



Cannock Chase District Council New Local Plan 2026 - 2046

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report 2026



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The Draft Sustainability Appraisal (SEA) is provided by the Planning Policy Section of Planning Services at Cannock Chase Council. To request a physical copy of the document or for information:

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Non-technical summary

This non-technical summary introduces the Development Plan, Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment, and highlights the main outcomes of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report.

The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046, and to set out the framework for assessing the sustainability of the new Development Plan.

It will incorporate the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the new Local Plan. For the purposes of this report, we refer to the SA of the Cannock Chase Local Plan, which should be taken as incorporating SEA.

SA is an assessment process designed to consider and report upon the significant sustainability issues and effects of emerging plans and policies, including their reasonable alternatives.

The Plan Area

Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) adopted the Plan for the District 2018 - 2040 on the 23 March 2026. The adopted Local Plan sets out the Council's vision and strategy for CCDC up to 2040. It sets out policies and allocates land for specific uses including housing, employment and retail development. It also sets out the criteria for determining planning applications and guides the decision-making process.

The Council has commenced work on a new Local Plan. Once adopted this will replace the existing District Plan recently adopted in 2026 and will set a new long term vision for the district up to 2046. This will include specific policies for the natural, historic and built environment and set out the overall spatial strategy across the district. The new Local Plan will need to be consistent with national policy, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which at its core seeks to achieve sustainable development.

Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in the Local Plan. The process is a way to test and assess the way in which the plan can contribute to achieving economic, social and environmental sustainability, as well as identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan may have. SA's assess environmental sustainability which is a requirement of an SEA which is set out in detail in this document. Therefore, this scoping document encompasses the requirements for both an SA and SEA.

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1. Process - Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Plans to be subject to an SA. The SA is designed to ensure that the plan preparation process maximises the contribution that a plan makes to sustainable development and minimises any potential adverse impacts. The SA process involves appraising the likely environmental, social and economic effects of the policies and proposals within a plan from the outset of its development.
- 1.2 The SEA is also a statutory assessment process, originally required under the European SEA Directive, transposed in the UK by the SEA Regulations and amended by the Environmental Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232). No substantive changes were made by this instrument to the way the SEA regime currently operates. Therefore, the SEA Regulations remain in force, and it is a legal requirement for the Cannock Chase Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.3 Whilst the SEA and SA are separate processes both have similar aims and objectives, SEA focuses on the likely environmental effects of a plan whilst SA focuses on the social and economic effects of a plan, in addition to the environment.
- 1.4 The new Local Plan is being prepared in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2026, which includes meeting any obligation under Part 2 and Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Schedule 2 of these Regulations requires assessment of the 'likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues'. These issues are listed in table 1, together with signposting to where they are addressed within this scoping document.

1.5 The Government's Planning Practice Guidance shows how it is possible to satisfy both requirements by undertaking a joint SA and SEA process, and to present an SA Report that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

1.6 The SA process comprises of five stages, with scoping being Stage A as shown below:

Stage A (Scoping): Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope.

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects.

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report

Stage D: Consulting on the Local Plan and the SA Report.

Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan.

1.7 Through the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Government secured powers to bring forward a new domestic framework to replace the current Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and SEA environmental assessment regimes.

Approach to scoping

1.8 The main tasks associated with the scoping stage of the SA (Stage A) are as follows:

Stage A1: Setting out the policy context and the objectives for the SA of the Local Plan, i.e. key policies and strategies that influence what the Local Plan and the SA need to consider.

Stage A2: Setting out the baseline for the SA of the Local Plan, i.e. the current and environmental, social, and economic conditions in Cannock Chase District and their likely evolution in the absence of the new Local Plan.

Stage A3: Drawing on A1 and A2, identify the sustainability problems and/or opportunities ('issues') that the Local Plan and SA should address.

Stage A4: Drawing on A1, A2 and A3, develop a framework of SA objectives and assessment criteria against which to appraise the constituent parts of the Local Plan in isolation and in combination.

Stage A5: Consulting on the intended scope and level of detail of the SA.

1.9 This Scoping Report sets out the intended scope and level of detail of the SA of the Local Plan for consultation with the relevant environmental authorities. It fulfils the requirements set out above and provides the foundations for appraisal of the likely effects of constituent parts of the Local Plan, as plan-making progresses. In accordance with the Government's Planning Practice Guidance on SA/SEA, the Scoping Report is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan, focusing on what is needed to assess likely significant effects. It also takes account of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emphasis it places on achieving sustainable development.

Structure of the Scoping Report

1.10 Table 1 below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Regulations requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Cannock District Local Plan).

Table 1 Meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations

SEA Regulations requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Environmental report	
Where an environmental assessment is required by any provision of Part 2 of these Regulations, the responsible authority shall prepare, or secure the preparation of, an environmental report in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of this regulation. The report shall identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment of: implementing the plan or programme; and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme. (Regulation 12(1) and (2) and Schedule 2).	The full SA Report produced to accompany the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046 will constitute the 'environmental report' and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	These requirements are addressed in relation to each topic covered in this SA Scoping Report and subsequent SA reports.
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.	
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds and the Habitats Directive.	
The environmental protection, objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process. This SA Scoping
The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and	

temporary effects, positive effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as: (a) biodiversity; (b) population; (c) human health; (d) fauna; (e) flora; (f) soil; (g) water; (h) air; (i) climatic factors; (j) material assets; (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage; (l) landscape; and (m) the interrelationship between the issues referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l).	Report describes the method by which significant effects will be identified.
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information.	
A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.	
A non-technical summary of the information is provided.	
The report shall include such of the information referred to in Schedule 2 to these Regulations as may reasonably be required, taking account of: - current knowledge and methods of assessment; - the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme; - the stage of the plan or programme in the decision-making process; and - the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process in order to avoid duplication of the assessment. (Regulation 12 (3))	This SA Scoping Report and the 'environmental report' will adhere to this requirement.
Consultation	
When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the environmental report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies. (Regulation 12(5))	This SA Scoping Report will be published for consultation with the three statutory bodies (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England).
Every draft plan or programme for which an environmental report has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 12 and its accompanying report ("the relevant documents") shall be made available for the purposes of consultation in accordance with the following provisions of this regulation. As soon as reasonably	Public consultation on the Cannock Chase District Local Plan and accompanying SA Reports will take place as the Local Plan develops.

practical after the preparation of the relevant documents, the responsible authority shall: send a copy of those documents to each consultation body; take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the preparation of the relevant documents to the attention of the persons who, in the authority's opinion, are affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in the decisions involved in the assessment and adoption of the plan or programme concerned, required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Directive ("the public consultees"); inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website) at which a copy of the relevant documents may be viewed, and the period within which, opinions must be sent. The period referred to in paragraph (2) (d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an effective opportunity to express their opinion on the relevant documents. (Regulation 13 (1), (2), and (3))	
Where a responsible authority, other than the Secretary of State, is of the opinion that a plan or programme for which it is the responsible authority is likely to have significant effects on the environment of another Member State, it shall, as soon as reasonably practicable after forming that opinion: notify the Secretary of State of its opinion and of the reasons for it; and supply the Secretary of State with a copy of the plan or programme concerned, and of the accompanying environmental report. (Regulation 14 (1))	Unlikely to be relevant to the Cannock District Local Plan, as there will be no effects beyond the UK.
Taking the environmental report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (relevant extracts of Regulation 16)	
As soon as reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan or programme for which an environmental assessment has been carried out under these Regulations, the responsible authority shall: make a copy of the plan or programme and its accompanying environmental report available at its principal office for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge. (Regulation 16(1))	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
The responsible authority shall inform (i) the consultation bodies; (ii) the persons who, in relation to the plan or programme, were public consultees for the purposes of regulation 13; and (iii) where the responsible authority is not the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State, that the plan or programme has been adopted, and a statement containing the following particulars: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme; how the environmental report has been taken into account;	

how opinions expressed in response to: (i) the invitation in regulation 13(2)(d); (ii) action taken by the responsible authority in accordance with regulation 13(4), have been taken into account; how the results of any consultations entered into under regulation 14(4) have been taken into account; the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.	
Monitoring	
The responsible authority shall monitor the significant effects of the implementation of each plan or programme with the purpose of identifying unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and being able to undertake appropriate remedial action. (Regulation 17(1))	Requirement will be met after adoption of the Cannock Chase District Local Plan 2026-2046.

2 Cannock District Local Plan preparation process

- 2.1 Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations requires the SA Report to provide "An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes."
- 2.2 The current Local Plan was adopted on the 23 March 2026, the new Local Plan 2026-2046 will replace the existing Local Plan documents. The Local Plan will be a district-wide plan that will coordinate the development and growth requirements of the District over a period of 20 years. The Council is at an early stage in the development of the new Local Plan.
- 2.3 Future plan-making will need to consider changes occurring due to Local Government Reorganisation. The devolution framework sets out that there will be three types of Strategic Authorities (these are all combined authorities):
- 2.4 **Foundation Strategic Authorities** - non-mayoral Combined Authorities (CA), Level 2 County Combined Authorities (CCA), or any local authorities designated as a Strategic Authority without a mayor.
- 2.5 **Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - Greater London Authority, Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Mayoral Combined County Authorities (MCCA).
- 2.6 **Established Mayoral Strategic Authorities** - any Mayoral Strategic Authorities that meet specific criteria, in particular having had a directly elected mayor for at least 18 months. Initially these will be North East, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Region Strategic Authorities.
- 2.7 The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill white paper restates the Government's ambition that all areas will ultimately have a Mayoral Strategic Authority. In two-tier areas, Government will only establish CCAs for an interim period. Councils in all 21 two-tier areas will be expected to reorganise over this Parliament and the next.
- 2.8 All areas, regardless of whether they have a Strategic Authority in place, will have to produce a Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2026.
- 2.9 An SDS is a statutory land-use planning document. It will set out an investment framework for building and development across a Strategic Authority's area.
- 2.10 Strategic planning will play a vital role in delivering sustainable growth and addressing key spatial issues – including meeting housing needs, delivering strategic infrastructure, growing the economy, and improving climate resilience. Strategic planning will also be important in the delivery of Local Growth Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. It is the Government's intention to move to a model of universal strategic planning covering functional economic areas within the next five years.

Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives

- 2.11 A Development Plan is not prepared in isolation, being greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international, national guidance and strategic planning policies. It should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and local level.
- 2.12 A review has been undertaken of the other plans, policies and programmes that are relevant to identify the environmental protection, social and economic objectives, established at international, national and local level, which are relevant to the plan or programme. The review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in Appendix 1. The key plans, policies and programmes are summarised below.
- 2.13 At the international level, Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the ‘SEA Directive’) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) are particularly significant as they require Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be undertaken.
- 2.14 There are a wide range of other EU Directives relating to issues such as water quality, waste and air quality, most of which have been transposed into UK law through national-level policy. However, the international directives have been included in Technical Appendix for completeness.
- 2.15 In accordance with the UK official SEA guidance (ODPM, 2005), and supported by the UK SA and SEA guidance (updated 2020) which provides an overview of the level of detail required, no list of plans or programmes can be definitive. As a result, this report describes only the key plans, programmes and policies that may influence the Cannock District New Local Plan. International, national, regional and local policies, plans and programmes have been reviewed through this sustainability process, as outlined below.

Plans, programmes and policies

- 2.16 The relevant international, national, regional and local plans relevant to Cannock District Local Plan and the SA are listed in Appendix 1. A description of why they are relevant and how they need to be considered throughout plan development is also provided.
- 2.17 The key environmental, social and economic themes identified by this review, including relevant planning policies outlined within Government’s planning policy for England (the NPPF), are shown below:

Table 2 Key environmental, social and economic theses:

SA Topic	Key Themes
Environment	
Landscape character	Protection of sensitive landscape assets (including Special Landscape Areas (SLA) and National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB))); promotion of the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; definition and protection of regional and local landscape character; and the provision and enhancement of natural beauty and amenity of important landscapes, including inland waters; and the provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to benefit people and the environment.
Biodiversity and nature conservation	Protection of international and national designated sites and their qualifying features; preservation and enhancement of notable habitats and species, particularly those noted for their conservation value or under threat; protection and enhancement of valued sites of biodiversity and geodiversity value; identification of the roles and responsibilities of organisations including local authorities to protect and enhance biodiversity including the creation of local Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats and species and promotion of BAP species; provision of new / restored habitat to enable species to adapt to the future impacts of climate change; recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; and minimising impacts with provision of net gains through development.
Water environment	Promotion of the sustainable use of water resources to meet future growth in demand and impacts of climate change; better regulation and management of the water environment to benefit water resources and flood risk, and the reduction of water pollution; avoidance and redirection of inappropriate development in areas at medium and high risks of flooding; minimise risk to people and property and reduce the impacts of flooding where possible; and promotion of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
Land use	Long term protection, improvement and sustainable management of soil quality and quantity, including the preservation of best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a); maximum use of brownfield land as is feasible; optimisation of land to meet housing need; consideration of suitability of ground conditions for development; and the management and remediation of contaminated land to reduce the

	risk to human health and the environment, particularly soils and water quality.
Historic environment	Protection and enhancement of nationally and locally important heritage assets and historic landscapes; better integration of heritage protection within the planning process; consideration of wider benefits of conservation of the historic environment; and provision of better access to heritage sites including their promotion as an economic asset.
Air Quality	Protection of air quality through enhanced management of polluting emissions; prevention of new and existing development contributing to, being put at risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of air pollution; and implementation of relevant limit values for pollutants such as air quality management areas (AQMAs) and clean air zones.
Climate	Requirements to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions across all socio-economic sectors to limit the impacts of climate change on people and the environment; provision of measures to enable future adaptation to the impacts of climate change and increased resilience; proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change; and consideration of identification of suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources and supportive infrastructure where this would help secure their development.
Social	
Population and Human Health	Protection and improvement of human health, wellbeing and living standards; greater integration of socio-economic and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; promotion of prosperous, sustainable and coherent communities; provision of better public transport and access; reduction of flood risk; enhancement of/minimising loss of recreation and amenity resources to benefit health and wellbeing; protection and enhancement of public rights of way and access; identifying housing requirement; and development and provision of measures to enable adaptation to the impacts of climate change.
Economic	
Local economy	Encourage sustainable economic growth; maximise economic value and the benefits of innovation; encourage economic development through the delivery of sufficient land and tourism development; encourage enterprise, including the creation of new businesses and aiding the growth and development of small businesses; release local growth potential; enable sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas; development and

	diversification of agricultural and other land-based businesses; tackle worklessness and deprivation; promote links with neighbouring economies to allow the full potential of regional strengths to be recognised.
Material assets	Improvement and better management of material assets including highways and utilities infrastructure; encourage use of sustainable materials including secondary or recycled materials before extraction or primary materials; source materials indigenously; greater provision and enhancement of green infrastructure to delivery benefits to people and the environment; and provision of better public services to deliver socio economic benefits.
Waste and minerals	Sustainable use of mineral resources and improvement in the effects on the environment of their extraction.

Neighbourhood Plans

Neighbourhood Plans, once made/adopted, form part of the development plan for a local authority area. There are six designated Neighbourhood Areas within the District:

- Brereton and Ravenhill Parish
- Hednesford Town Council
- Norton Canes Parish
- Cannock Wood Parish
- Rugeley Town Council
- Heath Hayes and Wimblebury

Key national plans, policies and programmes

Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023

- 2.18 The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LURA) 2023 supports the Government's manifesto commitment to level up the United Kingdom. The Government's objective is to reduce geographical disparities between different parts of the United Kingdom by spreading opportunity more equally.
- 2.19 To support the change needed, the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act has four overarching objectives:
1. To place a duty on the Government to set, and report annually on progress towards achieving, levelling up missions to reduce geographical disparities across the United Kingdom;
 2. To create a framework to support the devolution of powers through the creation of a new model of combined county authorities to support delivery of the Government's levelling up mission that 'by 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement';
 3. To deliver new powers for local authorities to regenerate their towns through high street rental auctions and reforms to compulsory purchase to support delivery of the Government's levelling up mission that 'by 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing';
 4. And to create a planning system which delivers more beautiful and greener homes, with the associated infrastructure and democratic support for neighbourhoods.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2026

- 2.20 The primary aim of the Planning and Infrastructure Act (PIA) 2026 is to reform the planning system, removing delays and blockages in planning processes. Key provisions of the Act are:

Development Consent Orders (DCOs): The Act streamlines the DCO process, reducing pre-application requirements and speeding up examination and approval stages.

Housing and Infrastructure Delivery: It facilitates the construction of up to 1.5 million new homes, accelerates major transport projects, and supports clean energy initiatives.

Environmental and Land Measures: Provisions include compulsory land purchase, environmental outcomes reporting, and powers to modify consents for electricity networks and generating stations.

Delegation and Planning Committees: The Act allows the government to introduce a national scheme of delegation, determining which planning applications are handled by committees versus officers, with mandatory training for committee members to ensure compliance with planning law.

Energy and Utilities: It prioritizes grid connections for clean power projects, supports long-duration electricity storage, and provides benefits for homes near transmission projects.

Economic Impact: The reforms are projected to inject up to £7.5 billion into the UK economy over the next decade, creating jobs, reducing congestion, and improving energy security.

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2026

- 2.21 These regulations replace the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012. These regulations implement the new, faster local plan-making system designed to speed up housing delivery. There is a transitional period during 2026 which allows Councils to use either old or new regulations, with the final deadline for old-style plan submissions being 31 December 2026.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.22** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the overarching planning framework which provides national planning policy and principles for the planning system in England. The NPPF was originally published in March 2012, and has been revised several times, the latest being December 2024. A further revision is anticipated in the Summer 2026 following the most recent NPPF consultation.
- 2.23** NPPF states that plans should *“be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”*. The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be ‘aspirational but realistic’. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 2.24** The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
 - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
 - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
 - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
 - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 2.25** In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of the Framework;
 - be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer-term requirements, and be kept up to date;
 - be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
 - indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
 - allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
 - identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;

- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

- 2.26 The overarching nature of the NPPF means that its implications for the SA relate to multiple topics which this report seeks to address. Considering the importance of the NPPF to the English planning system, the relevance of the Framework and its implications for the plan making process and the SA is provided in more detail below. Sustainability topics are separated into environmental, social and economic below, but consideration of issues often cuts across topics.
- 2.27 There are a wide range of plans and programmes that are specific to Cannock Chase District. These plans and programmes relate to issues such as housing, transport, renewable energy and green infrastructure, and developer contributions. A review of these documents can be found Appendix 1.

3 Baseline Information and Indicators

- 3.1 Cannock Chase District Council has collected data about the current state of the environment, economy and society to assess the effects of implementing the Development Plan from a sustainability perspective. The recently adopted Local Plan provides an up-to-date District Profile which sets out the key issues for the District, this provides the starting point and basis for the development of the emerging new Local Plan.
- 3.2 The following sections and data tables provide baseline which will be used as the basis for the monitoring of environmental and other sustainability effects as to monitor the sustainability position is improving or deteriorating in relation to the emerging Development Plan. This approach will help to identify issues and alternative ways of dealing with such issues in the future.

Social, health and wellbeing

- 3.3 Between the last two censuses (held in 2011 and 2021), the population of Cannock District increased by 3.1% from 97,462 in 2011 to 100,519 residents. The working age population age population ages 16 – 64 comprised 62.6% of the population, slightly above the West Midlands (61.9%), but below the England (63.0%) averages. 19.5% of the population of Cannock Chase were aged 65+ in Mid – 2019 which was higher than the West Midlands (18.4%) and England (18.3%).
- 3.4 Population density in the District, the number of people per square mile (ppsqm), is the second highest in Staffordshire after Tamworth (2,549 ppsqm) at a rate of 1,274 people per square mile in mid – 2019. This reflects the largely urban, commercial and residential landscape of Cannock Chase.¹
- 3.5 Most of the population of the District live within Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley, with the remaining percentage of the population living within the rural areas.
- 3.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019² is a measure of multiple deprivation at the small area level. Seven domains of deprivation are measured – income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, crime and living environment deprivation. Each domain contains a number of indicators. The seven domains are combined to give a multiple deprivation score. The data is now based on identified neighbourhoods known as ‘Super Output Areas’ (SOAs) rather than wards.
- 3.7 According to the 2019 IMD, Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived district in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent), with a rank of 133 out of 317 local authorities nationally. There was a particularly low rank for education, skills and training where the District was ranked 48 out of 326.
- 3.8 The Locality Profile for Cannock Chase³ District presents ward level data which shows that there are nine lower super output areas (LSOAs) that fall within the most deprived national quintile in Cannock Chase, making up around 14% of the total population (13,500 people). These areas fall within Brereton and Ravenhill, Cannock East, Cannock North, Cannock South, Etching Hill and The Heath and Hednesford North.
- 3.9 A fuel poor household is defined as one which needs to spend more than 10% of its income on all fuel use and to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. In 2015, 10.5% of households (4,347 households) in Cannock Chase were deemed to be in fuel poverty which was below the County average of 12.0% and the regional average of 13.5%.

¹ Office for National Statistics, Population profiles for Local Authorities in England, December 2020.

² [English indices of deprivation 2019 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019)

³ [Locality Profile | Cannock Chase District Council](#)

Health

- 3.10 Cannock Chase exhibits a mixed health profile, with several indicators performing broadly in line with national averages but with persistent inequalities and lifestyle-related challenges. Life expectancy remains broadly comparable to national levels, and mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases have been relatively stable in recent years. Levels of physical activity have shown improvement, reflecting increased participation in sport and recreation, supported by investment in leisure facilities across the District.
- 3.11 However, health outcomes are constrained by above-average levels of obesity among both adults and children, which have remained largely unchanged over time. Wider measures of wellbeing, including happiness and life satisfaction, have also shown limited improvement, indicating ongoing social and health pressures affecting residents⁴. Overall, these factors highlight a pattern of stable but uneven health outcomes, with clear links to socio-economic conditions and the quality of the built environment influencing long-term health and wellbeing⁴.
- 3.12 Health outcomes in Cannock Chase are generally stable but characterised by persistent inequalities, above-average obesity levels, and limited improvement in wellbeing, indicating a continued need for planning policies that promote active lifestyles, healthy environments, and equitable access to services.

Ageing Population

- 3.13 The majority of local authorities across England are projected to see an increase in the proportion of residents at State Pension age by 2032. 21% of the Cannock Chase population are forecast to be aged 65+ in 2032, compared to 19% in 2022. The old age dependency ratio (the number of people of State Pension age for every 1,000 working age persons) is projected to rise from 292 to 306 by 2032 which is above the forecast England average of 287.1.
- 3.14 The average (median) age of Cannock District increased by two years, from 40 to 42 years of age. This area had a higher average (median) age than the West Midlands as a whole in 2021 (40 years) and a higher average (median) age than England (40 years). The number of people aged 75 to 84 years rose by around 6%, while the number of residents between 35 and 49 years fell by just under 3,900 (17.3% decrease). Overall, these trends reflect a shift towards an older profile, consistent with wider demographic patterns across England.

⁴ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Housing

- 3.15 The total population in households in Cannock District that the time of the 2021 Census was a total of 43,459 households. 67.1% of households in the District are owner-occupiers without a mortgage, compared to 34.4% in the region and 32.5% nationally. The proportion of owner-occupiers with a mortgage in Cannock District (31.7%) is also higher than both the regional (31.4%) and national average (28.8%).
- 3.16 Some 16% of households in Cannock District are resident in the Social Rented sector, lower than the figure for the West Midlands (18.2%) and England (17.1%). Finally, some 16% of households in Cannock District live in private rented accommodation, compared to 18.1% in the West Midlands and 20.6% in England.

Affordable Housing

- 3.17 Cannock Chase experiences a clear and sustained demand for affordable housing. The most recent data indicates that there are approximately 1,192 households on the housing register, representing those actively seeking affordable accommodation. Demand is particularly concentrated among smaller dwellings, with the majority of applicants requiring 1–2 bedroom properties. This sits alongside an estimated 5,000–6,500 affordable dwellings across the District, including both council-owned and registered provider stock.
- 3.18 Recent monitoring indicates that affordable housing delivery remains relatively low compared to demand. The 2024/25 Authority Monitoring Report shows that 60 affordable homes were completed in the monitoring year, continuing a pattern of modest annual delivery. At the same time, the Local Plan identifies a significant annual need for affordable housing (previously c.197 dwellings per year), suggesting that current delivery rates are consistently below required levels.
- 3.19 The 2026 Cannock Chase Local Plan (Policy SO3.2: Housing Choice) maintains a requirement of approximately 20% affordable housing on qualifying sites. However, given site viability constraints and the limited scale of development within a largely Green Belt authority, this policy is unlikely to fully address identified need over the plan period.
- 3.20 Vacancy Rates as of October 2025, it is estimated that there are 1,210 vacant homes in Cannock Chase (data source MHCLG, Live Table 615⁵).
- 3.21 There is a significant and persistent shortfall in affordable housing provision in Cannock Chase, with current delivery rates insufficient to meet identified need, indicating a key sustainability challenge for the Local Plan.

⁵ [Live tables on dwelling stock \(including vacants\) - GOV.UK](#)

Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

- 3.22 In relation to Gypsies and Travellers, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Need Assessment (GTANA), published in 2019, identified a need for 19 pitches to be delivered between 2018 and 2036 with a longer term need of an additional 10 pitches. Since 2018 the Council has granted permission for 13 pitches.⁶ The most recent Traveller Caravan Count shows there are 48 caravans on authorised sites and 11 on sites without planning permission.
- 3.23 The current Local Plan evidence acknowledges that not all identified need can necessarily be met within the district, due to Green Belt and environmental constraints.

⁶ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Indicators: Social, Health and Wellbeing Baseline Data

Please see table below.

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment / Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Ageing population (percentage aged 65 and over) ⁷	2026 (estimate) 19.7%	2026 (estimate) West Midlands: 18.9% England: 18.7%	Cannock District has a relatively high number of residents aged 65 and over compared to the regional and national average	Ageing population	Consider actions which can be taken to cater for an ageing population.
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)	2026 13.1% of people in the most deprived quartile	West Midlands: 29.9% of people in the most deprived quartile	Cannock District has nine lower super output areas (LSOAs) that fall within the most deprived national quintile.	Favourable situation against regional and national rankings	Focus on reducing deprivation within communities across the District.
Statutory homelessness ⁸ (homelessness acceptances per 1000 households)	April 2024 to March 2026 4.3 %	England: 12.4%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Focus on reducing homelessness in the District.
Affordable housing completions	2024 / 2025: 60	Since 2022, Cannock District has delivered 197 affordable homes. Annual average target of 65 dwellings per annum	Performing well against the District's target	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District.
Housing Affordability Ratio (ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile earnings) ⁹	2026 Ratio: 6.28	England and Wales ratio: 7.55 Regional average: 6.80	Similar to the national ratio	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Provide a housing mix to ensure a range of housing

⁷ [Local area data | Staffordshire County Council](#)

⁸ [Tables on homelessness - GOV.UK](#)

⁹ [Housing affordability in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#) (local authority housing affordability analysis)

Total recorded crime excl. fraud (rate per 1000) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2026: 68.7	West Midlands: 89.8 England: 88.6	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Lone pensioner households Error! Bookmark not defined.	2026: 12.6%	West Midlands: 13.1% England: 12.8%	Performing slightly worse than the regional and national average	Slightly unfavourable position	Improve the current position across the District
Physical activity in adults (percentage) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2022/23: 67.3%	West Midlands: 64.0% England: 67.1%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	Favourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Cannock District
Adults who are overweight or obese Error! Bookmark not defined.	2022-23: 76%	West Midlands: 67% England: 64.0%	Performing well in comparison to the regional and national figures	unfavourable position	Continue to promote physical activity in Cannock District
Limiting long-term illness (percentage) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2021: 20.2%	West Midlands: 18.1% England: 17.3%	Performing slightly better than the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Mortality from causes considered preventable (ASR per 100,000) Error! Bookmark not defined.	2021-2023: 183.8 (515)	Stafford: 136.4 (558) Staffordshire: 152.4 (3,913) West Midlands: 176.8 (27,458) England: 163.7 (243,060)	Performing well against the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain and improve the current position across the District
Depression prevalence (ages 18+)	2022/23: 16.6%	Staffordshire: 14.2% West Midlands: 14% England: 13.2%	The figures are slightly higher than the regional and average	Unfavourable position	Continue to work with partners to support mental health across the District
Neighbourhood Development Plans	Since 2011: 6 areas designated 2 with 'made' plans	No comparators	No trends	Neither favourable or unfavourable position	Continue to support community groups creating Neighbourhood Development Plans

Economic Baseline Data

- 3.24 Cannock Chase District lies in the central part of Staffordshire and can be characterised as having three distinct economic sub areas; Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes; Rugeley and Brereton in the north of the District; and Norton Canes in the south - east. Situated just north of the West Midlands conurbation, the District extends from the A5 in the south, to the River Trent in Rugeley in the north covering approximately 7,800 hectares.
- 3.25 For many years, Cannock Chase was closely associated with the coal mining industry. In recent times, the District's economy has diversified and is now seen as a modern mixed economy and is home to many significant local, regional, national and international companies which represent a number of key sectors including logistics/ distribution, automotive and construction.
- 3.26 Cannock Chase has a relatively stable but structurally constrained local economy, characterised by a strong employment rate but ongoing productivity and skills challenges. The employment rate remains relatively high, with approximately 62.9% of the population economically active, slightly above regional and national averages¹⁰.
- 3.27 The District has a diverse base of local businesses, largely comparable to national trends, although it is dominated by small enterprises. Employment is primarily concentrated in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations, reflecting some degree of economic diversification away from its traditional manufacturing base. However, the proportion of residents with higher-level qualifications (Levels 2–4) remains below both regional and national averages, highlighting a persistent skills gap¹¹.
- 3.28 In terms of land and economic development, the District has delivered approximately 83.63 hectares of employment land between 2006/07 and 2024/25, averaging around 4.6 hectares per annum, and maintains a surplus supply of employment land for future growth. Despite positive growth, structural issues remain, including a historic dependence on industrial sectors, relatively lower skills attainment, and the need to improve job quality and productivity. Overall, this reflects a moderately performing local economy, with strengths in employment levels but ongoing challenges in skills, resilience, and economic diversification.
- 3.29 The Cannock District Economic Prosperity Strategy 2022-2032 sets out the economic objectives for the District.
- 3.30 In 2019 63,400 - around 62.9% of residents were working age with approximately 84.6% of economically active people in employment between July 2019 and June 2020. This rate of employment was above the West Midlands average of 74.7% and the England average of 76.2%.(Source: Office for National Statistics).

¹⁰ NOMIS / CCDC data – employment rate and economic activity levels (2024/25).

¹¹ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

- 3.31 Skills levels are a challenge for the District. The Indices of Deprivation 2019 ranks Cannock Chase just outside the 10% most deprived local authority district nationally for education, skills and training. Educational attainment at GCSE level is typically below comparator averages, with around 55.6% of the working-age population estimated to be qualified to NVQ Level 3+ in 2019 - below the Great Britain average of 58.5%. The gap between local and national qualification levels is more evident at NVQ Level 4+, with 34.3% of the District's 16-64 population estimated to hold this level of qualification in 2019, compared to 40.3% nationally.
- 3.32 Work patterns have changed since and during the Covid 19 pandemic with 25.2% of Staffordshire residents said that they worked mainly at or from home, lower than national (31.5%) but slightly higher than the overall former Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area (23.1%). This is likely impacted by more people working in sectors where home working was not possible, for example retail and construction.
- 3.33 The District is highly accessible, and this is a strength that has helped to stimulate considerable economic growth in recent years. One of the District's major advantages is its connectivity to the strategic road network including the M6 Toll. Consequently, logistics and distribution features strongly in the local economy. Furthermore, the District benefits from a network of bus routes and railway stations at Rugeley, Hednesford and Cannock providing connections to Staford in the north and Birmingham to the south.

Indicators Economic Baseline Data

Please see below table

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Qualifications NVQ Level 4 or above (percentage) ¹²	2026 NVQ 21.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> 19.3%	NVQ : West Midlands: 29.4% Great Britain: 33.9% <i>No qualifications:</i> West Midlands: 21.1% Great Britain: 18.1%	Below the regional and national average	Unfavourable position	Maintain good performance
Number of enterprises ¹³	2026 5,370	West Midlands: 216,145	Performing below the national and regional average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position
Number of enterprises local units ¹⁴	2026 6,350	West Midlands: 252,320	Performing below the national and regional average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Improve upon current position
Completion of land employment provision	4.93 Hectares (ha) completed 2024/25: 4.93ha	Local Plan target of 88 hectares over the plan period which is an average of 4 hectares per annum.	Employment land completions have been on target.	Favourable position	To support economic growth there is an ongoing need to deliver more employment land across the District

¹² Staffordshire Observatory - [Local area data](#) | [Staffordshire County Council](#)

¹³ UK Business Counts 2026 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

¹⁴ UK Business Counts 2026 [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Percentage of vacant retail units (Cannock Town Centre)¹⁵	Dec 2025 Cannock Town Centre: 29.7%	England: 11%	Performing poorly against the national average	Unfavourable position	Deliver ways to reduce vacant units in town centre
Job Seekers Allowance (percentage)¹⁶	Feb 2026 2%	West Midlands: 5.3% England: 1.9%	Cannock District is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Favourable position	Maintain strong performance
Youth unemployment (185-24 claimant counts)Error! Bookmark not defined.	December 2024: 3.4%	Staffordshire: 4.8% West Midlands: 7.4%	Cannock District is performing well compared to the regional and national average	Slightly favourable position	Maintain strong performance

¹⁵ Cannock Chase District Council data / Local Data Company

¹⁶ Nomis - [Labour Market Profile - Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics](#)

Environmental Baseline Data

- 3.34 Cannock Chase District contains a high-quality natural and built environment, but one that is subject to significant environmental constraints and pressures. A large proportion of the District is designated as Green Belt, alongside internationally important ecological assets such as the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which requires careful management to avoid recreational and development-related impacts. Biodiversity conditions are generally stable or improving, with many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) classified as “unfavourable but recovering”, reflecting ongoing positive management interventions¹⁷.
- 3.35 Air quality has shown improvement, with some Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) being revoked due to sustained compliance with national objectives, these are Watling Street Cannock, declared in 2026 and removed in 2023 and Fiveways, Heath Hayes declared in 2017 and removed in 2023, although monitoring continues in remaining areas.
- 3.36 Water quality remains a concern, with rivers within the Trent catchment failing to achieve good ecological and chemical status, reflecting wider national issues. Carbon emissions per capita have declined over time, driven by technological improvements and policy interventions.
- 3.37 The historic environment is a strength, there are no heritage assets currently identified as ‘at risk’, and all conservation areas supported by up-to-date appraisals. Nonetheless, environmental constraints—including flood risk, biodiversity sensitivities, and land availability—limit development opportunities and influence spatial strategy. Overall, the environmental baseline is characterised by high environmental quality, improving trends in some areas, but ongoing pressures relating to biodiversity, water quality, and development constraints.
- 3.38 The information used to characterise the baseline environment is broadly high level in nature and reflects the high-level nature of the Local Plan. It has been obtained from a broad range of sources and no new investigations or surveys have been undertaken as part of the scoping process. The baseline information will be required throughout the SA process and may require updating as the Local Plan is developed and further and new evidence becomes available.

¹⁷ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

Landscape

Landscape character

The Cannock Chase and Cannock Wood National Character Area (NCA) lies within the District and is described by Natural England¹⁸ below:

NCA 67 Cannock Chase and Cannock Wood:

Summary

A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase including the Special Area of Conservation (SAC), through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas. Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations.

Key Characteristics

A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase, through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments, to dense urban areas. The dominant rounded central plateau is mainly formed of the Coal Measures of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, with other prominent hills in the south at Wren's Nest, Castle Hill, Rowley Hills and Barr Beacon. Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands occur across the NCA, even within the urban areas where they are predominantly small and include lots of young plantations. Away from the unenclosed landscape of Cannock Chase, fields generally have a regular pattern and are frequently enclosed by mature hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. Here farming is generally mixed with arable cultivation in large fields. Livery is concentrated around the flanks of the Chase. Heathland and associated acid grassland were once much more extensive, although significant tracts still remain. Post-industrial sites and remnant countryside within the urban areas provide a mosaic of additional valuable habitats. The major rivers of the Trent and Tame lie adjacent to the NCA, both of which lie in broad flood plains. Streams and small rivers such as the Sow and the Penk drain radially from the higher ground into these rivers. The canal network is a notable feature and contributes significantly to the drainage of the urban areas. Industrial archaeology from the industrial revolution is a characteristic feature. The predominant building material of the 19th- and early 20th century buildings is red brick, with more modern structures within the urban areas. The settlement pattern is complex and contrasting, with some areas densely populated and others relatively sparse. The conurbation includes a mosaic of urban areas, former industrial land and patches of farmland, with an extensive urban fringe. The extensive networks of canals and railways reflect the industrial history of the area. Major roads include the M6, the M6 Toll and the A5.

¹⁸ Natural England – National Character Area Profiles (2026) [Natural England - National Character Area Profiles - National Character Area Profiles](#)

Landscape designations and biodiversity

Landscape designations

- 3.39 Cannock Chase District is extensively covered by Green Belt, which covers a significant proportion of the southern and western parts of the District as part of the wider West Midlands Green Belt. Approximately 60% of Cannock Chase District's land area is covered by Green Belt and the Cannock Chase National Landscape, equating to an estimated 4,500–5,000 hectares of land within the District.
- 3.40 Green Belt plays a critical role in preventing urban sprawl between Cannock, Rugeley, and the adjoining settlements of the West Midlands conurbation, while also safeguarding the open character of the countryside and supporting ecological and landscape functions. The presence of the Green Belt, combined with other environmental designations such as the Cannock Chase National Landscape and Special Area of Conservation, significantly limits the availability of land for development and shapes the spatial strategy of the Local Plan.
- 3.41 Annual monitoring indicates that only very limited development occurs within the Green Belt, generally restricted to appropriate uses or minor development, reflecting the strong policy protection applied to these areas. While this provides a robust mechanism for protecting landscape quality and preventing coalescence of settlements, it also contributes to development pressure on non-Green Belt land, particularly in accessible urban areas. The need to balance the protection of Green Belt land with meeting housing and employment needs remains a key planning challenge for the District..

Historic Parks and Gardens

- 3.42 A register of historic parks and gardens is kept by English Heritage. Currently there are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within Cannock Chase District.

Biodiversity

The District has diverse ecological assets including:

- **International Designations:** Special Area of Conservation (SAC): 1 site (Cannock Chase SAC)
- **National Designations**
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): 1 principal site (Cannock Chase SSSI, largely overlapping with the SAC)
- **Local / Non-Statutory Designations**
 - Local Nature Reserves (LNRs): 2 sites
 - Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) / Local Wildlife Sites (LWS): 40+ sites
- **Wetland Designations**
 - Ramsar Sites: 0 sites within the District

- 3.43 Cannock Chase contains biodiversity of national and international importance, with the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) representing the most significant designation. The SAC covers approximately 1,244 hectares and is designated for its extensive lowland heathland habitats, which are among the most important in the Midlands. The SAC is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with many areas currently in “unfavourable but recovering” condition due to active management. In addition, the District includes a network of Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, which contribute to ecological connectivity. There are no Ramsar sites within Cannock Chase, although internationally important wetland sites exist elsewhere in Staffordshire.
- 3.44 The District contains a single nationally designated landscape. Cannock Chase was originally designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1958 in recognition of its exceptional landscape quality, biodiversity, and historical significance. In November 2023, this designation was formally renamed as a National Landscape.
- 3.45 Cannock Chase represents the largest remaining area of lowland heathland in the Midlands, a habitat that is both internationally rare and highly threatened. In addition to its heathland, the National Landscape comprises extensive areas of forest and woodland, as well as pockets of designed parkland, active sand and gravel extraction sites, and areas of mixed agriculture. A substantial northern part of this designated landscape lies within the Cannock Chase District boundary.
- 3.46 Cannock Chase District Council works in partnership with Natural England and neighbouring local authorities—Lichfield District Council, South Staffordshire District Council, and Staffordshire County Council—to support the Cannock Chase National Landscape Unit. This partnership oversees the delivery of the Cannock Chase National Landscape Management Plan through a Joint Committee and Officer Working Group, alongside contributions from a wider range of partner organisations on specific projects.
- 3.47 The District is also part of the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership, which brings together local authorities, landowners (including Staffordshire County Council), and advisory bodies such as Natural England and the National Landscape team. The partnership is responsible for developing and implementing a coordinated mitigation strategy to address the recreational impacts on the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Indicators Environmental Baseline

Please see below table

Indicator	Quantified data (for Cannock District unless stated)	Comparators and Targets	Assessment/Trend	Issues Identified?	Action/Issues for Plan/SA
Housing completions on Previously Developed Land (PDL) (percentage)¹⁹	2024/25: 24%	Average 2018/19 to 2024/25: 35%	Decreasing percentage of housing completions on PDL	Unfavourable condition	Continue to maximise Housing completions on PDL
Travel to work²⁰	2021 Car / Van: 31,258 (64%) Bicycle: 432 (0.9%) On foot: 3,035 (6.2%)	West Midlands: Car/Van: 1,396,152 (52.9%) Bicycle: 38,436 (1.5%) On foot: 185,913 (7%)	Not performing well against the Regional average	Unfavourable position	Continue to promote more sustainable modes of travel
Percentage of household waste²¹	2024/25 35.3%	England: 43.8%	Performing below the national average	Favourable/Unfavourable position	Maintain / improve current performance
Developer contributions to the Cannock Chase Special Area of	2024/25: £25,962.52 has been collected and is available	No comparators	No trends	Continue to collect contributions to protect and enhance the SAC	Maintain / improve current performance

¹⁹ [Authority Monitoring Report 2025.pdf](#)

²⁰ [Nomis - 2021 Census Area Profile - Cannock Chase Local Authority, West Midlands Region and England Country](#)

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables>

Conservation (SAC)²²	to spend post 1 April 2026.				
Quality of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)²³	Most recent data available for each site is 2013	Approximately 92% of their area in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable recovering' condition		Slightly unfavourable condition	Enhance the quality of SSSIs in the District
Water quality²⁴	Most recent date is from 2022	River Trent Basin	Poor ecological status compared to the wider area Chemical status is similar to the wider area	Unfavourable condition Favourable position	Consider ways to enhance the ecological status of waterways in the District.

²² [Infrastructure Funding Statement 2024-25.pdf](#)

²³ Natural England <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/SiteSearch.aspx>

²⁴ [River basin management plans: updated 2022 - GOV.UK](#)

4 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

- 4.1 The purpose of the scoping stage is to focus the SA on the sustainability issues which are relevant to the New Local Plan 2026-2046. The assessment will focus on those effects that are likely to be significant, whether positive or negative.
- 4.2 In accordance with Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, the SEA must consider the "likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium, and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects".
- 4.3 Through analysis of the baseline data several key sustainability issues for Cannock Chase District have been identified to focus the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Development Plan. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework is made up of sustainability objectives, indicators and targets tailored to these key issues thus enabling a meaningful assessment of how successful each document has been in addressing these issues and opportunities. Nevertheless, it is recognised in Appendix 1 of this Scoping Report that other Plans, Policies and Programmes may affect the success of each plan document.
- 4.4 The table below sets out the key sustainability issues identified for the Cannock Chase District area, based on the baseline information gathered for the Sustainability Appraisal process. There may be additional sustainability issues, problems and opportunities for the District that hasn't been identified through the collection of baseline data.

Table 3: Key Sustainability Appraisal Issues identified for the District.

Key Sustainability issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
The population aged 65 years and over is growing disproportionately to the remaining population. This will have implications for the economy, service provision, accommodation and health.	An ageing population in Cannock Chase is likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan, reflecting national trends. While such policies would continue to apply in the absence of the new Local Plan, it offers the opportunity to update and develop these through additional policies that may help to ensure development is designed to meet the specific needs of older people.
There is a need for more housing to meet local needs in the District including meeting any potential requirement from the wider Greater Birmingham HMA.	The new Local Plan offers opportunities to build on this through additional policies and standards and definitions of what is affordable can be updated. Without the implementation of the site allocations to be included in the new Local Plan, there may be less certainty about the delivery of affordable housing in appropriate locations

There is also a particular need to address the shortfall in affordable housing in the District. While the median affordable housing ratio for Cannock Chase is 6.0 which is lower than the national average, housing in the District is still relatively unaffordable particularly for first time buyers	
Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived District in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke on Trent).	The new Local Plan offers an opportunity for additional policies to be adopted to specifically address the issue of deprivation in the District.
Adult education attainment is lower than average and there is disparity in educational attainment within the different areas of the District itself, contributing to structural weaknesses in the local economy.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop the overarching policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their proximity to educational facilities through SA.
Health inequalities the identified health priorities for the District relating to childhood obesity, overall obesity and wellbeing are unlikely to be suitably addressed unless further measures are taken.	The new Local Plan addressed unless preventative measures are taken. also offers the opportunity to ensure healthcare priorities are specifically addressed through additional policies.
Car dependency in the area is high, there is the potential for further traffic growth without planning intervention which could have implications for air quality in the District.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to set out policies and a spatial distribution which encourages the use of sustainable transport. It may also address this issue through the allocation of appropriate sites that are selected following consideration of their impact on transport patterns through SA, and through the incorporation of mitigation through site specific policies. Therefore, without the new Local Plan this issue is unlikely to be addressed. The new Local Plan also offers the opportunity to set out green infrastructure standards which could encourage the use of more sustainable methods of transport. However, it is recognized that ongoing rail improvements could encourage modal shift even in the absence of a Local Plan.
Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity	Climate change is likely to have ongoing effects regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan. The new Local Plan may

and lead to increased hazards from surface water and fluvial flooding and increased temperatures.	offer additional opportunities to address this issue, for example by allocating sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on issues such as floodrisk.
Continue to improve and monitor air quality.	Air quality has improved with the de-designation of two AQMA's in the District in 2023, however the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to improve and mitigate the impacts of Air Quality and continue to fully address this issue.
The chemical status of rivers is 'poor' for a large proportion of the District.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to improve and mitigate this issue and improve water quality in the District.
The SFRA shows that parts of the Cannock Chase are at risk from fluvial flooding. The watercourses within the Cannock Chase Council area impose a fluvial flood risk to urban areas, particularly Risking Brook, Risings Brook and Wash Brook.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to continue to address this issue and allocate development sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on flood risk through the SA and to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate, in order to reduce the impacts of new development.
There are increasing requirements to improve recycling and avoid sending waste to landfill.	The new Local Plan offers opportunities to develop additional policies to address waste management within new developments, which could mean that the issue is more likely to be addressed if the plan is adopted.
There are several sensitive ecological sites within the District, including Cannock Chase SAC (the Zone of Influence for which extends for a 15km radius around the SAC), and Cannock Extension Canal SAC which need to be protected to ensure no harm arises from development.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their proximity and impact on the SAC and zone of influence through the site selection process and SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
39% of the district falls within the Cannock Chase AONB which is under pressure from development.	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their proximity and impact on the AONB through the site selection process and SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
Although none of the heritage assets in Cannock Chase are at Risk, there are	The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop policy and through site allocations to select sites based on their heritage impact through the site selection process and

numerous important built heritage assets that should be preserved and enhanced. Furthermore, these assets are continuing to face pressures for change.	SA. Site specific policies may also offer the opportunity for mitigation to reduce the impact of new development.
60% of the District is designated as Green Belt and this is under pressure from urban influences and the demand for land to accommodate new development.	Pressures on the countryside are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan, particularly further housing growth is required to meet increasing housing needs and to help to meet the shortfall arising from the wider Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area. However, without a new plan in place, further unplanned development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations for development and the pressure for development in the countryside may be increased.

5 Sustainability Objectives

- 5.1 Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework involves the development of sustainability objectives, targets and indicators. These elements of the framework are developed from objectives, indicators or targets set out in Plans, Policies and Programmes. Other important sources include expertise within the Local Authority and consultation with key bodies and relevant stakeholders.
- 5.2 As the main purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess the policies and proposals in each Plan document against sustainability objectives, the Sustainability Framework is an important factor enabling the description, measurement, analysis and comparison of the effects of the plan. The following topics from the SEA Directive have been incorporated as elements of the framework.
- 5.3 It should be appreciated that each plan may only have limited scope to influence these SEA Directive topics. Other Plans, Policies and Programmes at European Union and National level will have a more direct effect, e.g. the influence of future Government Aviation Policy on Climatic Factors.
- 5.4 The following sustainability topics and objectives are proposed for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework:
 - 1. Protect and enhance biodiversity, fauna and flora, and geodiversity.**
 - Biodiversity
 - Flora
 - Fauna
 - 2. Minimise pollution and protect and enhance air, water and soil quality.**
 - Air
 - Water
 - Soil

3. Ensure development makes efficient use of previously developed land and buildings
Soil

4. Adapt to the impacts of, and minimise factors contributing to, climate change.
Climate Change

5. Reduce the risk of flooding
Climate Change
Material Assets

6. Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
Landscape

7. Make sustainable use of resources and minimise waste generation
Material Assets
Water
Soil

8. Encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport.
Material Assets
Climate Change

9. Ensure all people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs.
Material Assets
Population

10. Raise educational aspirations and attainment within the District and ensure that educational facilities are provided where they are required
Material Assets
Population

11. Reduce crime and the fear of crime
Population

12. Improve public health and ensure health facilities are accessible for those in need
Human Health

13. Protect, enhance and create open spaces for leisure and recreation
Population

Human Health

14. Provide easy access to community services and facilities to meet people's needs

Population

Material Assets

15. Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites

Population

Material Assets

16. Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability

Population

Material Assets

17. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment

Cultural Heritage

services and facilities to meet people's needs. Population

Material assets

15 Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and

ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites.

Population

Material Assets

16 Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability. Population

Material Assets

17 Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment. Cultural heritage

6 Methodology for preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Reports

- 6.1 Following the Scoping Report stage (Stage A - Scoping) of the SA process, the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will be prepared to test the objectives for the Development Plan against the SA Framework and to appraise the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence. The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary and the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence will then be consulted upon at the same time, after which a Sustainability Appraisal Report will be published and consulted upon alongside the Proposed Local Plan. Finally, the Council will prepare the submission plan and submit the policy documents alongside the amended Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

The remaining stages of Development Plan Sustainability Appraisal process are as follows:

Stage B2 - Developing the Options for each plan document

Stage B3 and B4 - Predicting and Evaluating the Effects of the plan document

Stage C - Preparing the SA Report

Stage D - Consulting on the preferred options and the SA Report

Stage E - Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Plan document

Stage B2 - Developing and Refining the Plan Options

- 6.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Objectives set out how the key sustainability issues will be addressed, whilst the Plan Objectives will set out what the Development Plan is aiming to achieve in terms of land use and planning policies.
- 6.3 A key element of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to compare the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives with the Plan Objectives to appraise the plan in terms of sustainability and the achievement of targets under SEA target areas. Using the table below the Plan Objectives will be compared to the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. The purpose of this analysis is to ensure that the Plan Objectives are in accordance with the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives to assist with the development of policy.
- 6.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will also test the compatibility of the Plan Objectives with each other, using the table below. Where there a positive or negative impact exist between the various objectives these will be highlighted. Whilst the aim would be to achieve consistency with each other, in practice there will be policy conflicts within the assessment and objectives which will be assessed as part of the process.

- 6.5 During the preparation of the Proposed Local Plan content and evidence various policies will then be developed in order to meet the Plan Objectives. Each of these policies will be tested through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework to identify the sustainability effects of each policy and to assess its performance in terms of sustainability.
- 6.6 The various policies and alternatives will be appraised against the sustainability objectives to establish whether the effect is positive, negative or uncertain through the short, medium and long-term perspective. For example, will the policy create two jobs or a hundred jobs; will the policy temporarily cause noise pollution whilst buildings are constructed or lead to a more permanent noise infringement. As such, during this Sustainability Commentary stage general differences between the alternatives will be considered and documented. Further details will be duly assessed as the policies are developed and the Plan document's progress through the various stages.

Key to SA scores to be assessed against the SA objectives:

++	Option/Policy significant positive effect on the SA objective
+/-	Option/Policy significant positive/minor negative effect on the SA objective
+	Option/Policy positive effect on the SA objective
0	Option/Policy negligible effect on the SA objective
-	Option/Policy negative effect on the SA objective
-/+	Option/Policy significant negative/minor positive effect on the SA objective
--	Option/Policy significant positive effect on the SA objective
?	Uncertain effect due to lack of data
00	Option/Policy equal effect on the SA objective

6.7 Where policies could be altered in light of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process this will be highlighted in the SA Commentary. The Sustainability Appraisal Commentary will also provide comments on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the policies or during the consultation process.

6.8 The developing and refining policies process will form part of the Sustainability Appraisal Commentary, which will be consulted upon at the same time as the Proposed Plan content and evidence. Alongside the appraisal of plan policies the SA Commentary will also compare plan policies against the alternative of 'do nothing', this will highlight what benefits each plan policy could provide.

Stages B3 and B4 - Predicting and evaluating the effects of the plan

6.9 The next stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process is to assess, in more detail, each policy in the Proposed Local Plan to determine whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and sustainable development. The objective of this stage is to predict and evaluate the effects of plan policies so that where adverse effects are predicted consideration will be given to what mitigation measures may be required. This will lead to Stage C - preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

6.10 Completion of this process will make it possible to decide if any of the policies are likely to have any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts are predicted, information will be required on the measures proposed to prevent, reduce or offset these adverse effects. Where an adverse effect cannot be mitigated consideration should be given to deleting or modifying the policy. If a policy does not have any adverse impacts Cannock Chase District Council will try and enhance its positive and beneficial effects.

6.11 It will also be necessary to assess and record the cumulative effects of all the preferred policy options against the sustainability objectives using the table below. Where there are adverse cumulative impacts, recommendations will be made in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.

6.12 Where policies are proposed for alteration in light of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process these will be highlighted in the Sustainability Appraisal Report. The SA process will also provide a commentary on any sustainability issues that arise during the refinement of the policy. Conclusions on the overall sustainability effects of the policy will be provided as part of the SA Report.

6.13 Furthermore, the Sustainability Appraisal Report will detail the proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the plan document, allowing the actual effects of the Plan document to be measured against those predicted in the SA.

6.14 The appraisal of the effects of the plan will form part of the Sustainability Appraisal Report, which will be available for consultation at the same time as the Proposed Local Plan.

- 6.15 Following the consultation on the Proposed Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report the policy development will be used to prepare the policies for inclusion in the Submission Plan to the Secretary of State. At the stage the policies in the Submission document will be assessed through the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and the Sustainability Appraisal Report will be amended to detail this assessment process.

Stage D - Consulting on the Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

- 6.16 The Revised Sustainability Appraisal Report will be submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Local Plan, each of which will be subject to the independent Examination process. The independent Examination will consider whether the Sustainability Appraisal process has been incorporated into the production of submitted plans and whether the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.
- 6.17 The Environmental Report is a key requirement of the SEA Directive. The Environmental Report documents the whole SEA process and provides a record of how environmental considerations are incorporated into production of the Plan. The elements of the SA process that meet this requirement will be highlighted in a table at the end of the SA Report. The suggested layout of the table is set out below.

Table 4: Environmental Report

SEA Requirements for Environmental Report	Location in Sustainability Report
An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	
The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution therefore without implementation of the plan or programme	
The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	
Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental, <i>economic</i> or <i>social</i> importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	
The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been considered during its preparation.	
The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological	

heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.	
The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	
An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.	
A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10.	
A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	
The report must include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2)	
Consultation	
Authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental/sustainability appraisal report (Art 5.4)	
Authorities with environmental, social or economic responsibility and the public, shall be given an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the accompanying environmental/sustainability appraisal report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, Art. 6.2)	
Other EU Member States, where the implementation of the plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment of that country (art. 7)	
Taking the environmental / sustainability appraisal report and the results of the consultations into account in decision-making (Art.8)	
Provision of information on the decision:	
When the plan or programme is adopted, the public and any countries consulted under Art. 7 must be informed and the following made available to those so informed: The plan or programme as adopted A statement summarising how environmental, social and economic considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental/sustainability appraisal report of Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations	

entered into pursuant to Art.7 have been taken into account in accordance with Art. 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and The measures decided concerning monitoring (Art.9)	
Monitoring of the significant environmental, social and economic effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art 10.)	
Quality assurance: environmental/sustainability appraisal reports should be of a sufficient standard to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive.	

Examination of the Plan

6.18 Following the independent Examination into each Plan document the Inspector will provide Cannock Chase District Council with an Inspectors Report setting out recommended policy changes. Where necessary a Sustainability Appraisal of any significant policy changes made through the Examination process will be required. The completion of this task will result in a second revised Sustainability Appraisal report being produced.

Stage E - Monitoring the Significant Effects of Implementing the Development Plan

6.19 After Cannock Chase District Council has received the Inspector's Binding Reports. The Plan can be adopted and published. At this time a statement will be issued summarising how the SA results and consultee's opinions have been taken into account, an explanation of the policy choices made and information concerning the arrangements for monitoring.

6.20 Monitoring will allow the actual effects of the Plan document to be tested against those predicted in the Sustainability Appraisal Reports through the Authorities Monitoring Report. It will help to ensure that issues, which are identified through the implementation of each Plan document, whether or not they were foreseen, can be identified and future predictions can be made more accurately. The monitoring information will also be used to provide baseline data for future Plan documents.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 6.21 The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European Sites is a part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans or projects is outlined in Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- 6.22 Whilst the Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment are two separate processes each with their own legal requirements, the SA will draw on results and evidence gathered by the Habitats Regulations Assessment process. Where this will contribute towards the assessment of policy and development options reference to the Habitats Regulations Assessment process and related evidence will be reported within the SA documents.

7 Next steps in the Sustainability Appraisal process

Consultation

- 7.1 A key aspect of the SA process is consultation. The SA process provides a mechanism to ensure that stakeholder engagement requirements are achieved by providing interested parties/organisations and the public an opportunity to inform the process and comment on decisions taken. Stakeholder engagement also ensures that environmental and social issues, constraints and opportunities are identified and assessed at an early stage of the project.
- 7.2 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of three statutory consultees (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency) are being sought in relation to the scope and level of detail to be included in the SA report. In addition to these bodies, public consultation is encouraged as a means by which to help set the environmental context and determine the scope of assessment.

How can I have my say on this consultation document?

- 7.3 Consultation on the new Local Plan 2026-2046: Sustainability Appraisal (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Scoping Report will take place between Monday 3 August 2026 and until 5pm 14 September 2026. Please provide any responses by on 5pm 14 September 2026.
- 7.4 We strongly encourage responses to be made using the response form available on the Council's website and email completed forms to planningpolicy@connockdc.gov.uk or via post to Planning Policy, Cannock Chase Council, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG.

How will my comments be used?

- 7.5 We will acknowledge receipt of your comments and fully consider responses for the next stage of the plan-making process, although the Council will not engage through individual correspondence. All comments received will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Protecting Your Privacy

- 7.6 We believe you should always know what data we collect from you and how we use it, and that you should have meaningful control over both. As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency, and in relation to the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, we have updated our Privacy Policy.

- 7.7 We will only use your personal information to send you information on the Local Plan and associated planning policy matters. You can find information about how we handle your personal data by visiting the Privacy Notices on the Council's website²⁵ and if you have any queries or would like to unsubscribe from receiving information, please contact the Planning Policy Team using the details above.

²⁵ <https://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/council/about-us/data-protection/data-protection-privacy-notice>

8 Glossary

Term	Description
Consultation Body	Authorities which because of their environmental responsibilities are likely to be concerned by effects of implementing plans and programmes and must be consulted at specific stages of the SEA. The Consultation Bodies designated in the SEA regulations are the Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Contaminated Land	Land that is polluted by virtue of past industrial and chemical uses or naturally occurring radiation, which makes it unsuitable for development without decontamination taking place to remove potential hazards to occupiers and potential users of the development.
Countryside Character Areas	Areas of distinctive landscape, wildlife and natural features as defined by the Countryside Agency.
Cultural heritage	Places or things that are valued because they give us a sense of the past and of our cultural identity.
Cumulative Effects	These effects can be caused by a number of developments which, individually and in themselves, may have insignificant effects, but together combine to create a significant effect.
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, responsible for promoting sustainable development, protecting and improving rural, urban, marine and the global environment.
Derelict Land	Land that has been previously developed but has been allowed to fall into disrepair and is no longer used.
Economic Development	The development of the economy of the Council area by the creation of employment opportunities.
Environmental Assets	All environmental assets that provide ecosystem services, e.g. landscape, habitats, pollination, erosion prevention, and the absorption of emissions and pollutants resulting from human activities.
Environmental Capital	The combination of the assets (i.e. the tangible commodities, land, trees, fields, etc.) with the environmental benefits derived from them (leisure opportunities, tranquillity, natural habitats etc.)
Environmental Limits	The limit to which an environment or ecosystem can cope with the population, resource exploitation and pollution pressures placed on it. Beyond the environmental limit, there is a risk of causing long-term damage to the health and productivity of an environment.
Environmental Report	A document required by the SEA Directive, as part of an environmental

Fauna	All the animal life of a given place or time.
Flora	All the plant life of a given place or time.
Green Belt	Land designated in development plans to be kept open in accordance with PPG2.
Greenfield Sites	Land that has never been built on, usually grassland, farmland or heath.
Habitat	A site or areas inhabited by wild flora and fauna upon which they are reliant for their continued free existence.
Heritage	Things of value inherited or passed on from generation to generation, qualities which are worthwhile to preserve for prosperity.
Historic Parks and Gardens	Parks or gardens of special historic interest.
Indicator	Measure of variables over time, often used to measure achievement of objectives.
Indirect (Secondary) Effects	Effects which are not a direct result of the plan, often produced away from or as a result of a complex pathway
Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)	Telephone, computing and other technology designed to enable Communications Technology remote working and communication.
Infrastructure	Roads, sewers, drainage and the availability of energy supplies at the most basic level, through to social infrastructure such as schools and community centres.
Listed Building	A building contained in a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest prepared by the Secretary of State for the Culture, Media and Sport (under Section 1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990).
Local Nature Reserve	Sites established by the Local Authority which can make a valuable contribution to nature conservation, local wildlife or geological interest, providing opportunities for education and enjoyment at the local level.
Local Transport Plan	Plan prepared by Staffordshire County Council detailing transport priorities and actions to be taken.
Local Need	Anticipated requirements (e.g. for housing) generated by local growth or other (e.g. demographic) trends. This specifically excludes demands generated by inward migration.
Modal Split	The proportion of people traveling by different types of transport.
Mitigate	To alleviate or to moderate a quality or condition that is harmful or unpleasant (e.g. pollution)
Mitigation Measures	Measures designed and intended to reduce adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	An area of national / international importance for nature conservation and managed in accordance with a nature reserve agreement.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was introduced in March 2012 to replace previous national planning policy, and has been revised subsequently. The document sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

National Playing Fields Association (NPFA)	A charity where the aim is to acquire, protect and improve playing fields and other recreational space for the community.
Net Gain	The useful and/or positive benefits remaining after all deductions have been made.
Non-statutory Designations	A designation not enacted, created, or regulated by statute.
Objective	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was established to support the NPPF. PPG provides detailed guidance across a number of specific categories.
Precautionary Principle	The assumption that an activity or development might be damaging unless it can be proved otherwise.
Previously Developed Land (PDL)	Housing land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings) and associated fixed surface structures. The definition covers the curtilage of the development.
Public Transport Nodes	Areas that offer greater accessibility by public transport and reduce reliance on the private car.
Ramsar	A wetland site designated under the European Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
Reclaim/Re-use	To regenerate, rescue or restore an area to bring it back into use.
Renewable Energy	Energy flows that occur naturally and repeatedly in the environment (e.g. from sun, wind or wave or fall of water). Plant and some waste materials are also potential sources.
Rural Diversification	Engaging in new and different economic activity to strengthen the rural economy and support existing agricultural businesses and farm incomes.
SEA Directive	European Directive 2001/42/EC ‘On the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.’
SEA Regulations	The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations, 2004
Scoping	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an SA, including sustainability effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used, and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	A European designation for the conservation of sites of international conservation importance, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora.
Special Needs Housing	A segment of the housing market where a proportion of the housing is targeted or reserved for those people who require special housing requirements. It covers a spectrum of providers and tenures including housing association, joint ventures, public sector and owner occupation.
Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs)	A site of biological importance that is of county importance for its wildlife interest.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	A protected area identified as being of national importance in terms of wildlife, flora, fauna, geological or physiological features. They represent irreplaceable parts of our natural heritage

Special Protection Area (SPA)	A European designation for the protection of wild birds, designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR)	Is the ratio of the actual number of deaths one would expect if the population had the same death rate as a standard population?
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	A tool for integrating environmental considerations into decision-making by ensuring that significant environmental effects of the decision are taken into account.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Appraisals of plans, strategies and proposals to test them against the four broad objectives set out in the government's sustainable development strategy.
Sustainable Development (SD)	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland 1987).
Synergies	The working of two things to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects.
Target	An objective that seeks a specified desired end, stated usually within a specified time-scale.
Unstable Land	Land which by reason of geological conditions or man-made changes, is likely to be subject to movement or collapse, putting at risk life and developments located on or near it.

Appendix 1: Relevant Plans, policies and programmes

The SEA Directive requires the production of the following information:

“an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;” Annex 1 (a); and

“the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;” Annex 1 (e).

The following tables set out the relevant international, national, sub – national and local plans, policies and programmes. Additionally, there are a number of evidence base documents that will help to inform the local plan and help to inform policies, these are found on the Council’s Evidence Base page.

Table of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Plan/Policy/Programme	Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal	Key Implications for the Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal
International		
European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) ETS No. 176 (2000)	The Convention promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscape and organises co-operation between Member States on landscape issues. The Convention supports the identification and assessment of landscape character and the setting of landscape quality objectives. These objectives should then inform the basis of landscape protection, management and development activities.	The Local Plan should seek to develop policies that take account of the Convention and ensure that decision-making is informed by landscape character and quality assessments. The Local Plan offers an important opportunity to support the protection of important landscape characteristics and enhancement of urban and rural landscapes across the district. However, there is also a risk that the Local Plan could conflict with the Convention where new infrastructure or development is required. The SA should include an objective to minimise the impact on landscape character.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2001 (revised 2006)	The strategy set overall objectives for seven key policy challenges: Climate Change and clean energy Sustainable transport Sustainable consumption and production Conservation and management of natural resources Public health Social inclusion, demography and migration Global poverty and sustainable development challenges The strategy outlines the need for economic growth to support social progress and respect the environment to achieve sustainable development. It aims to promote	Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the strategy. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.

	a more integrated approach to policy making to reduce unsustainable consumption and production patterns.	
European Biodiversity Strategy to 2030	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Local Plan should seek to ensure that it effectively protects and enhances biodiversity across the district, taking into account the ecosystem services biodiversity provides and contribution to community wellbeing and the local economy. The Local Plan offers opportunities to achieve biodiversity gains through protection of local wildlife areas and provision of new green infrastructure. In addition, the strategy may limit certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem services. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance biodiversity.
EC Birds Directive – Council Directive 2009/147/EEC on the conservation of wild birds	The Directive provides for protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species and their habitats, with particular protection of rare species. It designates Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect important bird species and populations and their supporting habitats.	The Local Plan objectives should avoid any significant adverse effect on recognised important habitats for birds. The Directive may restrict certain aspects of the Local Plan if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SPA. The Local Plan should include a Habitat Regulations Assessment to assess the potential for a significant impact on any SPA sites.

EC Habitat's Directive – Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	The principal aim is to promote the conservation of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to restore natural habitats and species of European importance to favourable conservation status. The Directive establishes the creation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in order to provide a coherent ecological network of protected sites. It also encourages protection and management of flora and fauna and supporting landscapes through planning and development policies.	The Local Plan should take account of the Directive and avoid any significant adverse effect on designated sites and qualifying features, and any supporting habitats and landscape features. The Directive may restrict certain Local Plan policies if they are shown to be likely to have a significant effect on a SAC or important supporting habitats or landscape features. The SA should include an objective that seeks to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.
EU Water Framework Directive -Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy	The Directive establishes the framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater to restore to good status. The Directive aims to prevent pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect aquatic ecology and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts. It also places requirements on all relevant authorities to ensure their actions do not contravene the objectives of the Directive	The Directive will guide the Local Plan and provide important guidance in ensuring that the Plan provides robust protection of the water environment and seeks to minimise flood risk. Local Plan policies will be strengthened if they actively contribute to meeting the WFD objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective that contributes to the WFD objectives through the protection and enhancement of water quality and water resources.
SEA Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	The Directive provides for the high level of protection for the environment and promotes sustainable development by requiring that the formulation of plans and programmes are informed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.	The Local Plan is being developed in conjunction with a SA that incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. The SA findings will be used to inform the choice of draft and final plan policies.
The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention control)	Establishes rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution from industrial activities by limiting emissions. It is designed	The Local Plan should develop policies that incorporate the requirements of this Directive to reduce emissions. The SA should include

	to reduce emissions to air, water and land and minimise waste.	an appraisal objective to reduce emissions and pollution.
Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC on waste	Aims to reduce waste by defining waste management and distinguishes between waste and by-products. Defines the waste hierarchy and requires that waste is managed without endangering human health and the environment and therefore requires relevant authorities to manage waste accordingly.	The Local Plan should avoid any significant increase on waste generation from development within the District. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste production and also promote the waste hierarchy.
EU Landfill Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste	Aims to prevent or reduce the negative effects of landfilling of waste on the environment as well as any resultant risk to human health. It sets the technical requirements for waste and landfills. Development and management policies for landfill sites should be informed by the objectives of this Directive.	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the requirements of the Directive, such as reducing the amount of waste to landfill and also ensuring landfills have low risk to human health and the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste to landfill.
Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption	Protect human health from adverse effects of	The Local Plan should ensure the provision of safe drinking water. Policies should be developed to ensure adequate monitoring programmes must be carried out to ensure the protection of human health. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water quality.
Air Quality Framework Directive 96/62/EC on ambient air quality assessment and management	Aims to avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient noise pollution on human health and the environment.	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air Directive 2008.	Objectives are to combat emissions of pollutants at source and to identify and implement the most effective emission reduction measures. Emissions of harmful air pollutants should be avoided, prevented or	The Local Plan should take into account the Directive to ensure that harmful effects are minimised in line with the objectives. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.

	reduced and appropriate objectives set for ambient air quality taking into account relevant World Health Organisation standards, guidelines and programmes.	
Packing and Packing Waste Directive 94/62/EC on packing and packing waste		The Local Plan should take account of how packing and packing waste is managed in the District.
EU Nitrates Directive 1991	The Directive aims to protect water quality by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices	The Local Plan should include objectives to reduce water pollution caused by nitrates, particularly from agriculture. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution and runoff from agricultural areas
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment	The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges. For this purpose, it concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and the treatment and discharge of wastewater from certain industrial sectors	Local Plan policies will need to respond to the aims of the Directive, especially with regards to built development and water treatment plants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to reduce water pollution
EU Eighth Environmental Action Programme 2021 2030	The Environmental Action Programme (EAP) provides a framework for the EU's overall environmental policy development and guide the policy-making by identifying priorities and setting out a long-term vision and goals. The 8th EAP has six thematic priority objectives in areas of: Climate neutrality Adaptation and resilience to climate change and other environmental risks Circular economy and regenerative growth decoupling economy from resource use and environmental degradation Zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment Protecting and	The Local Plan should develop policies that take account of the Programme to protect the environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance the environment.

	restoring biodiversity, and enhancing natural capital Environmental sustainability and reduction of the environmental pressures from production and consumption	
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1992)	The aim of the Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be archeologically investigated on land and underwater	Local Plan policies should be developed in accordance with this convention and ensure no damage to archaeological finds. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect cultural heritage.
EU Floods Directive - 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	Establishes a framework to reduce and manage the risk of flooding and associated impacts on the environment, human health, heritage and economy. Provides strategic direction to reduce impacts of flooding and promote enhanced flood risk management.	The Local Plan should ensure it does not include policies that increase flood risk within the District and include policies that decrease the risk of flooding. The SA should include an appraisal objective to decrease flood risk.
EU Groundwater Directive – 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration	Establishes a regime that sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. Implemented in the UK through the Environmental Permitting Regulations (2010).	The Local Plan would need to consider potential impacts on groundwater and may be restricted if the policies contribute to an adverse impact. Local Plan policies should be developed to ensure no harm to groundwater quality. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect water resources and groundwater.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Aims to advance and strengthen sustainable development at the local, national, regional and local levels. It commits to building a humane, equitable and caring global society and aware of the need for human dignity for all.	Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and objectives set out in the declaration. The SA should seek to ensure that the Appraisal Framework is coherent and includes a breadth of objectives that cover the sustainable development priorities.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Aims are to establish a number of rights for the public with regard to the environment.	The Local Plan should provide for the right of everyone to receive environmental information, the right to participate early on in

		environmental decision making, and the right to challenge in court of law public decisions that have been made in contravention to the above. The SA should ensure that it will be publicly available, along with the Local Plan, and ensure that the public are involved in the decision-making process.
National		
National Planning Policy Framework 2024	The NPPF, most recently updated in December 2024, sets the Government's planning policies for England and how they should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. This framework must be considered when preparing the development plan alongside international obligations and statutory requirements.	The SA and Local Plan considers the planning policies within the NPPF and takes these into account when identifying a preferred option.
Natural Environmental and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)	Provides guidance for the protection and enhancement of important habitats and species. Requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principle importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on important habitats and species and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on habitats and species listed in the act. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance important habitats and species.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) (1981)	The Act is the principle mechanism for legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It deals with the protection of birds, other animals and plants. The Act provides for the notification of SSSI and their protection and management. Any potential impacts of the Plan, including on SSSIs, will need to be considered through the SA.	The Local Plan should avoid any adverse impacts on SSSI's and should seek to enhance them. The act may restrict certain policies within the Local Plan if they are shown to negatively impact on SSSI's. The SA should include an appraisal objective to protect and enhance designated sites.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000)	Safeguards public access by foot to specified lands. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) gives public rights of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. These areas are known as 'open access land'.	The Local Plan must ensure that potential development does not impeded on rights of way and include policies to enhance people's experience and access to rights of way. The SA should include an appraisal objective to preserve and encourage access to open space.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Under this legislation Scheduled Monuments are protected based on their archaeological or historical interest.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan could negatively impact Scheduled Monuments and seek to mitigate or minimise these impacts.
Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006	These Regulations, which apply to England only, also set out provisions relating to the identification and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. DEFRA produced contaminated land statutory guidance in 2012 to explain how local authorities should implement the regime on contaminated land.	The SA should consider how the Local Plan has included measures relating to the identification of contamination risks and guard against land contamination.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 90) contains the key provisions in relation to the management of controlled waste. Part II of the EPA 90 deals specifically with the deposit of waste to land and associated offences.	The Local Plan should consider how developments remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated land, where appropriate. The SA Framework should contain an objective in relation to waste minimisation.
Environmental Act 2001	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water	The SA Framework and Local Plan should align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.

	companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.	
Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA)	This Act was produced to incentivise the build of housing sites through a series of measures which include support for councils who fail to meet the necessary commitments.	To comply with UK legislation, the Local Plan should consider the implications of this Act on house-building principals. The SA should ensure this is approached with sustainability principles at the forefront.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2024	This policy sets out the government's planning policy in relation to Traveller Sites, in conjunction with the NPPF.	The Local Plan and SA consider the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy 2025	A strategy setting out how the government's long term plan for economic, housing and social infrastructure to drive growth.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the policy throughout the Plan making process.
UK's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2030	This strategy draws upon the commitments made to achieving all 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets.	The Local Plan and SA considers the implications of the strategy including the relevant targets throughout the Plan making process.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)	The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out planned government action to deliver nature recovery. This covers several areas including climate change mitigation and adaptation, on which it outlines plans to continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, incorporate climate change in all policy, programme, and investment decisions and implement an effective National Adaptation Programme. The Plan should help achieve targets set out in the plan including reducing risk harm environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The plan impacts upon clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently and enhancing beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural.	Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change and policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts. New development should be planned for in a way that avoids increased vulnerability to climate change. The Local Plan should help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; avoid adverse impacts, and enhance where possible, biodiversity, air quality, landscape, and heritage; and not result in increased flooding of the district.

The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (First Revision of the 25 Year Environment Plan)	The first revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan builds on the 25-years plan's vision with a new plan setting out how the government will work with landowners, communities, and businesses to deliver each of the goals for improving the environment, matched with interim targets to measure progress.	As well as the above, the SA should consider how the Local Plan's environmental outcomes achieve the interim targets set out in the revised plan.
Environmental Improvement Plan 2025	The Government's 5-year statutory roadmap to halt biodiversity decline, tackle climate change, and improve public health. It sets legally binding targets to restore nature and integrate environmental goals with economic growth and food security	The SA should consider how the Local Plan's environmental outcomes achieve the interim targets set out in the revised plan.
Environment Act 2021	The Environment Act has been implemented with the intention of protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The Act brings many of the objectives in the 25-year environment plan into UK law, setting legal targets to halt species declines and implementing laws to ensure water companies deliver reductions in the frequency of sewerage discharges.	The SA Framework and Local Plan will align with the UK's environmental objectives in the preparation and assessment of the Plan to help safeguard the area and resources for future generations.
Planning for the climate challenge? Understanding the performance of English local plans (2016)	Town and Country Planning Guidance for how to include climate change related issues in local planning policy.	The guidance will be used to inform the climate change objective of the SA.
Third National Adaption Programme (NAP3) (2023)	The National Adaptation Programme sets actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK. The NAP3 sets out the key actions for 2023 to 2028. This report forms part of the 5-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008. The NAP3 includes climate risks and actions for avoiding or mitigating these in the	Many of the actions in NAP3 can help to improve standards of living, such as by upgrading buildings and infrastructure. The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt to future climate change risks.

	infrastructure; natural environment; health, communities and built environment; business and industry; and international sectors.	
A Well – Adapted UK The Fourth Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk (2026)	As required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK government has undertaken the fourth five- year assessment of the risks of climate change on the UK. This is based on the Independent Assessment of UK Climate Change Committee (CCC), commissioned by the UK government and devolved administrations. The risk assessment considers 61 UK-wide climate risks and opportunities cutting across multiple sectors of the economy and prioritises the following eight risk areas for action in the next two years.	The SA will need to consider how the Local Plan has included measures to adapt.
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Set out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management through positive planning.	The Local Plan should include policies to consider waste generation and management in the district, including minimising waste. The SA should include an appraisal objective to minimise waste.
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Housing plays an important role in social mobility, and housing policies should aim to achieve this.	Housing policies and development will be an integral part of the Local Plan. The Local Plan should include policies that provide for housing that meets the needs of everyone in the District. The SA should include an objective that increases the amount of suitable housing available in the district.
Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our Strategy for public health in England (2010)	Sets out the Government's strategy for improving public health. Aims to reform the public health system by giving more powers to local authorities. It aims to protect the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and	Policies in the Local Plan should reflect the objectives in the strategy and aim to improve the health of the district's residents. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.

	more fulfilling lives. It also aims to improve the health of the poorest, fastest.	
Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England	Sets out the Government's approach to modernise and secure the NHS by shifting focus from hospitals to communities, from treating illness to prevention and establishing a unified patient system	Policies within the Local Plan should reflect the objectives and aims of the strategy. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve health.
Community Energy Strategy (2014)	Sets out plans to promote and facilitate the planning and development of decentralised community energy initiatives in four main types of energy activity.	The Local Plan should ensure that policies support community low carbon and renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.
The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	Strategy to help tackle climate change by reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide through increasing energy production from renewable energy sources.	The Local Plan should include policies to increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. The SA should include an objective that includes increasing the amount of renewable energy generation.
Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity	The government's action plan set out a transition towards clean, low carbon electricity in Great Britain. This included plans to expand energy infrastructure and transmission networks.	The Local Plan should include policies that increase the use of low carbon power. The SA should include an appraisal objective to promote the adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects.
Air Quality (Amendment of Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations, 2019	The aim of this regulation is to designate zones in which ambient air will be protected by limiting the concentrations of pollutants within them. Defra's air quality strategy for England provides a framework for local authorities to make best use of their powers and make air quality improvements for their communities.	The Local Plan should set out policies to improve air quality within the district and reduce the emissions of pollutants. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve air quality.
Clean Air Strategy (2019)	The Clean Air Strategy provides a way in which the UK will tackle all sources of air pollution with the main aims of making UK air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.	The SA should consider the impact the Local Plan may have on air quality. Policies should ensure that development contributes to and complies with relevant limit values for pollutants.

Housing Act 2004	Protects the most vulnerable in society by creating a fairer housing market. Helps to achieve the Government's aim of providing decent homes.	The Local Plan should include policies that help to create a fairer and better housing market. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve access to good quality and affordable housing.
Localism Act 2011	The aim of the act is to facilitate the devolution of decision making powers from central government control to individuals and communities.	The Local Plan should include policies that enable local people, charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to work with the Local Authority and ensure that planning policy decisions take full account of the views that are expressed.
The Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Aims to make improvements to both flood risk management and the way water resources are managed.	The Local Plan should include clear roles, responsibilities and standards for the creation of sustainable drainage. The SA should include an appraisal objective to improve flood risk management and protect water resources.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England 2020	The strategy sets out a vision of a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change -today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.	The SA and Local Plan should consider the policies contained within the strategy for management of flood risk.
National Framework for Water Resources 2025: water for growth nature and a resilient future.	The framework provides a strategic direction to long term plan to ensure resilient water supplies across England. The aim of the framework is to ensure long term water resources planning to enable growth, strengthen multi – sector planning and resilience, planning to enable sustainable abstraction across catchments and supporting an integrated approach to water management.	The Local Plan should include policies that encourage sustainable delivery of secure water supplies and protect the water environment. The SA should include an appraisal objective that aims to improve the management of water and protection of the water environment.
Surface water management action plan (2018) (Updated 2021)	This surface water management action plan sets out the steps the government is taking, with the Environment Agency and others, to manage the risk of surface water flooding. It	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions related to surface water management; particularly where new development is proposed.

	covers actions to both improve our understanding of the risks and strengthen delivery. These include Improving risk assessment and communication. Making sure infrastructure is resilient. Clarifying responsibilities for surface water management. Joining up planning for surface water management. Building local authority capacity	
Northern Gateway Development Zone Prospectus (Constellation Partnership)	The Northern Gateway Development Zone (NGDZ) is a strategy which has been created by partnership between two Local Enterprise Partnerships and seven Local Authorities. The NGDZ aims to capitalise and guide the investment brought by High Speed 2.	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions that support the aims of the strategy.
Midlands Connect Strategy March 2017	Produced by The Midlands Connect Partnership, the strategy focuses on the connectivity of the Midlands region.	The Local Plan should consider policies that support the focus of the Strategy.
Severn Trent Water Resource Management Plan 2024	All water companies in England and Wales need to publish their plans every five years under the Water Industry Act 1991. This is Severn Trent's fifth WRMP, following on from the previous version published in 2019. It is a plan that explains their proposals for making sure that enough water is available to supply to customers in an affordable and sustainable way over the next 25 years.	The Local Plan should include policies that aim to reduce demand for water and protect sustainable sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks. The SA should include an appraisal objective that relates to sustainable water resource management.
Joint Waste Local Plan for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent 2010 - 2026	The Plan relates to how waste will be managed after it has been collected from homes, offices, factories, farms or construction sites.	The SA and Local Plan should consider actions related to surface waste management; particularly where new development is proposed.
Local Plans, Policies and Programmes		
Health and well-being Strategy for Cannock 2013 2018	The strategy is a 5-year plan for Staffordshire to unite several partners to make best use of the social and financial resources available to	The Local Plan should contain policies that look to improve local employment, the local economy, safety, health of the community,

	improve the health and wellbeing of people who live here.	and helping those in the district most in need. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the economy, employment, community safety and community health.
Staffordshire Mental Health Strategy	This document outlines mental health proposals, both in terms of priority outcomes and actions to deliver.	The Local Plan should contain policies that look to improve the mental health of the community and helping those in the district most in need. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the economy, employment, community safety and community health.
Cannock Chase District Council: Part 1 Open Space Assessment 2022 – 2040 November 2023	This document provides an assessment of all formal sport and leisure facilities across the district to assist in planning for the future. This includes both playing pitch and indoor and built facilities.	The Local Plan should consider the Strategy and aim to adhere to its recommendations. The SA should include objectives that aim to meet current and future needs for playing pitches across the district.
Cannock Chase District Council Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	This document seeks to work with partner agencies to identify ways in which to reduce and stop homelessness and rough sleeping, and where this is not possible ensure that suitable housing and support is available.	The Local Plan should contain policies that seek to provide a range of housing types and solutions to improve the availability of housing. The SA should include objectives that look to improve the housing options.
Stafford Borough Council and Cannock Chase Council: Climate Change Strategy	This joint strategy aims to create a green, healthy and resilient area where people and nature can thrive, by limiting the impacts of Climate Change and meeting our Climate Change and green recovery commitments.	The Local Plan and SA should consider the actions related to the strategy objectives, implementation framework and the action plan and adhere to relevant recommendations.
Economic Prosperity Strategy 2022	The document provides a vision and objectives to promote economic growth within the district.	The Local Plan should include policies that improve the local economy by encouraging inward investment. The SA should include objectives in relation to improving and strengthening the local economy.
Biodiversity Strategy 2026 - 2030	The strategy sets out four key areas in which action will be taken, acknowledging the impact that climate change will have. The strategy lists actions that will be taken.	The Local Plan should include policies that look to support objectives relating to climate change, biodiversity and nature restoration. The SA should include objectives that seeks

		to protect biodiversity and the natural environment and important landscape features.
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