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**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL & STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE  
LOCAL PLAN (PART 1) 2014.**

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**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL  
ADOPTION STATEMENT**

For Cannock Chase District Council

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Halcrow Group Limited, a CH2M Hill Company  
**May 2014**

## AMENDMENT RECORD

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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Checked by</b>
1	First Draft SA Adoption Report	28.03.14	DE	KD
2	Final SA Adoption Report (incorporating client comments)	23.04.14		KD
3	Final SA Adoption Report (incorporating client comments)	02.05.14	SC	SC

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## LIMITATIONS

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Halcrow Group Ltd has been instructed to provide Cannock Chase District Council with a Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement of their Local Plan (Part 1). The content of this document is based on the information that has been made available at the time of publication.

It should be noted that:

- The findings of this report represent the professional opinion of experienced environmental scientists, sustainability consultants and other specialists. Halcrow does not provide legal advice and the advice of lawyers may also be required.
- All work carried out in preparing this report has utilised and is based upon Halcrow's professional knowledge and understanding of current relevant European Union and UK standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in this legislation and guidance may occur at any time in the future and cause any conclusions to become inappropriate or incorrect. Halcrow does not accept responsibility for advising of the facts or implications of any such changes.
- This report has been prepared using factual information contained in maps and documents prepared by others. No responsibility can be accepted by Halcrow for the accuracy of such information. All maps, illustrations and other sources of data are credited where appropriate.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

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This document has been prepared for the adoption stage of the Cannock Chase District Council Local Plan (Part 1) formerly known as the Core Strategy and including the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP). The Local Plan for Cannock Chase is being split into two parts, with Part 2 being issued at a later date. During the Local Plan (Part 1) preparation process a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environment Assessment (SA/SEA) have been undertaken in parallel.

SA/SEA identifies the social, environmental and economic impacts of a plan and suggests ways to avoid or minimise negative impacts and maximise positive effects. It is required by the 'Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012', and in addition it incorporates the requirements of the European 'Strategic Environmental Assessment' Directive, transposed into UK legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations') requires that, as soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, the planning authority must make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA report and an 'SA statement'; and inform the public and consultation bodies about the availability of these documents. The consultation bodies are English Heritage, Natural England and the Environment Agency. The SA/SEA statement must provide information on:

- a. How the SA/environmental report has been taken into account;
- b. How sustainability/environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- c. The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with;
- d. How consultation opinions on the SA/environmental report of the public, consultation bodies and where appropriate other European Member States have been taken into account; and
- e. The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant sustainability/environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.

This Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement has been produced to fulfil the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requirements. It also discusses the conclusions of the Habitats Regulation Assessment and how results of this assessment have been taken account into the Local Plan (Part 1).

An examination of the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) was carried out by an independent Planning Inspector, with hearing sessions running from the 24th – 27th September. As a result of the Hearing, the Council made 'main modifications' and 'additional modifications' to its Local Plan (Part 1) Proposed Submission. An Addendum to the SA Report was produced in November 2013 reflecting these changes. Further to this the Inspector's Examination Report published on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 concluded that the CCDC Local Plan (Part 1) has met all the legal requirements relating to the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulation Assessment.

## **2 HOW THE SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS HAVE BEEN INTEGRATED INTO THE LOCAL PLAN (PART 1)**

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The combined SA/SEA process has been designed to ensure sustainability considerations are integrated into planning and decision making processes. SA is an iterative process, thereby influencing and informing each stage of plan development.

Interaction between the planning and SA teams at several key stages during the development of the Local Plan (Part 1) has helped to incorporate sustainability and environmental considerations into the plan. Throughout its development the SA process has improved the robustness of the plan by focussing attention early on the environment and sustainability and specific issues raised in the scoping phase.

The SA process aimed to ensure the integration of environmental considerations into the Local Plan (Part 1) Policies preparation by:

- Undertaking the SA process in parallel with development of the Local Plan (Part 1) and by providing information on sustainability implications to influence the content of the Local Plan (Part 1);
- Issuing the Scoping Report to the statutory consultees and local stakeholders for comments on the key sustainability issues and proposed scope of the SA;
- Recording an assessment of the sustainability effects of the Local Plan (Part 1) in SA Reports written as the policies were developed. SA Reports were produced alongside the Initial Issues and Options (2006, 2007 and 2008); Preferred Options (2009) and Pre-Publication Drafts (2010 and 2012); Proposed Submission (2013); a Main Modifications Stage (2013) and this Final Local Plan (Part 1) adoption stage.
- Making recommendations for how the Local Plan (Part 1) could be amended to reduce or offset adverse environmental effects and enhance positive effects.

The key stages of the SA/SEA and plan making processes are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Stages in the SA/SEA and Local Plan (Part 1) Policies**

Cannock Chase Local Plan	SA/SEA Stage	Date
Begin document preparation	<p>Stage A: Setting the context, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A1: identify other relevant policies, plans and document programmes, and sustainability objectives.</li> <li>• A2: collecting baseline information.</li> <li>• A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.</li> <li>• A4: Developing the SA framework.</li> <li>• A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA (Scoping Report).</li> </ul>	<p>SA Scoping Report, prepared November 2005</p> <p>Consultation on Core Strategy (CSDPD) Scoping Report February 2006</p> <p>Site Allocations &amp; DC Scoping Report February 2007</p>
<p>Preparation of issues and options (I&amp;O) paper and consultation</p> <p>Preparation of preferred options, including consultation on possible preferred options</p>	<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing of effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B1: Tenting the DPD objectives against the SA framework.</li> <li>• B2: Developing the DPD options.</li> <li>• B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD.</li> <li>• B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD.</li> <li>• B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects preferred and maximising beneficial effects.</li> <li>• B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD.</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation on issues &amp; options (I&amp;O) paper July 2008 for CSDPD and Rugeley Town Centre AAP (RTCAAP)</p> <p>I&amp;O CSDPD SA High Level Assessment, July 2008</p> <p>I&amp;O RTCAAP SA Assessment, March 2008</p>
Public consultation on preferred options	<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C1: Preparing the SA Report.</li> </ul> <p>Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and SA Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report.</li> <li>• D2 (i) Appraising significant changes.</li> <li>• D2 (ii) Appraising significant changes resulting from</li> </ul>	<p>Consultation on preferred options for the CSDPD and SA Report, April-June 2009</p> <p>Consultation on preferred options for the RTCAAP and SA Report, July-August 2009</p> <p>Consultation on CSDPD Pre-Publication Draft and SA Report, May-June 2010</p> <p>Consultation on RTCAAP Pre-Publication Draft and SA Report, August-September 2010</p>

	<p>representations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D3: Making decisions and providing Information.</li> </ul>	
Second public consultation on preferred options	Stage D (continued)	<p>Consultation on Draft Local Plan (Part 1) (incorporating CSDPD and RTCAAP) and SA Report, August-September 2012</p> <p>Formal consultation on Proposed Submission Draft Local Plan (Part 1) and SA Report, February-March 2013</p>
Submission of DPD to Secretary of State	<p>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring.</li> <li>• E2: Responding to adverse effects.</li> </ul>	<p>Submission: May 2013</p> <p>Consultation on Local Plan (Part 1) Main Modifications and Additional Modifications and accompanying SA Addendum, November 2013</p>
Adoption of the Local Plan (Part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing the SEA Statement.</li> </ul>	SA Statement: indicative timing Spring 2014 (this document)

### **3 HOW THE SA REPORT HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT**

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Further to the Scoping Stage, the sustainability impacts of the Local Plan (Part 1) were subsequently assessed during each stage of plan making i.e. 2006 and 2007 Core Strategy and 2008 Core Strategy and Rugeley Town Centre AAP Issues and Options Reports; Preferred Options (2009); Pre-publication drafts (2010 and 2012); Proposed Submission (2013); Submission (May 2013); and Addendum to the Submission Document Main Modifications and Additional Modifications (November 2013).

The SA/SEA predicted the implications of each policy on the environmental, social and economic components of the District (and where possible, the region) by undertaking an assessment of each policy against the SA Objectives. The SA/SEA made recommendations on how to improve the sustainability of the policies for identified positive effects, and how to mitigate negative effects.

The advantage of running the SA process in parallel with the plan making process is that it ensures sustainability and environmental considerations are incorporated in the plan. At each stage of planning, the sustainability appraisal team made recommendations regarding measures to include in the plan, such as suggestions to mitigate any negative effects predicted, or to revise policies, options or objectives of the plan to improve its sustainability quotient. Table 2 indicates how the SA process influenced the Local Plan (Part 1) development.

Table 2: SA influence in the Local Plan (Part 1) development

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
<p><b>Vision</b></p>	<p>The spatial vision and preferred strategic approach score very well against most of the environmental, social and some economic objectives.</p> <p>The objectives are likely to have a significant positive impact on addressing factors that contribute to sustainable construction. This will also have positive impacts on air quality, water, waste.</p> <p>The vision aims to enhance the districts Conservation Areas and AONB which will enhance landscape and townscape.</p> <p>By advocating a balance between homes and jobs the vision reduces the need for people to commute out of the district. This will help to enhance the districts economy, revitalise town centres and help reduce private vehicle usage and its associated emissions.</p> <p>The vision aims to achieve good services and facilities for all, which will improve overall health. Providing for a prosperous, safe healthy place to live and work will progress several of the SA objectives, including crime and sustainable growth. There are no adverse environmental, economic or social effects anticipated for the vision.</p>	<p>Cannock Chase has an area of air quality management and as such improving air quality both in urban and rural settings is important. Specific reference to air quality and reduced emissions are recommended to be included in the vision to reflect Cannock Chase's commitment to enhance air quality, and in turn vehicle emission reduction.</p> <p>Whilst sustainable construction methods will be upheld through the vision, reference to waste reduction and material management is recommended.</p>	<p>Reference to the District's AQMA included within Vision alongside overall reference to reducing all pollution hazards.</p> <p>Specific reference to new development incorporating waste reduction and material management features included within Vision.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	The vision takes a positive approach to renewable energy generation and usage.		
<b>CP1: Strategy</b>	<p>Green Belt will be protected from most development.</p> <p>Overall, new employment and housing development has the potential to have cumulative impacts on sustainability – for example biodiversity could be adversely affected if mitigation is not fully implemented.</p> <p>New employment and housing development could lead to an increase in private vehicle usage and journey length unless employment and housing are balanced and sustainable transport options are feasible.</p> <p>Development will have positive impacts for regenerating the local economy and revitalising town centres.</p>	<p>Strict adherence to CP12 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) and CP14 (Landscape Character and Cannock Chase AONB). Examine green belt affected on a case by case basis to weigh up economic against environmental benefits</p> <p>Strict adherence to CP10 (Sustainable Transport) and implementation of live/ work units (as specified in CP9) and other measures designed to reduce car use.</p> <p>EIAs, and SPD SAs should inform mitigation. The monitoring framework should ensure that mitigation is well targeted and up-to-date.</p>	<p>Cross-referencing of objectives and their policy links strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation.</p> <p>Monitoring framework informed by SA for Local Plan (Part 1).</p>
<b>CP2: Developer Contributions for Infrastructure</b>	It is assumed that this policy will be positive in providing more income to deliver communal infrastructure such as recreational areas, transport and health services.		
<b>CP3: Design – Chase Shaping</b>	<p>The overall effect of this policy is positive – cultural and historic heritage will be protected, opportunities for crime will be minimised and energy use and climate change will be considered.</p> <p>There are uncertain</p>		

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	<p>effects on waste and recycling.</p> <p>No reference to enhancing the greenspace network is provided.</p> <p>Inclusion of local community in shaping the design adds to the positive social effects.</p>		
<b>CP4 – Neighbourhood-Led Planning</b>	<p>There is significant uncertainty about how this policy will impact SA objectives. Individual neighbourhoods are likely to have different priorities than district, national or even international interests. The cumulative impact of this policy enacted could be significant.</p>	<p>The Local Plan (Part 1) should provide a clear framework of the types of actions which are considered “sustainable” and those which would be considered “unsustainable” in order to minimise adverse cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Monitoring framework informed by SA for Local Plan (Part 1) - helps define and monitor the ‘sustainable’ outcomes of policies. Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation - provides overall sustainable framework.</p>
<b>CP5: Social Inclusion or Healthy Living</b>	<p>The policy will have an overall positive effect on most objectives, mainly environmental and social. Good provision of health facilities will help improve overall public health. Provision of a wide range of facilities with good access by public transport will help to improve overall quality of life.</p> <p>There is uncertainty as to the impact the policy will make against the greenspace network and landscape at this stage.</p>	<p>Promoting public transport to encourage healthier living.</p> <p>Improvements to the canal network need to be carefully considered. Consider limiting open space development if it is likely to interfere with biodiversity or impact on Natura 2000 sites</p> <p>Consider linking Policy with CP10 and CP16.</p> <p>Consider policies to discourage private transport and to increase public transport patronage and cycling and walking. Make reference to improved air quality and increased cycling and walking leading to better public health.</p> <p>Promote use of previously developed land for creating public spaces.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework.</p> <p>References to ‘wider determinants of health’ added to CP5. Policy includes references to sustainable transport e.g. cycle routes.</p> <p>Linkages to Policy CP10 and CP16 address this. Reference to air quality within CP16 (which then links to CP10 and CP13). Monitoring framework includes targets of reduced emissions and pollution.</p> <p>Monitoring framework includes open space targets being met, which could include PDL.</p>
<b>CP6: Housing Land</b>	<p>This policy has scored two negative effects on biodiversity and general sustainability but contains mostly</p>	<p>Ensure no adverse effects on townscape, cultural heritage and the historic environment.</p> <p>Policy should describe that</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	<p>uncertain impacts. It is likely to have positive effects however under, health, population and air and town centre revitalisation.</p>	<p>development sites will not be chosen if they are likely to have a significant effect on wildlife. Consider cross-referencing CP12 here.</p> <p>The policy should state that development should not have a significant impact on the environment in terms of visual amenity, wildlife and flood-risk.</p> <p>The policy should make reference to the implications of climate change due to an increased population and increased demand for water, food, minerals and energy resources. Cross-reference CP16.</p> <p>The policy should suggest a mechanism to ensure that future demand does not exceed environmental capacity of the resource base. Consider strategic alliance over sustainable resource issues with other local authorities, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders.</p> <p>New developments should adopt Sustainable Construction methods (overall project rather than individual buildings).</p> <p>EIAs and SPD SAs should inform mitigation. The monitoring framework should ensure that mitigation is well targeted and up-to-date.</p>	<p>in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links between Policy CP6 and other plan policies/objectives.</p> <p>Design SPD to be produced to provide further guidance (referenced in Policy CP3).</p> <p>Monitoring framework informed by SA for Local Plan (Part 1).</p>
<p><b>CP7: Housing Choice</b></p>	<p>This policy is informed by the District Housing Strategy. The policy will maintain social objectives. It will ensure increased housing provision which will positively contribute to population growth, waste and town centre enhancement.</p> <p>Development on urban</p>	<p>Ensure no adverse effects on townscape, cultural heritage and the historic environment – link policy to CP15.</p> <p>New housing should consider climate change adaptation design and not interfere with visual impacts, landscaping or character of the area – link to CP12 and CP16.</p> <p>Reference should be made to</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links between Policy CP7 and other plan policies/objectives, including CP12, CP15 and CP16.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	<p>extensions will have a negative impact on biodiversity and other environmental features.</p> <p>Variable affordable housing target is likely to reflect prevalent market conditions and ensure planning accordingly.</p>	<p>maximising the use of previously developed land.</p> <p>Avoid using PDL with established wildlife habitat. Consider linking with CP16.</p> <p>Ensure measures in place to tackle run-off/ pollution and flooding issues, refer to CP16.</p> <p>Refer to sustainable design measures needed to maximise biodiversity potential and enhancing the greenspace network.</p>	<p>Reference to careful use of PDL with high environmental value added to Policy CP16.</p>
<p><b>CP8: Employment Land</b></p>	<p>Overall this policy incorporates aspects of economic growth.</p> <p>The policy has scored a negative impact on general sustainability but scoring is uncertain over environmental issues such as air quality and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p> <p>If implemented in conjunction with policy CP9 and CP16 this policy is likely to achieve a sustainable growth in the district that increases town centre viability.</p> <p>Although positive on many aspects, the effects were uncertain against biodiversity, landscape, greenspace network, historic environment and climate change objectives.</p>	<p>Ensure no adverse effects on townscape, cultural heritage and the historic environment – link policy to CP13.</p> <p>The policy should make reference to the implications of climate change due to increased employment land – e.g. flooding, water usage. Cross-reference CP16.</p> <p>Policy should describe that development sites will not be chosen if they are likely to have a significant effect on biodiversity.</p> <p>Future employment and mixed use buildings should be encouraged.</p> <p>Future employment buildings should be encouraged to adopt renewable energy generation.</p> <p>Policy should refer to maximising use of PDL</p> <p>EIAs and SPD SAs should inform mitigation. The monitoring framework should ensure that mitigation is well targeted and up-to-date.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links between Policy CP8 and other plan policies/objectives, including CP13 and CP16.</p> <p>Reference to careful use of PDL with high environmental value added to Policy CP8. Reference to utilising PDL as much as possible included in Policy CP8 and CP16.</p> <p>Monitoring framework informed by SA for Local Plan (Part 1).</p>
<p><b>CP9: A Balanced Economy</b></p>	<p>The policy scores well against the SA objectives.</p> <p>The policy will have a significantly positive effect on economic</p>	<p>Recommend Policy be linked with CP16 in order to encourage economic opportunities where resources can be sustainably used and which make good use of existing infrastructure and</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	growth and educational aspirations with a positive impact on the town centre, population and transport.	reduce the need for employees to travel by car.	overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links.
<b>CP10: Sustainable Transport</b>	<p>This policy aims to mitigate the negative effects of private vehicle usage and encourages measures to improve opportunities for public transport, cycling, walking, and the use of 'Chase Line' to help reduce air pollution and traffic emissions. It will increase health benefits due to more cycling and walking and less air pollution. The policy is therefore likely to have a significant positive impact on the air quality objective and public transport and a positive impact on biodiversity, population, climate change, waste, and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p> <p>A more sustainable transport system will help produce an overall sustainable development pattern that will allow the district to prosper and help the town centre maintain its vitality.</p> <p>The joining up of housing and employment with transport links will allow for more people to access services and jobs. For this reason it will have a positive effect on social and economic objectives such as health.</p> <p>Any infrastructure improvement may affect landscape views; therefore an uncertain score was given.</p>	<p>Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems wherever possible, indirect link to reducing climate change can be made with CP16.</p> <p>In addition to improvements to cyclist facilities, policy should encourage employers to promote sustainable transport, such as green travel plans, car pools etc.</p> <p>Prioritise development of previously used land, wherever practicable.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links.</p> <p>Preference for PDL developments included in Policy CP16.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
<b>CP11: Centres Hierarchy</b>	<p>By locating development in the three main towns and resisting out of town retailing, landscape and townscape should largely be protected from any adverse effects of new development. This will help to reduce the need to travel which will improve air quality.</p> <p>The regeneration and Area Action Plans will ultimately increase the economic growth of the district and revitalise the town centre significantly.</p> <p>Promoting good design should ensure crime is reduced.</p> <p>There are still uncertainties against the greenspace network and air pollution.</p>	<p>Consider creating opportunity to encourage climate change proofing of retail and commercial spaces – refer to CP16.</p> <p>Refer to CP10 to ensure sustainable transport is an integral part of this policy.</p> <p>Co-ordinated approach with neighbouring town centres to ensure they each have strong economic advantages to maintain their vitality.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) objectives and policy cross-referencing strengthened to ensure plan objectives and policies are not read in isolation. Followed through in monitoring framework. Policy CP1 sets strategic context and overall framework to ensure sustainable development, which provides links.</p> <p>Issues explored via Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities and reflected in revised policies/supporting text.</p>
<b>CP12: Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b>	<p>The policy has scored very well and is likely to have significant positive impact on biodiversity, greenspace network and landscape and townscape objectives. Also positive impacts on air quality, population and growth, climate change and the town centre. Flood risk is also likely to be reduced.</p> <p>By protecting natural landscape, local distinctiveness and pride of place will be encouraged.</p>	<p>Policy should support 'enhancement' of green spaces.</p> <p>Strengthening public transport linkages along green spaces within town centres and between the town centres and other parts of the District will have positive effects.</p> <p>Ensure landscape and biodiversity protection also takes into account local historic assets and does not diminish their value or setting. Developer contributions could help to enhance historic sites and associated biodiversity.</p>	<p>Policy refers to enhancement throughout.</p> <p>Policy has strengthened linkages to Policies CP14 and CP15 via interlinking of objectives and plan policies.</p>
<b>CP13: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</b>	<p>Policy is likely to protect biodiversity, landscape and townscape features whilst promoting development.</p>	<p>Policy should support enhancement of SAC, and biodiversity features along with protecting them.</p>	<p>References to mitigation strategy and potential measures included in Policy.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
<b>CP14: Landscape Character and Cannock Chase AONB</b>	<p>This policy scores positive against biodiversity, but uncertain against population, air quality and landscape as the actual impact cannot be assessed at this stage.</p> <p>In terms of air quality, increased visitors will cause an impact which at this stage cannot be determined.</p>	<p>Policy should state a requirement to make provisions for monitoring after development.</p>	<p>Reference to SPD within policy which will set out more detailed requirements for developments, potentially including monitoring.</p>
<b>CP15: Historic Environment</b>	<p>This policy approach aims to preserve various features of the historic environmental and therefore scores positively against biodiversity, health, landscape and green space network.</p> <p>Respecting cultural heritage will help to preserve the town's vitality and increase inward investment and tourism.</p> <p>Provision of access to historic assets is beneficial, however care must be exercised such that human intervention does not lead to deterioration or fragmentation of any biodiversity on such sites.</p>		
<b>CP16: Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use</b>	<p>This policy scores positively on environmental objectives such as biodiversity health, population and growth, climate change, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</p> <p>The policy refers specifically to flood risk issues and it incorporates the need for sustainable construction.</p> <p>A significant positive</p>	<p>Policy should also refer to adapting to climate change impacts other than flooding, e.g. storminess, temperature change. Policy could also refer to flooding from non-fluvial sources, e.g. rainfall and surface drainage.</p> <p>Recommend reference to best practice guidance to inform future policy on renewable energy installations</p>	<p>Policy refers to adaptation and other forms of flooding.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	<p>impact on sustainability is envisaged as sustainable construction methods such as CfSH incorporate an element of waste efficiency.</p> <p>The landscape and townscape and nitrate levels objective scores are uncertain as the impact of renewable energy installations or sustainably constructed buildings on townscape is unknown.</p>		
<p><b>Area Implications (AI):</b></p> <p><b>Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes</b></p>	<p>This area proposal has various impacts incurring on it in regards to the SA objectives.</p> <p>Incursions into greenbelt at Heath Hayes/Wimblebury need to take into account local biodiversity giving an uncertain outcome; this is reflected in other environmental issues such as waste, climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Most environmental and social issues are progressed but use of greenbelt land needs to be carefully controlled.</p> <p>Sustainable transport options are promoted therefore there is a positive score allocated.</p> <p>There are uncertainties about the impacts of waste production, education and crime as these are unknown at this stage.</p> <p>The recognition of all towns as centres in their own right allows for a very positive impact on town vitality. Overall the economy will receive a positive</p>	<p>Although rail and bus improvements are proposed, specific reference to encouraging public transport is recommended.</p> <p>Include reference to implications of providing employment and housing land for water abstraction in the region, taking into account climate change predictions.</p> <p>Refer to locating housing and employment land in locations well served by services and areas designed to maximise recycling/re-use and minimise private vehicle usage.</p> <p>Ensure increased housing provision does not lead to increased recreational pressure on sensitive areas, such as Cannock Chase SAC.</p>	<p>Introductory paragraph refers to District-wide implications/policy measures to be taken into account across all area implications, including impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC mitigation and climate change adaptation.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	impact.		
<b>Rugeley and Brereton</b>	<p>This area proposal has some potentially negative impacts relating to recreation pressure and water demand and abstraction pressures on the environment.</p> <p>The new housing development in Lichfield will have sustainable transport links to local facilities and employment sites which is a positive but the indirect impacts on environmental issues such as air quality, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and green space are uncertain at this time.</p> <p>Increased housing provision may have an unsustainable impact on biodiversity and water.</p> <p>Most environmental and social issues are progressed but additional housing may have recreation impacts on the AONB/SAC and flood risk management will need to be undertaken e.g. land north west of Rugeley along the River Trent flood plain. New houses may also have social effects on existing communities.</p> <p>Improved training opportunities linked to new employment results in a positive impact.</p> <p>Protection of the landscape, greenspace network recreational facilities will have a</p>	<p>Ensure increased housing provision does not lead to increased recreational pressure on sensitive areas, such as Cannock Chase SAC.</p> <p>Include reference to implications of providing employment and housing land for water abstraction in the region, taking into account climate change predictions.</p> <p>Ensure new development areas, e.g. houses in Lichfield district, are well served by sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Refer to locating housing and employment land in locations well served by services and areas designed to maximise recycling/re-use and minimise private vehicle usage.</p>	<p>Introductory paragraph refers to District-wide implications/policy measures to be taken into account across all area implications, including impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC mitigation and climate change adaptation.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	positive impact.		
<b>Norton Canes</b>	<p>Norton Canes has a mixture of impact results affecting the SA objectives.</p> <p>New housing to south of Norton Canes may have an impact on biodiversity; this may also prove unsustainable for water resources and climate change.</p> <p>Although most of environmental and social impacts are progressed, use of greenbelt land needs to be carefully monitored in order development on it is minimised and PDL is favoured.</p> <p>Sustainable transport options are promoted which will have an indirect positive impact on air quality. This also allows for a positive impact on the greenspace network and the protection and enhancement of local landscape.</p> <p>As sustainable transport methods are encouraged no direct reference of location is given and so could prove to be unsustainable in connecting urban and rural settlements.</p> <p>It is uncertain how the approach will impact on waste or educational facilities.</p> <p>The overall approach will have positive effect on the economy, bringing more inward</p>	<p>Incursions into greenbelt to north and south-east of Norton Canes to take into account local biodiversity.</p> <p>Include reference to implications of providing employment and housing land for water abstraction in the region, taking into account climate change predictions.</p> <p>Include reference to different types of flood risk and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Ensure results of Appropriate Assessment direct decisions that might affect the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.</p> <p>Refer to locating housing and employment land in locations well served by services and areas designed to maximise recycling/re-use and minimise private vehicle usage.</p>	<p>Introductory paragraph refers to District-wide implications/policy measures to be taken into account across all area implications, including impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC mitigation and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>No incursions to greenbelt in north of Norton Canes proposed.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	investment and a very positive impact on the centre's vitality.		
<b>Cannock Chase AONB and the Rural North (including Rawnsley, Hazelslade, Prospect Village, Cannock Wood and Slitting Mill)</b>	<p>This approach is likely to have a positive impact on the AONB. Rural sites are generally protected from development and so will give a positive score to most environmental impacts. Although there are still many uncertainties regarding water resource, nitrates, climate change, waste, sustainable construction and design and educational facilities the approach lacks any significant mention of them.</p> <p>Improved local service provision and community transport links should progress air quality and reduce emissions objectives.</p> <p>The AONB Management Plan will contribute to the positive impact of landscape and townscape enhancements.</p> <p>The carefully managed rural business appropriate to the community will result in a very positive impact on the economic objective.</p>	<p>Include reference to sustainable water resource management.</p> <p>Refer to locating housing and employment land in locations well served by services and areas designed to maximise recycling/re-use and minimise private vehicle usage.</p> <p>Need a clearly defined plan to improve public transport links.</p>	<p>Introductory paragraph refers to District-wide implications/policy measures to be taken into account across all area implications, including impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC mitigation and climate change adaptation.</p>
<b>The Rural South</b>	<p>While the need to accommodate Gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople's needs impacts on water resource, climate change, air quality, waste are not mentioned as a result and the impact remains uncertain. There could be unsustainable levels</p>	<p>Greenbelt incursions and employment provision should be done to avoid harmful impacts on biodiversity.</p> <p>Provide more information as to how the Green Belt, biodiversity, the farming community, historic environment and landscape will be protected from development pressures.</p>	<p>Introductory paragraph refers to District-wide implications/policy measures to be taken into account across all area implications, including impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC mitigation and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Area to be largely protected from any new development.</p>

CS Option	Overall Effect	Recommendation/Mitigation	How was the recommendation taken forward during plan preparation?
	<p>of nitrates in the water.</p> <p>Consideration of potential encroachment of development into the greenbelt is noted. The overall impact on biodiversity is uncertain.</p> <p>Negative impacts have been assumed for landscape (sense of place) and historic environment. The vision does see that these aspects are protected but there is insufficient detail currently to see how this would be achieved.</p> <p>The creation of a sustainable transport system will be positive for social objectives such as health, the economy and accessibility, while also being positive towards environmental aspects such as the Greenspace network.</p>	<p>Include reference to sustainable water resource management.</p> <p>Refer to locating housing and employment land in locations well served by services and areas designed to maximise recycling/re-use and minimise private vehicle usage.</p> <p>Need a clearly defined plan to improve public transport links.</p> <p>Ensure results of Appropriate Assessment direct decisions that might affect the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.</p>	

#### 4 WHY OPTIONS WERE TAKEN FORWARD IN THE LIGHT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

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The SA appraised the plan at each stage of development. It is not the purpose of the SA to choose the alternatives, instead to aid in the decision-making process.

The environmental, economic and social baseline environment information has been developed and refined since the start of the SA process in order to establish the context of the Local Plan (Part 1) and predict how the conditions would progress in the absence of the development plan. A set of SA objectives were then developed based upon the baseline against which the key elements of the Local Plan (Part 1) have been assessed. The key elements assessed are the Local Plan's vision, policies and development objectives.

##### **Core Strategy:**

The SA of the Core Strategy's Issues and Options in 2008 was used by Cannock Chase District Council to select the preferred options, which took greater consideration of environmental, social and economic issues as a result of the SA.

The SA of the Issues and Options highlighted key areas of potential adverse impacts arising from some of the strategic development and policy options i.e. Strategic Option 4 (maximising use of urban extensions) was assessed as having the most potential negative impacts. This informed the development of the Preferred Option, which represented a combination of Strategic Option 2 (the most positively assessed strategic option) with those elements of Strategic Option 4 that were not as detrimental. The policy options taken forward were also informed by the SA recommendations. The SA of the Preferred Option (and subsequent stages which continued to take the preferred option forward) confirmed that the most adverse impacts of the strategic options had been addressed. The policy options performed well, particularly in relation to synergistic effects. The mild negative effects, or uncertain impacts, mainly related to the impacts of growth upon biodiversity, water quantity and quality. Some uncertain effects were also found in relation to landscape character and the green space network. Subsequent versions of the Core Strategy have sought to address such issues by developing clearer links to key strategies related to water use and quality, strengthening the evidence base on biodiversity and water use and revising policy wordings. Improved interlinking of policies has also been undertaken, as recommended by the SA.

##### **Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan (RTCAAP):**

The RTCAAP was subject to a separate SA process, undertaken by White Young Green (WYG) consultants. The key elements of the AAP assessed were the overarching strategy for development; the original development 'issues and options' sites; the 'preferred options' sites; and the AAP policies at all stages.

As with the SA of the Core Strategy, the SA of the RTCAAP helped develop Cannock Chase's Issues and Options into preferred options. The results of the appraisal were:

- The preferred option for the strategic spatial option was Option 2: but moving towards Option 3 towards the end of the ten year plan period.
- Option 2 was predicted to have likely beneficial impacts in relation to the economy, primarily through retail development. Town centre residential development may also boost the economy by attracting new residents. The preferred option also specified proposals to

increase the number of canal users who stop and use the town centre's facilities; further contributing to the local economy.

- Option 2 was considered likely to contribute to townscape, specifically through enhancements to the existing Conservation Areas and the settings of Listed Buildings, encouraging the highest standards of design for new development, and through improvements to the town centre environment such as consistent application of materials, street furniture and signage.
- Beneficial and adverse impacts were anticipated relating to the capacity of local facilities. There were also potential for beneficial and adverse impacts in relation to biodiversity and roadside emissions.
- Adverse impacts were anticipated in relation to power generation and waste given that the strategy will result in new development, and there is potential for adverse flood risk impacts given that parts of the town centre lie within flood zones 2, 3a and 3b.
- The SA of the opportunity sites Preferred Options also identified both beneficial and adverse effects. The Preferred Options for all ten opportunities sites would have resulted in new development. As no buildings would be reused and all development would be new build, adverse impacts anticipated for all sites included a potential loss in biodiversity, an increase in waste production, an increase in power generation and an increase in traffic emissions. For sites 6 and 10 there was potential for adverse effects in relation to flood risk.
- Beneficial impacts anticipated included a potential increase in biodiversity, reduced traffic emissions, and town centre character improvement. Development of all sites was likely to beneficially impact upon the local economy by either attracting new residents to the town centre or visitors / shoppers.
- There were uncertainties identified in relation to sustainable design, provision of green space, potential for crime, water consumption and flood risk.
- The Preferred Options for five of the sites was residential development. Sites 2 and 9 proposed accommodation for the elderly. Site 6 had the potential to incorporate some residential development within the proposed mixed uses and site 7 incorporated residential development within the proposed mixed uses.
- For all sites proposing residential development, beneficial impacts were anticipated relating to the provision of local healthcare facilities within the town centre. With the exception of sites 2 and 9, new residences will also be in close proximity to educational facilities. However, new residential development would have the potential to exceed the capacity of existing facilities.

The RTCAAP Pre-Publication Draft (2010) was appraised and consulted upon in July 2010. Only very minor amendments were made to the Area Action Plan during the interim period. A total of eleven policies were appraised (three strategic policies, five site policies, and three policies relating to the public realm and sustainable transport, and the Hagley Park flood alleviation area). The SA found that the Strategic policies were likely to result in beneficial impacts in terms of the economy, but a mixture of beneficial and adverse impacts for social and environmental impacts. Site Policies have the potential to cause biodiversity loss, an increase in waste production, an increase in power generation, and an increase in construction and operational traffic emissions, but beneficial impacts anticipated include a potential increase in economic growth, improved biodiversity (landscaping enhancement

potential), a reduction in traffic emissions and improvements to town centre character. RTCAAP policies will also improve the public realm, enhance walking and cycling opportunities and improve climate change adaptation through response to flood risk.

## 5 HOW CONSULTATION RESPONSES HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

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### **Consultation Responses on the SA**

The SEA Directive requires consultation of documents at various stages of the SA process to inform the plan preparation process. This includes consulting with Statutory Consultees, key stakeholders and with the members of the public at different stages.

The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation in 2005 and responses were received from the former Countryside Agency, English Nature, Environment Agency and English Heritage and the SA objectives and baseline were updated accordingly. The SA Reports (also termed 'Environmental Report') were also consulted upon at all stages of the Core Strategy, RTCAAP and Local Plan (Part 1). The results of these successive consultations and the responses to the consultation comments are presented in Appendix A to the SA Report (January 2013). In response to the Proposed Submission Local Plan (Part 1) consultation, representations were received which resulted in minor modifications to the SA/HRA report. These minor modifications are presented in Annex 1 and the full version of the SA/HRA report (January 2013 and addendum reports, November 2013) should be read in conjunction with these changes for completeness.

A full version of this version of the SA Report is available to download from the Council's website at:

<http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/site/index.php>.

### **Consultation Responses on the Local Plan (Part 1)**

Consultation on the Local Plan was undertaken at several stages during plan preparation. A Consultation Statement has been prepared by the Council that outlines who was consulted and how they were consulted and provides a summary of the main issues raised and explains how they have been addressed by the Council. This Consultation Statement is available on the CCDC website:

[http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3826/local\\_plan\\_ps\\_consultation\\_statement\\_2013](http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/downloads/file/3826/local_plan_ps_consultation_statement_2013)

## 6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

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### **Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects**

The SA Report made recommendations for monitoring the effects of implementing the Local Plan (Part 1), in terms of issues to be covered in the monitoring, indicators to be monitored and potential sources of data. The purpose of the monitoring is to address both likely significant impacts and unforeseen effects of implementation of the Local Plan (Part 1) to enable CCDC, or its partners in the implementation of the Local Plan (Part 1) to respond if necessary and to take appropriate remedial action.

The SA of the CCDC Local Plan (Part 1) SA identified 160 positive effects, 7 negative and 121 uncertain impacts (taking into account the main modifications ratings revision).

Monitoring has been considered to cover these effects. Monitoring has also been proposed in relation to the minor negative effects and uncertain effects that have been forecast in the assessment. There are likely to be several benefits in monitoring any environmental effects arising from the implementation of the Local Plan (Part 1) policies, including:

- Identifying when action should be taken to reduce or offset any potential environmental effects of the plan;
- Enhancing understanding of how the environment is changing in the District;
- Tracking whether the plan has any unforeseen environmental effects; and
- Providing baseline data for future SA/SEAs.

**Table 3 Local Plan (Part 1) Monitoring Framework**

Effect or indicator to be monitored	Information required / Indicator	Information source	Information quality, gaps (& solution)	When to take remedial action	Remedial action to take
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Number of planning permissions affecting SSSIs, SACs and other designated sites / Change in areas of biodiversity importance	Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC)	Currently monitored	Decline in coverage and/or condition of sites	Review district-wide solutions
	% of SSSIs and local wildlife sites in favourable condition	Natural England ('Nature on the Map') – Assessment date of each site varies CCDC/Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) data	Natural England/CCDC/SWT do not monitor all the SSSIs and local sites on an annual basis. Cannock Chase SAC Mitigation and Implementation Strategy may provide more regular updates in relation to specific sites.	No improvement in designated site condition (see Natural England and Local Biodiversity Targets)	Consultation for joint action with Natural England/ other stakeholders
Health	Maintain levels of recreational cycling from a 2009/10 baseline	Staffordshire County Council (SCC-Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 targets)	Currently monitored	Decline from baseline	Consultation for joint action with SCC/other stakeholders
	Adult participation in sport and active recreation	CCDC	Annual	Decline in rate	To be determined
	Obesity among primary school children in year 6	CCDC	Annual	Rise in rate	To be Determined
	Mortality rate from all circulatory diseases at ages under 75	CCDC	Annual	Rise in rate	To be Determined
Population and sustainability	Provision of employment land (annual completions and land available for future)	CCDC	Currently monitored annually	Consistent failure to meet targets	Review district-wide solutions and strategy
	Provision of new dwellings and Gypsy and Traveller pitches/plots (annual completions and land available for future)	CCDC	Currently monitored annually	Consistent failure to meet targets	Review district-wide solutions and strategy
Maintain/Enhance Water Quality and resource	Domestic and total per capita water consumption	South Staffs Water	Currently monitored	To be Determined	To be Determined/ water efficiency

					measures
	Water quality according to Water Framework Directive targets (including nitrate levels)	Environment Agency	Ongoing	Misses 'Good ecological status'	Review River Basin Plan
	Proportion of groundwater that is 'good' status under the Water Framework Directive	Environment Agency	Ongoing	Does not achieve 'Good status'	Review River Basin Plan
	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality grounds	CCDC/Environment Agency	Currently monitored	None: tracking	Tighten pollution controls
Reduce Nitrate levels in the Districts rivers	Water quality according to Water Framework Directive targets (including nitrate levels)	DEFRA	Currently monitored	None: tracking	Feed into future plan-making
Adapt to the effects of Climate Change – including flooding	Number of developments in flood risk areas against Environment Agency advice	CCDC/Environment Agency	Currently monitored	None: tracking	Feed into future plan-making
	Number of sustained Environment Agency objections to development proposals	Environment Agency	Currently monitored	None: tracking	Feed into future plan-making
	Number of planning permissions encompassing energy efficient designs and achieving standards of sustainable construction (e.g. green roofs, Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM, Sustainable Drainage Systems)	CCDC	Currently monitored	None: tracking	Feed into future plan-making
	Percent/ number of new development built with climate change adaptation measures, e.g. flood prevention bunds	CCDC	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Improve roadside air quality/reduce	Number of Air quality hotspots	CCDC	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined

traffic emissions	Reduce per capita road transport emissions (CO <sub>2</sub> ) from a 2008 baseline	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined
	Increase bus patronage levels from a 2008 baseline	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	Decline from current baseline	To be determined
	Maintain levels of recreational cycling from a 2009/10 baseline	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	Decline from current baseline	To be determined
	Number of days per year where air pollution is moderate or high	CCDC Air Quality Reviews	Currently monitored	Situation worsens	Tighten congestion controls
Increase renewable energy production in the District and reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and air pollution from power generation	Renewable energy generation	CCDC/DECC/BERR	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Number of planning permissions incorporating renewable and low carbon energy generation	CCDC	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Percent of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by sector	BERR/ DTI/ DECC	Currently not monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	Seek tighter controls over transport, industry and housing (where possible)
	Energy use of local authority buildings and operations	DCLG	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Number of local design awards for new developments	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Number of conservation areas with up to date appraisals and management plans	CCDC	Currently monitored	Target: 100%	Increase rate of appraisal

	Numbers of Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Design Statements (or similar) prepared	CCDC	Currently not monitored	None: tracking	Review strategy
Increase the Greenspace Network through the use of derelict land, involving the decontamination of land	Amount of derelict and/or contaminated land	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Number of Green Flag Awards gained and maintained	CCDC	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Open space targets being met	CCDC	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Tackle lack of public transport in rural and urban areas	Improve access to town centres from a December 2010 baseline	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined
	Decrease inaccessibility levels from a December 2010 baseline	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined
	% of non frequent buses on time	DCLG	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Average excess waiting time for frequent services (buses)	DCLG	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Public satisfaction with local bus services	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Public satisfaction with ease of access to key services (all people, people with disabilities and non-car households)	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Public satisfaction with community transport	SCC (Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 performance targets)	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
To ensure everyone has a decent and affordable home	Number of affordable homes built annually	CCDC	Currently monitored annually	Target: 197 per year	Review affordable housing mix
	Number of new residential care, extra care and sheltered units	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined

	Complete disabled adaptations in Council owned and privately owned homes	CCDC	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Building for Life Assessments	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Ensure sustainable design and construction of all new developments	Number of properties for each approved Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) application	CCDC/DCLG	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Number of planning permissions encompassing energy efficient designs and achieving standards of sustainable construction (e.g. green roofs, Code for Sustainable Homes, BREEAM, Sustainable Drainage Systems)	CCDC	Currently not monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Reduce the amount of waste produced and increase the level of reuse and recycling taking place	Residual household waste per household	CCDC	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	% of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	CCDC/ SCC	Currently monitored	Misses Subregional / National targets	Review strategy
	% of household and total waste recycled	CCDC/SCC	Currently monitored	Misses Subregional / National targets	To be determined
Raise educational aspirations and attainment within the District and support strategies to provide new educational facilities where required	Information on National Curriculum assessments and qualifications taken by students in District	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	Decline in rates	To be determined
	Intended and actual destinations of young people on leaving school; numbers with an offer of a place in learning; current activity of young people resident in the LA area	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	Work with schools, employers and training establishments
Promote good design in new	Levels of serious violent crime	CCDC	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined

developments to reduce crime and the fear of crime	Levels of serious acquisitive crime	CCDC	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined
	Number of new developments achieving 'Secured by Design' accreditation	CCDC	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites	Unemployment rate/working age population on out of work benefits	CCDC	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Percent of youth unemployment (reduce to County rate by 2017)	CCDC	Currently monitored	Misses target	To be determined
	New business registration rate	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability	Net town centre floorspace	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Net retail floorspace in the District's six town centres	CCDC	Currently monitored	Misses Local Plan target	Review strategy
	Net office floorspace	CCDC	Currently partially monitored	Misses Local Plan target	Review strategy
	Total number of vacant units within the District	CCDC	Currently monitored	Trigger: situation worsens	To be determined
	Town Centre Rankings	Experian UK Retail Rankings	Currently monitored	To be determined	To be determined
	Amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses' within and outside town centres	CCDC	Currently partially monitored- not annually	To be determined	To be determined
Protect and enhance the historic environment	Number of historic assets in district on English Heritage's 'at risk' register	English Heritage	Currently monitored	Decline from current baseline	To be determined
	Number of conservation areas with up to date appraisals and management plans	CCDC	Currently monitored	Target: 100%	Increase rate of appraisal

## 7 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

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A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was conducted for CCDC and is an independent study alongside the SA/SEA, where applicable. In June 2007, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was prepared to comply with the UK's Habitats Regulations. Screening is required where a plan, alone or 'in combination' with other plans, could affect Natura 2000 Sites (Special Protection Areas for birds – SPAs, Special Areas of Conservation for habitats - SACs) following Article 6(3) of the European Habitats Directive. Within Cannock Chase District there are two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Cannock Chase SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SAC. In neighbouring districts there are four more; Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC, Chartley Moss Special Protection Area (SPA), Motte Meadows SAC and Aqualate Mere Ramsar Site.

The first phase of this screening involved an analysis of the Cannock Chase Issues and Options to ascertain any likely significant effects that may compromise the conservation objectives of nearby Natura 2000 sites. At this stage it was concluded that there was no certainty as to whether the effects identified were significant and/or likely but following the precautionary principle, the next stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, the Appropriate Assessment stage would be carried out in relation to both Stafford Borough LDF and Cannock Chase District LDF to clarify on issues of significance.

The next stage of the HRA concluded that the principal impacts of the Local Plan (Part 1) were expected to be on Cannock Chase SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SAC and that there would be no significant impacts from the Local Plan (Part 1) on all but one Natura 2000 site. The assessment determined that several Local Plan (Part 1) policies could have adverse effects on Cannock Chase SAC. These were CP1 – Strategy, CP6 – Housing Land, CP8 – Employment Land, CP10 – Sustainable Transport and CP11 – Centres Hierarchy.

All of these policies were considered to potentially lead to increased nitrogen oxides (NOx) deposition on SAC habitats caused by traffic on roads near Cannock Chase SAC, particularly on the A513, A460 and A34. Policies CP1, CP6 and CP10, were also assessed to potentially result in recreation disturbance to the SAC. The potential increase in visitor pressure to the SAC, arising from these Core Strategy policies, is a key area recognised in existing strategy documents.

A series of avoidance and mitigation measures have been included in the Local Plan (Part 1) to protect the integrity of Cannock Chase SAC. Section 4.89 of the final Local Plan (Part 1) now contains various provisions for avoiding air pollution impacts on the SAC. In addition, the Local Plan emphasises that all housing development will be required to provide appropriate mitigation measures including provision of suitable alternative natural green space, where appropriate (Policy CP13).

## 8 ANNEX 1

Additional Modification No	Document Page No	Policy/ Paragraph	Modified text (deleted text shown as struck through, additional text shown in bold and CCDC comments <i>in italics</i> )
M63	SA	Page E20, 4 <sup>th</sup> row	Policy specifies its accordance with sustainable development principles identified in <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> .
M64	SA	Page E20, 6 <sup>th</sup> row	Policy specifies its accordance with sustainable development principles identified in <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> .
M65	SA	Page E21, 7 <sup>th</sup> row	Policy specifies its accordance with sustainable development principles identified in <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> .
M66	SA	Page E23, 1 <sup>st</sup> row	Refer to <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> .
M67	SA	Page E24, 7 <sup>th</sup> row	Future employment needs (i.e. expansion or contraction of area size and location) should be considered and location decisions should take into account known flood risk areas, <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> and latest UK CIP09.
M68	SA	Page E74	It is recognised within <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> that Brownfield sites can be of high value for nature conservation.
M69	SA	Page E81	Ensure development proposals do not exacerbate flooding elsewhere in catchment by adopting the sequential approach to site selection advocated in <del>PPS4</del> <b>NPPF</b> .
M70	HRA	Paragraph 6.3	<del>'Cannock Chase SAC'</del> <b>'Cannock Extension Canal SAC.'</b>