers an area of approximately 33,000 hectares (112 square miles) and is bounded by the City of Derby to the north, Burton on Trent to the West and Ashby-de-la-Zouch to the East. The urban area making up Swadlincote has a population of around 35,000 and is the largest settlement and commercial centre for the District.

Figure 1: Location Map of South Derbyshire District:

South Derbyshire Regional Setting



### 3.4 BIODIVERSITY/FLORA & FAUNA

3.4.1 The District has a wide range of environmental assets. The National Forest covers around 12,870 ha (50 square miles) of the southern part of the District and is helping to create diverse landscape and wildlife habitats as well as contributing to the economic and social well-being of the district through the delivery of new tourism and leisure opportunities. In addition to the National Forest there are 6 sites of Special Scientific interest, one of which, (the River Mease) is a Special Area of Conservation,



(combined area 178 ha). 94% of SSSIs by land area were recorded as being in either favourable condition or unfavourable, but recovering condition in 2007.

- 3.4.2 There are 155 local wildlife sites (covering approximately 5% of the land area for the District) and 7 regionally important geological sites (combined area 248 ha). Of these sites 48 (around 35%) are considered to be positively managed. There are two local nature reserves within the district (Elvaston Castle and Coton Park) within the southern part of the District. There is one National Nature Reserve located within the District at Calke Park. There are 7 sites of regional geological importance within the District covering an area of 249 hectares.

### **3.5 POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH**

- 3.5.1 The District has a total population of 93,900 at 2010, this is projected to increase to around 123,000 by 2035. A recent news release published by the ONS<sup>3</sup> in June 2011 indicates that South Derbyshire is the 9<sup>th</sup> fastest growing authority in England and Wales between 2001 and 2010 growing by around 15%. By 2026 21.4% of the districts residents will be 65 or over. Compared to 14.4% in 2003. In terms of social profile the District is considered to be fairly affluent being ranked 221 out of 354 local authorities nationally (where the rank of one is most deprived). Life expectancy within the District (78.1 for men and 81.7 for women) is slightly lower than the National Average for men (78.3) and women (82.3). One third of households within the District (33.4%) have one or more people with a limiting long-term illness. This is slightly higher than the England average (32.98%).
- 3.5.2 Crime rates within the District are significantly lower than average with the number of recorded domestic burglaries, violent offences and thefts from a vehicle being 35% lower than the national average and the number of vehicle thefts being 25% lower than the national average. However, the fear of crime remains a notable issue locally.
- 3.5.3 With regard to educational attainment 32.8% of residents aged 16-74 have higher-level qualifications (degree, HNC, HND or equivalent), 52.6% have lower level qualifications (GCSEs, A levels (NVQ level three or lower). A further 14.6% of the district's residents have no qualifications or their educational attainment is unknown. Historic Census data indicates a significant dichotomy between educational attainment between the north and south of the District, with residents living in the northern part of South Derbyshire typically being educated to a higher level.

### **3.6 MATERIAL ASSETS**

- 3.6.1 Within the District, 79.2 % of the working age population is economically active, which compares favourably to the national average of 76.1%. This, however, masks inequalities at a more local level. Of the working population living in South Derbyshire, only 40% of residents also work within the District. 60% of the Districts working residents commute out of the District to work. Census Data for 2001 (there is no more recent data) indicates that South Derbyshire is a net-exporter of labour as around 25,000 people leave the district to work, but only 12,500 workers living in other districts commute into South Derbyshire to work. Average earnings by residence are £499.20 per week (gross) this is comparable with the national average of £503.10 per week. Despite the recent economic uncertainties unemployment rates within the District have remained low at 1.9%, although unemployment rates are notably higher within the Swadlincote area than in the settlements located in the northern part of the District.
- 3.6.2 There were 2,955 VAT registered businesses located within the District at year end in 2006, of which around 60% of businesses operate within three commercial sectors: financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities; wholesale, retail and repair and construction. Manufacturing businesses account for less than 9% of all

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<sup>3</sup> Statistical Bulletin: Annual Mid-year population estimates, 2010 (published June 2011)

businesses but employ one quarter of the workforce, although this may reflect the significance of Toyota car plant located in Burnaston, which currently employs around 2,600 people.

- 3.6.3 There were 723 warehouse and factory premises in South Derbyshire in 2008. There were also 206 office premises located within the District. Of these 40 warehouses and factories were vacant as were 39 office premises. A recent employment land survey indicated that there is seven times the demand for industrial premises than for office development within the District. This is perhaps unsurprising given the dominance of industrial and manufacturing businesses within South Derbyshire.
- 3.6.4 Main roads located within the District include the A38 and A50. Both the M1 and the A42 are also accessible locally. Other locally important routes include the A511, A444 and the A514. Public transport provision within the District is focused around the main commercial centre of Swadlincote. There are two train stations within the District (Willington and Hatton), although stations at Burton on Trent and Derby are also important locally. East Midlands Airport is located just outside the District in North West Leicestershire.
- 3.6.5 At 2001, 16.3% of households had no access to a car, whilst 42.8% and 40.9% respectively had access to either one car, or two or more cars. As such car ownership is considerably higher within the District than at the national level, no doubt reflecting the largely rural nature of the district.

### **3.7 SOIL WATER AND AIR**

- 3.7.1 The District has significant reserves of sand and gravel concentrated within the Trent Valley and the adjoining Lower Derwent and Dove Valleys. Between 2001-2005 7.31 million tonnes of sand and gravel was won within Derbyshire most of which was produced at Swarkestone, Shardlow and Willington. In addition to active quarries in South Derbyshire there are a number of inactive but permitted sand and gravel sites within the District. At 2005 permitted reserves of Sand and Gravel in Derbyshire stood at 19.95 million tonnes.
- 3.7.2 The amount of household waste generated per person in South Derbyshire has increased slightly since 2000/01 rising from 440kg per head to 503kg per head in 2010/11. However over this period the amount of waste composted or recycled has increased significantly. Broadly speaking around half of all household waste from South Derbyshire is now recycled or composted.
- 3.7.3 The District has a significant amount of previously developed (brownfield) land equating to 387 hectares or just over 1% of the land area of the District. In 2010/11 52% of new homes were built on previously developed land.
- 3.7.4 Biological and Chemical water quality within the HMA is generally fair to very good, although there are a few exceptions. However many watercourses in the District have elevated levels of nutrients which can have a significant impact on aquatic ecology through stimulating the growth of benthic and microscopic plants. This can lead to oxygen depletion, a reduction in water clarity and an increased incidents of fish kills.
- 3.7.5 Around 18.4% of the total land area in South Derbyshire lies within an areas of high flood risk. A further 1.7% is at medium risk. Of the developed area of South Derbyshire 6.9% of urban and rural settlements by area are at high risk. A further 3.5% of urban and rural settlements by area are at medium risk. Broadly speaking therefore 10% of the Districts urban area is known to be at flood risk.

### **3.8 CLIMATIC FACTORS**



- 3.8.1 Flood risk is likely to increase as a result of climate change with peak rainfall intensity increasing by around 30% by 2085 and peak river flow increasing by around 20% 2025 during a 1 in 100 year event. As a result the level 1 SFRA for South Derbyshire identifies a number of areas which will experience greater flood risk. The level 1 SFRA is available to view at the Council Offices.
- 3.8.2 Carbon dioxide emissions within the District are significantly higher than the regional average. Per capita emissions for the district's residents are 8.6 tonnes per annum compared to 6.4 tonnes nationally. According to government data per capita CO<sup>2</sup> emissions within South Derbyshire decreased by 12% between 2005 and 2009. Annual rainfall within the District is slightly lower than the long-term regional average and national averages being 445mm in 2011.
- 3.8.3 In terms of large-scale renewable energy generating capacity, Bretby landfill site is 0.9 megawatts. In addition there is a 4.6 megawatt solar farm located at Toyota at the facility in Burnaston. In terms of non-renewable energy sources there are presently two disused coal fired power station sites in the District at Willington and Drakelow. A large Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Installation was consented in October 2007 by the Secretary of State under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 on the site of the former Drakelow Power Station which was closed in 2003. Once constructed this site will have a generating capacity of around 1220MW although an application to extend this site was submitted to the Department for Energy and Climate Change ("DECC") in April 2009. If consented and built this will increase the capacity of this site to 2640MW. In addition a further application for a 2400MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine proposed for the former Willington Power Station was consented by the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in March 2011.
- 3.9 CULTURAL HERITAGE**
- 3.9.1 There are 713 listed building within South Derbyshire, of which 52 are grade 1 listed, 47 are grade 2\* and 614 are grade 2, of these 1 grade 1 building and 7 grade 2\* buildings recorded as being at risk. 34 grade 2 listed buildings are also at risk. There are 20 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 5 historic parks and gardens and 21 conservation areas within the District. The location of cultural assets can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 3.10 LANDSCAPE**
- 3.10.1 There are 5 Regional landscape character areas within South Derbyshire; Melbourne Parklands, Mease and Sense Lowlands; the South Derbyshire Coalfield; the Trent Valley Washlands and the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands.
- 3.10.2 The main land use within the District is agriculture this occupies 25,500ha or 75 % of the District and reflects the Districts predominantly rural nature. However, there is significant pressure for new development, particularly on the fringes of Derby City and Swadlincote reflecting South Derbyshire's status as the fastest growing District in Derbyshire.

## 4.0 KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES (TASK A3)

- 4.0.1 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires that *“the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan be addressed”*... and... *“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular importance, such as areas designated in pursuance to Directives 79/409/EEC [the ‘Birds Directive’] and 92/43/EEC [the ‘Habitats Directive’]”* are considered whilst undertaking any assessment.
- 4.0.2 For the purposes of this Scoping Report, the identification of environmental issues has been extended to include social and economic issues, in line with the requirement to integrate the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Through the consideration of other plans policies and programmes set out at Appendix 1 and the analysis of the baseline data set out in Appendix 2, a number of key sustainability issues affecting South Derbyshire have been identified.
- 4.0.3 The following table (Table 3) summarises a number of identified key issues currently facing the District. This information is replicated with additional information such as the likely evolution of each issue without the influence of the proposed South Derbyshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document, as well as the potential impact of implementing the Core Strategy at Appendix 3. The key issues identified are listed by topic area, consistent with earlier sections of this report. No particular weight should be attached to the significance of issues identified on the basis of the order they are listed within the following table.

<b>TABLE 3 KEY ISSUES</b>	
<b>Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora</b>	
<b>1</b>	New development may affect specific internationally, nationally, or locally designated wildlife, geological and geomorphologic sites
<b>2</b>	New development could lead to the loss or deterioration of UK and local BAP priority habitats and species
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	
<b>3</b>	South Derbyshire has the fastest growing population in Derbyshire
<b>4</b>	The District has an ageing population
<b>5</b>	The cost of housing within the District is unaffordable for many within the local community.
<b>6</b>	The District has a significant population of gypsies and travellers whose needs differ to the wider population.
<b>7</b>	Levels of deprivation vary through out the District with particular pockets of deprivation within the Swadlincote urban area.
<b>8</b>	Skill levels vary significantly across the District.
<b>9</b>	Crime rates within the District are low but fear of crime remains a significant issue
<b>10</b>	Many rural communities are becoming increasingly dormitory in nature due to the loss of existing community facilities and services
<b>11</b>	Only around one quarter of District’s adults frequently participate in physical activity
<b>Material Assets</b>	
<b>12</b>	The District has a relatively small workplace workforce and is reliant on manufacturing for many of its jobs

**TABLE 3 KEY ISSUES CONT**

<b>13</b>	There is increasing pressure on existing employment sites to be developed for housing.
<b>14</b>	Three quarters of the District's land area is in agricultural use, but farmers and those in related businesses are facing increasing pressure to diversify.
<b>15</b>	Unemployment rates are on average low (i.e. 1.9%) but vary significantly across the District.
<b>16</b>	The District is well served by the strategic road network although many routes suffer frequent congestion.
<b>17</b>	Local transport routes are relatively poor and suffer congestion, particularly during peak travel times.
<b>18</b>	Public transport provision across the District is variable
<b>19</b>	There are high levels of car usage and ownership within the District
<b>20</b>	The quality and range of retail and leisure services offered in Swadlincote and villages needs conserving and enhancing to prevent the loss of customers to nearby regional or local centres.
<b>Soil, Water and Air</b>	
<b>21</b>	Around half of all household waste is still disposed of to landfill.
<b>22</b>	There is continued need for the sand and gravel workings within the Trent, Lower Derwent and Dove Valleys.
<b>23</b>	New development could generate the need for additional water supply and disposal of waste water but existing water supplies in many parts of the region are fully committed, whilst there is a lack of capacity in both the sewerage system and receiving environment in some areas to facilitate growth without further investment
<b>24</b>	Much of the District lies within areas at significant floodrisk
<b>25</b>	New development could give rise to increased air, water or light pollution or could reduce local tranquillity
<b>26</b>	There is a significant amount of previously developed (brownfield) land within the District
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	
<b>27</b>	There is virtually no existing renewable energy generating capacity within the District
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	
<b>28</b>	The cultural heritage, including archeology of the district could be affected through the loss of historic assets or by unacceptable changes to their setting; but sensitive development could result in opportunities to enhance historic places and improve public access to historic sites
<b>Landscape</b>	
<b>29</b>	Uncontrolled or unsympathetic development could harm local landscape or townscape character
<b>30</b>	New development could lead to the loss of existing open space which has recreational value or benefits the character of the area

## **5.0 DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK (TASK A4)**

- 5.0.1 Sustainability Appraisal is an objective-led process. It allows the potential impact of the plan to be measured against a series of aspirational objectives for sustainable development. Put simply, by setting out sustainable objectives up front the Council will have a yardstick against which the success of its Core Strategy Development Plan Document can be measured.
- 5.0.2 It should be noted that Sustainability Appraisal objectives are distinct from the Plan objectives that will be set out in the Core Strategy itself, although there may be significant overlap between the two sets of objectives. The Sustainability Appraisal objectives included at the end of this chapter seek to focus on outcomes (or ends), not on how any outcomes will be achieved (input or means), as objectives included within the Local Development Framework (LDF) often tend to do.
- 5.0.3 The proposed Sustainability Appraisal objectives have been identified through the detailed consideration of other plans and strategies and baseline information. However, in developing the proposed objectives, four key sources have been used as the starting point to develop our own locally relevant sustainability objectives. These are:
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and other appropriate planning policy guidance/advice notes
  - The area profiles and topic based evidence collected by the Authority to inform the development of the Core Strategy and other planning policy documents
  - The South Derbyshire Community Strategy (2009-2029)
  - The evidence base already collected to inform South Derbyshire's emerging Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS).
- 5.0.4 A set of 21 sustainability objectives have previously been identified by the District Council's planning team in consultation with stakeholders and the local community. These objectives were initially informed by the review of wider plans and strategies and the review of baseline data, which forms part of the Scoping process and through the consideration of key issues identified in the previous section of this document. In addition, a Core Strategy scoping workshop was held with elected members in April 2008. This allowed councillors opportunity to flag up local sustainability issues across a range of issues including housing, employment, transport and leisure. This workshop was attended by staff from a range of other council departments including housing, economic development, corporate policy and leisure as well as 23 District Councillors.
- 5.0.5 In undertaking a review of strategies and plans, and the evidence available the council has sought to update its record of key issues and in turn the sustainability appraisal framework. Generally however, this review has reconfirmed the key issues identified previously and as such the SA objectives remain virtually unchanged.
- 5.0.6 A range of sub-objectives have also been developed which, so far as possible, reflect issues raised during previous consultations with stakeholders. And whilst the impacts of options to be identified later will not be reviewed against these sub-objectives (this is consistent with best practice guidance issued by the Planning Advisory Service<sup>4</sup>) – they will allow the planning team to tease out key impacts of identified local significance in a consistent manner when appraising the plan options later in the SA process. The sub objectives (detailed decision making criteria) can be viewed in Table 4 (the Sustainability Appraisal Framework).
- 5.0.6 A list of draft sustainability objectives is set out overleaf.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Development Frameworks; guidance on sustainability appraisal, Planning Advisory Service December 2007

## 5.1 LIST OF SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

### **Biodiversity, Fauna and Flora**

- 1 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**

- 2 to provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs
- 3 to improve the health and well-being of the population
- 4 to improve community safety and reduce crime and fear of crime
- 5 to improve educational achievement and improve the District's skills base
- 6 to promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities associated with deprivation across the District

### **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.
- 7 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)
- 8 to achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness
- 9 to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities
- 10 to enhance the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres
- 11 to improve the quality of new development and the existing built environment
- 12

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

- 13 to minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials
- 14 to promote sustainable forms of construction and sustainable use of natural resources
- 15 to reduce water, light, air and noise pollution
- 16 to minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land
- 17 to reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run-off

### **Climatic Factors**

- 18 to reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution towards the causes

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

- 19 to protect and enhance the cultural, architectural and archeological heritage of the district.
- 20 to improve access to the cultural heritage of the district for enjoyment and educational purposes

### **Landscape**

- 21 to conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character.

Table 4					
Sustainability Topic	Headline Objective	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed indicator		Specific Targets (where relevant)
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	Will it conserve and enhance natural semi natural habitats including internationally nationally and locally designated wildlife sites, or create new wildlife habitats?	<b>Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented</b> <i>NI 197 updated annually.</i> <b>Quality of SAC/SSSIs within South Derbyshire</b> <i>(English Nature Website-updated annually)</i> <b>Number of County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves in South Derbyshire</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council</i>		By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced
		Will it conserve protected species and habitats, UK and local BAP Priority Species and Habitats and enhance diversity?	Performance against Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan Targets <i>LDBAP Partnership</i>		Full list of targets available to view at: <a href="http://derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk/">http://derbyshirebiodiversity.org.uk/</a>
		Will it increase National Forest tree coverage in the District?	<b>National Forest coverage within the District</b> <i>(SDDCI/National Forest Company)</i>		Achieve 33% woodland planting and habitat creation across the National Forest Area
		Will it integrate new development within the setting of the National Forest?	<b>Total area of national forest tree planting secured within District (Annually) as a result of new development</b> <i>(AMR Local Indicator Data supplied by National Forest)</i>		As above
		Will it protect sites of geological importance?	<b>Number and area of RIGS within District</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council)</i>		--
Population and Human Health	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs	Will it reduce the number of households waiting for accommodation or accepted as homeless?	<b>Number of households on the household register</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council</i> <b>Number of people accepted as homeless (annually)</b> <b>NHS South Derbyshire Health Profile/SDDC</b>		--
		Will it increase the range and affordability of housing for all social groups?	<b>Net Additional Dwellings</b> <i>(AMR Core Indicator H2)</i>		Housing targets to be established through the LDF
		Will it improve the suitability of new homes for older and disabled people?	<b>Number of extra care homes delivered in the District annually.</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council)</i> <b>To be confirmed following update to building for Life standard</b> <b>To be established as a South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</b>		Target to be established through the LDF process
		Will it provide sufficient housing to meet existing and future housing need?	<b>Net Affordable housing completions</b> <i>(AMR Core Indicator H5)</i> <b>Housing mix (new housing types)</b> <i>(AMR Local Indicator)</i>		Housing targets to be established through the LDF
		Will it reduce the number of unfit and empty homes?	<b>Number of non decent homes in District</b> <i>South Derbyshire Private Sector Housing Condition Survey (South Derbyshire District Council)</i> <b>Long term vacant dwellings</b> <i>NOMIS</i>		
		Will it meet the needs of the travelling community and show people?	<b>Net Additional Pitches</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR Core Indicator (H4)</i>		Housing Targets to be established through the LDF

Sustainability Topic	Headline Objective	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed indicator	Specific Targets (where relevant)
Population and Human Health	To improve the health and well-being of the population	Will it improve peoples health?	<b>Life expectancy at birth (male and female)</b> (NHS South Derbyshire Health Profile-updated annually)	--
		Will it improve accessibility to health care for existing residents (including older and disabled residents) and provide additional facilities for new residents?	<b>Number of new or improved healthcare facilities delivered annually through development</b> (South Derbyshire District Council)	--
		Will it promote healthy lifestyles?	<b>Number of new sports pitches or other leisure facilities delivered annually through development</b> (South Derbyshire District Council) <b>Physically Active Adults</b> APHO Health Profile South Derbyshire updated annually	By 2016 achieve a 1% point increase in adult participation of 3 x 30 minutes, (from 2005 baseline of 20.9%).
Population and Human Health	To improve community safety and reduce crime and fear of crime	Will it reduce crime and fear of crime	<b>Community Safety: Crime rates within South Derbyshire</b> Police Crime Map	--
		Will it reduce the number people involved in accidents?	<b>Road Safety Road injuries and deaths in South Derbyshire</b> APHO Health Profile South Derbyshire updated annually	--
Population and Human Health	To improve educational achievement and improve the District's skills base	Will it increase educational attainment amongst young people?	<b>Key stage 4: Percentage of school leavers achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE including maths and English</b> APHO Health Profile South Derbyshire updated annually	--
		Will it reduce the number of working age residents who have no, or lower level qualifications?	<b>Proportion of working age population with no, or lower level qualifications</b> Nomis updated annually	--
Population and Human Health	To promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities associated with deprivation across the District	Will it narrow the inequality gap between richest and poorest in the District?	<b>Index of Multiple Deprivation SOA and District level data (IMD)</b> (DCLG updated periodically at irregular intervals)	--
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.	Will it make access easier for those households who do not have a car?	<b>Number of settlements in District served by hourly bus and/or train services</b> South Derbyshire District Council Area Profiles	--
		Will it help deliver new or protect existing local services and facilities and encourage the creation of new facilities and public transport provision?	<b>Loss of local community, leisure and shopping facilities to other uses</b> South Derbyshire District Council AMR Contextual Indicator.	--



Sustainability Topic	Headline Objective	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed indicator	Specific Targets (where relevant)
Material Assets	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)	Will it minimise the impact of traffic congestion on the strategic and local road network?	<b>Traffic Counts on selected strategic roads in the District</b> <i>DFT updated annually</i> <a href="http://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/download.php">http://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/download.php</a>	
		Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than the car?	<b>Journey to work by mode</b> <i>ONS Census Data - updated decennially</i>	--
		Will it make the best use of other infrastructure which serves new development	<b>TBC</b>	--
Material Assets	To achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness	Will it encourage the creation of new businesses and existing businesses to grow?	<b>Percentage change in the total number of VAT registered businesses in the District</b> <i>NOMIS, Labour Market Profile</i>	--
		Will it reduce unemployment rates overall and reduce disparities which exist across different parts of the District?	<b>Unemployment by ward</b> <i>Derbyshire County Council Monthly unemployment bulletin</i>	--
		Will it encourage economic diversification?	<b>Proportion of the District Employed in key sectors</b> <i>(NOMIS, Labour Market Profile for South Derbyshire – updated annually)</i>	--
Material Assets	To diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities	Will it improve average incomes within the District?	<b>Average income within the District by place of work</b> <i>(ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE – updated annually)</i>	--
		Will it ensure the provision of an adequate supply of employment land and protect existing viable employment land sites?	<b>Total additional land and floor space developed by type</b> <i>SDDC AMR Core Indicator (BD1) - updated annually</i> <b>Total available employment land and floor space by type</b> <i>SDDC AMR Core Indicator (BD3) - updated annually</i> <b>Losses of employment land</b> <i>SDDC AMR Local Indicator (BD3) - updated annually</i>	Employment land targets to be established through the LDF
		Will it help support and encourage the growth of the rural economy?	<b>Total additional floorspace and land developed</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council)</i>	--
Material Assets	To enhance the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres	Will it improve existing shopping facilities within Swadlincote, Melbourne and larger villages?	<b>Total amount of retail floor space (by type) in Swadlincote Town Centre</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR Core Indicator (BD3)- updated annually</i> <b>New retail space developed within villages</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council to be collected as part of Annual Monitoring</i> <b>Loss of shops and other retail businesses to other uses</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council</i> <b>Vacancy rates in Swadlincote Town Centre</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council</i>	--



Sustainability Topic	Headline Objective	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed indicator	Specific Targets (where relevant)
Material Assets	To improve the quality of new development and the existing built environment.	Will it improve the quality of new development?	<b>To be confirmed following update to building for Life standard</b> <b>To be established as a South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</b>	--
		Will it provide opportunity to use locally available natural resources or materials?	<b>To be confirmed following update to building for Life standard</b>	--
Soil, Water and Air	To minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials	Will it lead to the reduced consumption of materials?	<b>Residual Household waste per household</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</i>	--
		Will it increase waste recovery and recycling?	<b>Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</i>	Recycling and composting of household waste to reach 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020 (national target)
		Will it reduce the proportion of waste sent to landfill?	<b>Municipal waste landfilled</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</i>	By 2013 to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste land filled to 80% of what it was in 1995. (National target)
Soil, Water and Air	To promote sustainable forms of construction and sustainable use of natural resources	Will it promote the implementation of sustainable construction techniques?	<b>Proportion of new homes built to level 3, or higher of the Code for Sustainable Homes per annum</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council: To be inserted as a local indicator into the AMR from April 2010.</i>	--
		Will it help reduce the need for land won primary minerals including sand and gravel?	<b>To be confirmed once minerals LDF in place</b>	<b>Target to be established through Minerals Local Development Framework</b>
		Will it help ensure that water resources are used efficiently?	<b>Water Usage per capita within Severn Trent and South Staffordshire Water Resource Areas</b> <i>STW and SS websites</i>	--
Soil, Water and Air	To reduce water, light, air and noise pollution	Will it reduce water pollution?	<b>Number of planning applications granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</i> <b>Annual average (mg/l) Orthophosphate in Selected watercourses in District</b> <i>Environment Agency updated annually</i>	<b>Target</b> 0.06mg/l on River Mease 0.12 mg/l on other watercourses (Targets taken from Derby HMA outline WCS)
		Will it reduce light pollution?	<b>Number of light pollution complaints received per 1000 residents</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council to be collected as part of Annual Monitoring)</i>	--
		Will it improve air quality?	<b>Population living within Air Quality Management Areas within the District</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR local Indicator</i>	--
		Will it reduce noise pollution?	<b>Number of noise pollution complaints received per 1000 residents</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council to be collected as part of Annual Monitoring)</i>	--
Soil, Water and Air	To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	Will it reduce the loss of agricultural land to new development?	<b>Proportion of homes built on Greenfield land</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council AMR Core Indicator (H3)- updated annually</i> <b>No of redundant building bought back into use</b> <i>South Derbyshire District Council</i> <b>Proportion of long term vacant dwellings in the District</b> <i>Neighbourhood Statistics</i>	60% of homes to be built on green field sites (national target)

Sustainability Topic	Headline Objective	Detailed decision making criteria	Detailed indicator	Specific Targets (where relevant)
Soil, Water and Air	To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water runoff	Will it reduce the impacts of flood risk?	<b>Number of Planning Permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on fluvial flooding.</b> <i>SDDC AMR Core Indicator (E2)- updated annually</i> <b>Number of Planning Permissions granted contrary to Lead Local Flood Authority advice on surface water flooding.</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council)</i> <b>Number of existing properties within the Environment Agency's flood risk areas</b> <i>(South Derbyshire District Council)</i>	No applications to be granted contrary to EA advice.
		Will it reduce surface water run off within the District?	<b>Proportion of new development/dwellings incorporating Sustainable urban drainage techniques</b> <i>(SDDC collected as part of Annual Monitoring for RSS8)</i>	--
Climatic Factors	To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution towards the causes	Will it reduce the causes of climate change?	<b>Carbon dioxide emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities (previously NI 186)</b> <i>DECC – updated annually</i>	20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020
		Will it provide opportunity for additional renewable energy generation capacity within the District?	<b>Renewable Energy Capacity within the District</b> <i>SDDC AMR local Indicator- updated annually</i>	To achieve 15% of energy consumed by 2020 (national target)
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	To protect and enhance the cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the District	Will it protect and enhance, the setting of historic, cultural, architectural and archaeological features in the District?	<b>Number of listed buildings or structures in South Derbyshire</b> <i>SDDC AMR Local Indicator – updated annually</i> <b>Heritage at risk</b> <i>SDDC AMR Local Indicator – updated annually</i> <b>Number of Conservation Areas within South Derbyshire</b> <i>SDDC AMR local indicator – updated annually</i>	Target 100% of Conservation Areas to have an up to date* character appraisal and management Plan. * less than 5 years old.
Cultural Heritage (including architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	To improve access to the cultural heritage of the District for enjoyment and educational purposes	Will it improve access to the public and the understanding of the District's historic and cultural facilities?	<b>Proportion of Conservation Areas with an up to date character appraisal and management plan</b> <i>SDDC AMR local indicator – updated annually)</i>	100% of conservation areas to have an up to date character appraisal
Landscape	To conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character	Will it reduce the amount of derelict degraded and underused land within the District?	<b>Proportion of new development on PDL</b> <i>SDDC AMR Local Indicator – updated annually</i> <b>Amount of land on districts NLUD database</b> <i>SDDC AMR Local Indicator – updated annually</i>	60% of homes to be built on green field sites
		Does it respect and protect existing landscape character?	<b>The proportion of housing completions on sites of 10 or more) which have been supported, at the planning application stage by a landscape character assessment</b> <i>(SDDC to be collected as part of Annual Monitoring)</i>	--
		Will it protect and create openspaces, landscape features, woodlands, hedges and ponds?	<b>Number of planning application leading to a loss of open spaces</b> <i>SDDC AMR local Indicator - updated annually)</i>	--

\* Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna\* including Geodiversity, Geology Geomorphology.

### 5.3 COMPATIBILITY OF THE DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OBJECTIVES

- 5.3.1 In identifying the above sustainability objectives the District Council is aware that many of the objectives may not be fully compatible, for example in seeking to encourage economic growth this may frustrate broader objectives to reduce water, light noise and air pollution, minimise the irreversible loss of greenfield land and to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- 5.3.2 The District Council has sought to identify all the sustainability objectives, which are in conflict with other objectives. Such conflicts are identified in the table 5 below and further consideration of the nature of such conflicts and how potential conflicts could be managed are set out in Table 6.

Table 5: Internal Compatibility of Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1																				
2	?																			
3	✓	✓																		
4	✓	✓	✓																	
5	✓	✓	✓	✓																
6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓															
7	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓														
8	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													
9	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓												
10	?	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓									
13	✓	X	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓								
14	✓	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓							
15	✓	X	✓	?	-	-	-	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓						
16	?	X	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	X	?	✓	?	✓	✓	✓					
17	✓	?	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
18	?	X	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	X	?	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	✓	?	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	✓	?	✓	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	?	-	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Table 6: Detail of Conflicts Arising**

Table 6: Detail of Conflicts Among		
No	Identified Conflict	Detail of Uncertainty/Conflict
1	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	The development of new homes could place additional pressure on the environment and lead to additional impacts on, or losses to habitats and species if insensitively managed.
2	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs	
1	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	There is potential for some damage of protected sites and species should access be promoted across all wildlife sites. As such, there may be a need to control access in specific locations or during particular parts of the year where evidence would suggest that public access to sites could affect site integrity.
7	to improve accessibility for everyone to all services, facilities, recreational resources (including physical activity, sports facilities and open spaces) and employment	
1	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	Many former transport routes are designated local wildlife sites and as such their conversion to walking or cycling routes could affect their integrity.
8	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)	

	Identified Conflict	Detail of Conflict
1 10	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 to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities	The further development of urban and rural economies could place additional pressure on the environment and lead to additional impacts on local habitats and species although this would be dependent on the scale, nature and location of developments.
1 16	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 To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	Whilst minimising the loss of greenfield land and seeking the reuse of brownfield land reflects government policy, brownfield land can also be of significant wildlife value.
1 18	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 To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the district's contribution to the causes	Some forms of renewable power generation could be detrimental to local wildlife sites or locally important habitats and species.
2 13	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and to minimise waste and increase the reuse and recycling of waste materials	The development of new homes is likely to increase absolute levels of waste arisings within the district. In particular increases in waste generated are likely during the construction and demolition phase of development but waste generated during the operational life of developments are also likely.
2 15	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and to reduce water, light, air and noise pollution	Water, air, noise and light pollution could all increase as a result of the development of additional homes within the district. However, the extent of any such conflict is dependent on the scale, location and nature (including detailed design) of new homes and supporting infrastructure developed.
2 16	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	The development of new homes will lead to the loss of undeveloped land although the scale of losses is dependent on how much new development can be located on previously developed (brownfield) land or the amount and density on new development required on greenfield sites.
2 17	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and To reduce and manage flood risk and surface water run off	New development could increase flood risk locally if development is located in areas that are at risk now or are likely to fall in areas of flood risk in the future due to the impacts of climate change. Careful siting and the detailed design of new development can have a significant effect on the potential floodrisk of new development.
2 18	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and To reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution to the causes	Significant new housing growth could lead to greater energy and water demand
2 19	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and to protect and enhance the cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the District	Significant new housing growth could have a negative impact on the setting of local buildings of architectural importance. Greenfield development of housing could also lead to the loss of sites of significance in terms of archaeological resource
2 20	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and To improve access to the cultural heritage of the District for enjoyment and educational purposes	Significant new housing growth could have a negative impact on the cultural heritage of the District. However, it may also provide opportunities to safeguard or make accessible to the public important cultural and heritage features.
2 21	To provide decent and affordable homes that meet local needs; and to conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character	New housing development could have a negative impact on the landscape and townscape character of the District, although such impacts is dependent on the scale of development and the way it is implemented.
4 15	to improve community safety and reduce crime and fear of crime to reduce water, light, air and noise pollution	May be a conflict between objectives to reduce light pollution and improving community safety and reducing fear of crime, although the extent of any possible conflicts could be affected by how new developments are designed and implemented.
9 15	to achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness to reduce water, light, air and noise pollution	Economic growth could increase water, light air and noise pollution, although the extent such impacts is dependent on the scale and nature of any impacts and on how developments are constructed and operated.
9 16	to achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness To minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	Economic growth could lead to the loss of additional green field land, although the extent of such impacts is dependent on the scale and nature of any development, the proportion of new development that can be accommodated on previously developed land and density at which new development is delivered.

Identified Conflict		Detail of Conflict
9 18	to achieve stable and sustainable levels of economic growth and maintain economic competitiveness to reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution towards the causes	It is unclear whether increased economic development can be delivered alongside reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases. National Policy and baseline evidence indicates that economic growth and emissions can be decoupled but historical trends show a clear link between economic growth and carbon emissions.
10 15	to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities to reduce water, light, air and noise pollution	The diversification of urban economies could reduce the reliance of the district on manufacturing and construction based jobs, which may have a detrimental impact on local communities in terms of their water energy and carbon use as well as local air quality or in terms of noise or light pollution. In contrast, rural diversification could have an urbanising impact on the countryside if it is insensitive in terms of its scale, nature or location. The scale of any impacts will be largely dependent on how development proposals are designed, constructed and implemented.
10 16	to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities to minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	The diversification of the local economy could create additional employment land needs and as such could lead to the loss of greenfield land, although such losses would be dependent on the types of businesses attracted to the district and the ability of existing brownfield land to accommodate increased employment land needs.
10 18	to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities to reduce and manage the impacts of climate change and the District's contribution towards the causes	It is unclear whether creation of additional employment opportunities and economic growth can be bought forward without increasing carbon emissions locally, particularly where the creation of new jobs increases already high levels of commuting. However, it should also be noted that the development of more, and higher quality jobs locally could reduce out-commuting of the district to access jobs.
10 19	to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities to protect and enhance architectural and archaeological heritage of the District	The diversification and strengthening of the local economy could help support the regeneration and reuse of many historical buildings, although significant economic development could also affect the setting or the fabric of existing historic assets.
10 20	to diversify and strengthen local urban and rural economies and create high quality employment opportunities To protect and enhance the cultural heritage and facilities of the District for enjoyment and educational purposes	The diversification and strengthening of the local economy have a negative impact on the cultural heritage of the District. However, it may also provide opportunities to safeguard or make accessible to the public important cultural and heritage features.
12 16	to improve the quality of new development and the existing built environment to minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land	In order to improve quality of new developments in some parts of the district there may be a need to promote lower density developments in some locations. This could increase the land take needed to meet the districts housing requirements.
14 21	to promote sustainable forms of construction and sustainable use of natural resources to conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character	The use of sustainable construction techniques may lead to a diversification of the local townscape and could have an impact on local towns and villages. However the use of sustainable construction techniques and new building designs and materials may not necessarily have a detrimental impact on the local villages and towns depending on how such schemes are regulated and implemented.
16 20	to minimise the irreversible loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land to conserve and enhance the District's landscape and townscape character	The minimisation of greenfield land losses could place greater pressure for brownfield land developments and infill within existing towns and villages. This pressure could have a detrimental impact on the local townscape, although such impacts could be dependent on the scale, nature and location of additional development within existing towns and villages.

5.3.3 An awareness of the conflicts identified above will allow the District Council to seek to reduce the impacts, which may arise within any future options we develop and consider at an early stage the types of mitigation measures, which may be appropriate to reconcile the conflicts identified.

## **6.0 CONSULTING ON THE SCOPE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL (TASK A5)**

### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

**6.1.1** In amending this Scoping Report the Council is keen to alert stakeholders to the revised scope of its Sustainability Appraisal in order that interested stakeholders can review any changes made against previous iterations of the SA scoping report which can be viewed on the Councils website. However, whilst we do not expect substantive comments from most organisations (given that amendments to the report are generally minor and have not changed the key issues or the SA objectives identified previously) we would welcome any comments on any aspect of this scoping report including the SA framework.

**6.1.3** For the purposes of this consultation, the District Council contacted the following organisations

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage
- East Midlands Councils
- Adjoining Local Planning Authorities
- Derbyshire County Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Leicestershire County Council
- The National Forest Company
- Highways Agency
- Network Rail
- Severn Trent
- South Staffordshire Water
- National Grid Transco
- Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) (Derbyshire Branch)
- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)
- Derbyshire County PCT
- Home Builders Federation
- Forestry Commission
- Sport England (East Midlands Region)
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Parish Councils within South Derbyshire

## 7.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- 7.0.1 Following the Scoping report consultation the Council will now use the amended Sustainability Appraisal Framework to undertake the remainder of the Sustainability Appraisal process. This consists of the following stages:

<b>Stage B</b>	Developing and refining options and assessing effects
<b>Stage C</b>	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
<b>Stage D</b>	Consulting on the Submission of the South Derbyshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Sustainability Appraisal Report
<b>Stage E</b>	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy development Plan Document.

<b>TABLE 7: THE NEXT STEPS</b>	
<b>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</b>	
<b>B1</b>	Testing the Core Strategy Development Plan Document objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal framework.
<b>B2</b>	Developing the Plan options.
<b>B3</b>	Predicting the effects of the Plan.
<b>B4</b>	Evaluating the effects of the Plan.
<b>B5</b>	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.
<b>B6</b>	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Plan.
<b>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>	
<b>C1</b>	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
<b>Stage D: Consulting on the submission of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document and Sustainability Appraisal Report</b>	
<b>D1</b>	Public participation on the Submission of the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
<b>D2(i)</b>	Appraising significant changes.
<b>D2(ii)</b>	Appraising significant changes resulting from representations.
<b>D3</b>	Making decisions and providing information
<b>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy Development Plan Document</b>	
<b>E1</b>	Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.
<b>E2</b>	Responding to adverse effects.

Source: ODPM 2005.

- 7.0.2 During **Stage B** (developing and refining options and assessing effects) the objectives of the Core Strategy will be tested against the SA Framework, to determine their performance in sustainability terms. In addition this stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process will also allow the Authority to review all identified broad strategic options for growth together with the Councils preferred site allocations in order to gauge their 'sustainability'. Once this is done the results of this assessment will be used by the Council to help us determine which options should be carried forward into the Submission Plan.

- 7.0.3 In undertaking its sustainability appraisal the Council will seek to describe the impacts likely to arise from implementing its plan in terms of their magnitude, their geographical scale, the period of time over which they will occur, whether they are permanent or temporary, positive or negative, frequent or rare, and whether or not there are likely to have cumulative and/or synergistic effects. For each significant effect identified, mitigation measures (including avoidance, offsetting and enhancement measures) will be suggested. In assessing the likely impacts of implementing the Core Strategy the planning team will seek to involve representatives from other Council departments in order to make the appraisal process more robust and credible.
- 7.0.4 **Stage C** of the Sustainability Appraisal process involves the preparation of an initial Sustainability Appraisal Report. This will set out the results of the appraisal, which will be presented in accordance with guidance set out in the ODPM guide to *“Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Document”* published in November 2005.
- 7.0.5 An interim draft of Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published alongside the councils preferred options consultation in the Autumn of 2012 and comment on the Core Strategy and interim SA report invited. Following consultation this interim report will be amended and a final draft submitted alongside the draft South Derbyshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (**Stage D**). The SA will be subject to a six week consultation period at this stage.
- 7.0.6 A Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will then consider the Soundness of the Plan, using the submitted Sustainability Appraisal to inform his or her final opinion. As a result of the examination the Inspector will produce a report, which will be binding on South Derbyshire District Council.
- 7.0.7 Following adoption of the Core Strategy the final part of the SA process will be to monitor the implementation of the Plan against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (**Stage E**). This will allow the Council to identify and respond to any unforeseen adverse effects that arise from the implementation of the Plan.

## **7.1 OTHER ASSESSMENTS**

- 7.1.1 In addition to testing plan options and policies, in terms of their sustainability, there is a statutory requirement for the District Council to undertake additional forms of assessment on its emerging plans and policies.
- 7.1.2 An Appropriate Assessment (sometimes known as a Habitat Regulations Assessment) to ensure that the emerging Core Strategy does not affect the integrity of nature conservation sites of European importance in and around South Derbyshire is also being undertaken in parallel with the Sustainability Appraisal. Further information on Appropriate Assessment is set out in a related Appropriate Assessment Screening and Scoping Report which is available to view on the Council's Website. In addition an Equalities Impact Assessment (sometimes known as an EqIA) will also be undertaken on the emerging plan to ensure that policies are equitable and do not have negative or adverse impact on certain 'equality target groups'. This assessment work will commence once draft plan policies are drawn up and will be made available on the Districts Councils website alongside the final Sustainability Appraisal Report. Wherever possible the findings of both these assessment procedures will inform the outcomes of the SA process.
- 7.1.3 Due to the largely rural nature of South Derbyshire, the District Council is also keen to ensure that the rural proofing of all policies and options will be undertaken in accordance with guidance set out in the former Countryside Agency's rural proofing checklist. There is no statutory requirement to 'rural proof' the policies included in any emerging plan, but by incorporating rural proofing into its appraisal of the Core Strategy DPD the District Council will seek to ensure that



the options and policies being tested by the Council are capable of addressing the needs of both rural and urban communities alike.

- 7.1.4 In addition to the above assessments the District Council also proposes to test its Core Strategy against a checklist for integrating the intent of the European Landscape Convention into plans policies and programmes. The results of this appraisal will be appended to the interim and final drafts of the Sustainability Appraisal Report.



South Derbyshire District Council  
Planning Services

Local Development Framework

**Scoping Report:** Sustainability Appraisal - Core Strategy Development Plan - Main Report Update  
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