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Cannock Chase Local Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Prepared by LUC
June 2018

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Client: Cannock Chase Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Cannock Chase Council commissioned LUC in May 2018 to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as well as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Health Impact Assessment and (HIA) and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the new Cannock Chase Local Plan.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Scoping Report is to provide the context for, and determine the scope of, the SA/SEA of the Local Plan and to set out the framework for undertaking the later stages of the SA/SEA. It also explains the approach that will be taken to the HIA and EqIA (both of which will be reported on as part of the SA/SEA), and the separate HRA process.
- 1.3 In summary, the Scoping stage of SA/SEA involves reviewing other relevant plans, policies and programmes, considering the current state of the environment in Cannock Chase District, identifying any key environmental, social and economic issues or problems which may be affected by the Local Plan and setting out the 'SA framework', which comprises specific sustainability objectives against which the likely effects of the Local Plan can be assessed.

The Plan Area

- 1.4 Cannock Chase is a relatively small district in the south of Staffordshire. It is bordered by South Staffordshire to the west, Stafford Borough to the north, Lichfield to the east and Walsall to the south. Over half of the District is designated Green Belt, and it also contains the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These designations act as significant constraints to development.
- 1.5 The proximity of Cannock Chase to Birmingham in the south has a major influence over the District, particularly in relation to the economy and commuting patterns. Cannock Chase Council is a member of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as well as the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP. Through work undertaken to meet the Duty to Co-operate, it has become evident that Birmingham will not be able to accommodate all of its housing requirement, with a shortfall of 60,900 having been identified up to 2036. Some provision will need to be made in adjoining areas to help meet Birmingham's needs and also address a cumulative shortfall across the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area, some of which relates directly to Cannock Chase District. A recent study¹ has identified areas of search for Local Plan reviews to test further in terms of how they might accommodate a proportion of the shortfall, although it does not specify how much each Local Authority should take. The study found that by initially maximising urban capacity (including brownfield sites) and then applying minimum densities, the shortfall can be significantly reduced but that Green Belt release will still need to be looked at. None of the areas of search identified in the study are within Cannock Chase District, although options relating to smaller extensions to existing settlements in the south east of the District will need to be explored. It is not yet possible for Cannock Chase Council to identify how much growth might be able to be accommodated, as evidence gathering is ongoing.
- 1.6 Cannock Chase Council is also a non-constituent member of the West Midlands Combined Authority, which comprises 16 authorities² that work together across geographic boundaries and sectors seeking to develop the West Midlands economy.

¹ The Greater Birmingham HMA Strategic Growth Study produced by GL Hearn and Wood (February 2018)

² Constituent local authorities: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton. Non constituent local authorities: Cannock Chase, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, Redditch, Rugby, Shropshire, Stratford-upon-Avon, Tamworth, Telford & Wrekin.

Cannock Chase Local Plan

- 1.7 Cannock Chase Council adopted its Local Plan (Part 1) in June 2014, which contains the Core Strategy for the District and the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan. The Local Plan (Part 1) sets out the planning strategy for Cannock Chase up to 2028.
- 1.8 Once the Core Strategy and Area Action Plan had been adopted, the Council commenced preparation of other documents which together with the Core Strategy were intended at that time to comprise the Local Plan. This included the Local Plan (Part 2) which would include site specific allocations and standards to be applied to manage development in line with and to help deliver the strategic policy in the Local Plan (Part 1). Part 2 of the Local Plan would also safeguard any land required for development after the end of the Plan period. An Area Action Plan for Cannock Town Centre was also being separately prepared to complement the Local Plan (Part 2).
- 1.9 An Issues and Options consultation for the Local Plan (Part 2) took place between January and March 2017. Following that consultation the Council decided that, rather than continuing with the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) as originally intended, a full new Local Plan would instead be prepared which would also replace the adopted Local Plan (Part 1). The reason for this was that, due to changes to the national planning system, some parts of the Local Plan (Part 1) will soon be out of date. The work carried out to date on the Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 is being utilised and built on as relevant during the preparation of the new Local Plan. This includes the SA/SEA, HRA, HIA and EqIA work.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.10 Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, SA is mandatory for Development Plan Documents (DPDs). For these documents it is also necessary to conduct an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC). Therefore, it is a legal requirement for the Cannock Chase Local Plan to be subject to SA and SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.11 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both using a single appraisal process (as advocated in the National Planning Practice Guidance³), whereby users can comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive through a single integrated SA process – this is the approach that is being taken in Cannock Chase. From here on, the term 'SA' should therefore be taken to mean 'SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive'.
- 1.12 SA work was previously undertaken in relation to both the adopted Local Plan (Part 1) and the emerging Local Plan (Part 2). For the Local Plan (Part 2), a Scoping Report was prepared in August 2016 and a full SA Report for the Issues and Options consultation was published in January 2017. That previous SA work is being brought forward and built on as appropriate during the SA of the new Local Plan – this Scoping Report is based on the August 2016 Scoping Report but has been revised and updated. The work originally presented in the August 2016 report has been amended to reflect the scope of the plan now being prepared and updated to take into account the latest evidence sources as well as the consultation comments received in 2016. Comments that were received during the consultation on the SA Report for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options have also been taken into account as relevant, where they relate to aspects of the Scoping work.
- 1.13 The SA process comprises a number of stages, with Scoping being Stage A as shown in **Figure 1.1** below:

Figure 1.1: Main stages of Sustainability Appraisal

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

³ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-and-how-does-it-relate-to-strategic-environmental-assessment/>

Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
 Stage D: Consulting on the preferred options for the Local Plan and the SA report
 Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

1.14 **Figure 1.2** below sets out the tasks involved in the Scoping stage.

Figure 1.2: Stages in SA scoping (Stage A)

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives.
 A2: Collecting baseline information.
 A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems.
 A4: Developing the SA framework
 A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

Meeting the requirements of the SEA Directive

1.15 This Scoping Report includes some of the required elements of the final 'Environmental Report' (the output required by the SEA Directive). **Table 1.1** below signposts the relevant sections of the Scoping Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements (the remainder will be met during subsequent stages of the SA of the Cannock Chase Local Plan). This table will be included in the full SA Report at each stage of the SA to show how the SEA Directive requirements have been met through the SA process.

Table 1.1: Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
Preparation of an environmental report in which 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, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given is (Art. 5 and Annex I):	The full SA Report for the Cannock Chase Local Plan will constitute the 'environmental report', and will be produced at a later stage in the SA process.
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix 1.
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Chapters 3 and 4.
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Chapter 3.
d) 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 and 92/43/EEC.;	Chapter 3.
e) 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 taken into account during its preparation;	Chapter 2 and Appendix 1.
f) 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. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects);	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

SEA Directive Requirements	Covered in this Scoping Report?
of implementing the plan or programme;	
h) 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;	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
The report shall 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)	This Scoping Report and the Environmental Reports will adhere to this requirement.
Consultation:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report (Art. 5.4) 	Consultation with the relevant statutory environmental bodies is being undertaken in relation to this Scoping Report between July and August 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> authorities with environmental 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 report before the adoption of the plan or programme (Art. 6.1, 6.2) 	Public consultation on the first iteration of the new Cannock Chase Local Plan (Issues and Options) is currently proposed for early 2019. Prior to that, an initial Regulation 18 consultation (Issues and Scope) will be held in summer 2018 although this will not include options for the plan or draft policies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). 	Not relevant as there will be no effects beyond the UK from the Cannock Chase Local Plan.
Taking the environmental 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the plan or programme as adopted a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental 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) 	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.
Monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the plan's or programme's implementation (Art. 10)	Requirement will be met at a later stage in the SA process.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.16 Under Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) land-use plans, including Development Plan Documents, are also subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site.

- 1.17 The HRA for the Cannock Chase Local Plan is being undertaken by LUC on behalf of the Council, drawing on the HRA work undertaken previously in relation to the Local Plan (Parts 1 and 2) where appropriate. While the HRA will be reported on separately to the SA, the findings will be taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of the Local Plan on biodiversity).

Health Impact Assessment

- 1.18 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. HIA of the Cannock Chase Local Plan will be carried out and integrated into the SA and will make recommendations for how the health-related impacts of the Local Plan can be optimised as the options are developed into detailed policies. This is consistent with the approach that was taken to HIA during the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2).

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 1.19 The requirement to undertake formal Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) of plans was introduced in the Equality Act 2010, but was abolished in 2012 as part of a Government bid to reduce bureaucracy. Despite this, authorities are still required to have regard to the provisions of the Equality Act, namely the Public Sector Duty which requires public authorities to have due regard for equalities considerations when exercising their functions.
- 1.20 In fulfilling this duty, many authorities still find it useful to produce a written record of equality issues having been specifically considered. Therefore, an EqIA will be carried out and presented as an appendix to the SA report, setting out how the Local Plan is likely to be compatible or incompatible with the duties that Cannock Chase Council must perform under the Equalities Act 2010. This is consistent with the approach that was taken to EqIA during the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2).

Structure of the Scoping Report

- 1.21 This chapter has described the background to the production of the Cannock Chase Local Plan and the requirement to undertake SA and other assessment processes. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:
- **Chapter 2** describes the review of plans, policies and programmes of relevance to the SA of the Local Plan (this is supported by more detailed information in **Appendix 1**).
 - **Chapter 3** presents the baseline information which will inform the assessment of the policies and sites in the emerging Local Plan.
 - **Chapter 4** identifies the key environmental, social and economic issues and problems in Cannock Chase of relevance to the Local Plan and considers the likely evolution of those issues without its implementation.
 - **Chapter 5** presents the SA framework that will be used for the appraisal of the Local Plan and the proposed method for carrying out the SA, including the HIA and EqIA.
 - **Chapter 6** describes the next steps to be undertaken in the SA of the Local Plan.

2 Relevant Plans and Policies

2.1 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires:

(a) "an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes"; and

(e) "the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"

2.2 In order to establish a clear scope for the SA it is necessary to review and develop an understanding of the environmental, social and economic objectives contained within international and national policies, plans and strategies that are of relevance to the emerging Cannock Chase Local Plan. Given the SEA Directive requirements above, it is also necessary to consider the relationship between the Local Plan and other relevant plans, policies and programmes.

2.3 The review of relevant plans and policies presented in this chapter and in **Appendix 1** is drawn from the August 2016 SA Scoping Report for the Local Plan (Part 2) and has been updated to take into account the latest situation. Comments received during the consultation on the Issues and Options SA Report for the Local Plan (Part 2) have also been taken into account as relevant.

Relationship between the Cannock Chase Local Plan and other plans and programmes

2.4 The Cannock Chase Local Plan must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the requirements of which are described in detail in the next section.

2.5 The Local Plan will identify the overall scale of development for Cannock Chase, including where development should take place. It will include detailed policies to ensure that development takes place in a sustainable way and will make specific allocations for sites to be developed.

2.6 The standards and site allocations to be included in the Local Plan will also need to take account of the wide range of plans that currently exist at the sub-regional and local levels which provide context for the emerging plan.

District-level planning policy

2.7 Cannock Chase District Council has adopted, or is in the process of preparing, a number of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) including the adopted Design SPD, an adopted Developer Contributions and Housing Choices SPD and an adopted Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD (jointly produced with Lichfield District Council). In addition, there is an ongoing programme of preparing Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plan SPDs for a number of the Conservation Areas in the District. The Local Plan will need to take account of this policy.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.8 Three Neighbourhood Plans are currently in the process of being prepared within the District (Hednesford, Brereton and Ravenhill, and Norton Canes), and other such plans are also underway in neighbouring districts/boroughs. These will be subject to their own SEA processes where required, but regard will need to be had to them as they need to be in broad conformity with the Local Plan.

AONB Management Plan

2.9 Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014–2019 has been produced by the Cannock Chase AONB Partnership, which is led by a Joint Committee of local authorities in whose area the AONB falls. The Management Plan provides the strategic direction of the conservation and enhancement

of the AONB. The processes of SEA and HRA have been undertaken in relation to the Management Plan as it has been produced. The current AONB Management Plan is in the process of being updated and the updated document will be referred to as relevant in the SA once it has been published.

Neighbouring Local Plans

- 2.10 Throughout the preparation of the Local Plan and the SA process, consideration will be given to the local plans being prepared by the authorities around Cannock Chase District. The development proposed in those authorities could give rise to in-combination effects with the effects of the Cannock Chase Local Plan, and the effects of the various plans may travel across local authority boundaries. There are four authorities that border Cannock Chase: Stafford, South Staffordshire, Lichfield and Walsall, with the latter sharing a joint Core Strategy with the other Black Country Authorities of Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley (a Black Country Local Plan Review is currently underway with Issues and Options having been consulted on in 2017). Furthermore there are potentially wider reaching impacts across the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area and the various LEP and West Midlands Combined Authority geographies.

Environmental, Social and Economic Objectives Relevant to the Cannock Chase Local Plan

- 2.11 There are a wide range of plans, policies and programmes at the international and national levels that are relevant to the emerging Cannock Chase Local Plan. The full review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in **Appendix 1** and the key components are summarised below.

Key international plans, policies and programmes

- 2.12 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 SEA and HRA to be undertaken in relation to the emerging Local Plan. These processes should be undertaken iteratively and integrated into the production of the Local Plan in order to ensure that any potential negative environmental effects (including on European-level nature conservation designations) are identified and can be mitigated.
- 2.13 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 **Appendix 1** for completeness.

Key national plans, policies and programmes

- 2.14 There is also a wide range of national level plans, policies and programmes with relevant objectives for the SA, which are summarised in **Appendix 1**. However, the most significant development in terms of the policy context for the emerging Local Plan has been the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012 and the subsequent publication of the online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)⁴ in 2014, which replace and streamline the former suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs). The Cannock Chase Local Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:

"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 policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."

- 2.15 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order 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.

⁴ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

- 2.16 One of the core planning principles set out in the NPPF is that planning should take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Other core planning principles are linked to health – such as design and transportation. Section 8 of the NPPF recognises that the planning system can play an important role in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.
- 2.17 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.
- 2.18 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this 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.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1 On 5th March 2018, the Government published the [Draft National Planning Policy Framework](#). The NPPF review proposes changes to the following key areas:
- Making efficient use of land by:
 - promoting the use of under-utilised land/ buildings and the air space above existing residential and commercial premises;
 - promoting minimum density standards in town and city centres and around transport hubs;
 - proposing to reallocate land where there is no reasonable prospect of an allocated use being realised;
 - making it easier to convert retail/ employment land to housing where appropriate; and
 - encouraging local authorities to be pro-active in bringing forward brownfield land, using the full range of powers available to them.
 - Protecting the Green Belt, albeit with the following exceptions:

- brownfield land in the Green Belt can be used for development that would contribute to meeting an identified local affordable housing need 'where there is no substantial harm to openness';
 - new criteria will need to be satisfied before 'exceptional circumstances' can be demonstrated to change Green Belt boundaries. These relate to promoting higher density development on brownfield land, including across administrative boundaries; and
 - material changes of use that will not result in harm to the openness of the Green Belt will be permitted.
- Improving affordability and addressing the need for housing by:
 - proposing to convert the small sites exemption and Vacant Buildings Credit (VBC) into policy, with affordable housing not being sought for developments that are 'not on major sites' other than in rural areas, where policies may set a threshold of five units or fewer;
 - proposing that at least 10% of homes should be available for affordable home ownership, where major housing development is proposed; and
 - promoting sites dedicated to first-time buyers, Build to Rent homes with 'family-friendly tenancies', guaranteed affordable homes for key workers and adapted homes for older people.
 - Speeding up housing delivery by:
 - proposing implementation of a standard methodology for housing needs assessments;
 - proposing measures to incentivise local planning authorities to keep their 5-year housing land supply up-to-date;
 - proposing that LPAs consider the use of planning conditions to bring forward development within two years;
 - proposing that local planning authorities should ensure that at least 20% of the sites allocated for housing in their plans are of half a hectare or less, to make SMEs more competitive; and
 - outlining a 'recommended approach' towards viability assessments – to be further defined, including the use of review mechanisms to capture increases in value.

2.2 In addition, the Government is introducing a new housing delivery test, the consequences of failing which are set out in the draft revised NPPF. The test is an annual measurement of housing delivery performance, calculated as a percentage by dividing the total net homes delivered over a three year period by the total number of homes required over that same period.

2.3 At the time of writing it remains to be seen how the proposed changes to the NPPF will be finalised, following the outcomes of the consultation. Any further developments in terms of changes to national policy will be taken into account in later stages of the SA for the Local Plan.

3 Baseline Information

- 3.1 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the likely sustainability effects of a plan and helps to identify key sustainability issues and means of dealing with them.
- 3.2 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:
- (a) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
 - (b) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
 - (c) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'].*
- 3.3 Baseline information that was collated for the SA of the Local Plan (Part 1) and updated during the preparation of the Scoping Report and full SA report for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options has been used as the starting point. However, where necessary, it has been revised and updated to make use of the most recent available information sources. Consultation comments received in relation to the SA report for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options have also been taken into account where relevant. Unless otherwise referenced, text has been used from the 2013 SA Report for the Local Plan (Part 1).
- 3.4 Data referred to have been chosen primarily for regularity and consistency of collection, in order to enable trends in the baseline situation to be established, and also subsequent monitoring of potential sustainability effects.

Baseline information

Geography

- 3.5 Cannock Chase District is situated in southern Staffordshire on the northern edge of the West Midlands conurbation. The town of Cannock is 10 miles from Walsall, 10 miles from Stafford, 12 miles from Wolverhampton and 18 miles from Birmingham. Cannock Chase is the second smallest district in Staffordshire after Tamworth, extending 9.4 miles north to south and 6 miles west south west to east south east with a total area of 7,888 ha. The District acts as a strategic link between wider Staffordshire and the West Midlands urban area.
- 3.6 Over half of the District is designated Green Belt, and it also contains the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These designations act as significant constraints to development and have influenced the overall spatial strategy set out in the Local Plan (Part 1), which focuses most new development within the existing urban areas of Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes, with smaller proportions to Rugeley and Norton Canes
- 3.7 The pattern of growth of the urban areas of the District was historically associated with coal mining and more recently (since the 1960s) the substantial growth in residential development to meet both local and regional needs. There are three main urban centres in the District; Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley.
- 3.8 The District is well served by the major national highway network, particularly since the opening of the M6 Toll motorway in December 2003, with its junction at Churchbridge. Key north/south routes are provided by the A34 and A460 whilst the A5 and A51, A513 and A5190 provide links to the east and west.
- 3.9 The five main rivers in the District are the River Trent, Rising Brook, Ridings Brook, Saredon Brook and Wash Brook. The River Trent forms the District boundary to the north east, Ridings

Brook is in the south west corner of the District and Saredon Brook forms part of the District boundary in the south-west. Wash Brook is located at the southern end of Cannock Chase District while Rising Brook runs through Rugeley.

Climate Change, Energy Consumption and Energy Efficiency

- 3.10 Climate change has the potential not only to affect the environment, but also the social and economic aspects of life in Cannock Chase. Although the precise nature of environmental changes is not fully understood, changes to precipitation patterns (and river flow) and rising sea level have significant implications. Conversely, predicted dry, hot summers could cause problems of low flows for some of the rivers in the area. Additionally, climate change could have a significant impact on agriculture and wildlife throughout the whole area. The UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) show that in 2050 the climate in the West Midlands will be warmer with wetter winters and drier summers than at present⁵. Specifically:
- Under the medium emissions scenario, the increase in winter mean temperature is estimated to be 2.1°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 3.2°C.
 - Under the medium emissions scenario, the increase in summer mean temperature is estimated to be 2.6°C; it is very unlikely to be less than 1.2°C and is very unlikely to be more than 4.4°C.
 - Under the medium emissions scenario, the change in winter mean precipitation is estimated to be 13.0%; it is very unlikely to be less than 2.0% and is very unlikely to be more than 27.0%.
 - Under the medium emissions scenario, the change in summer mean precipitation is estimated to be -17.0%; it is very unlikely to be less than -37% and is very unlikely to be more than 6.0%.
- 3.11 The Renewable Energy Capacity Study for the West Midlands⁶ was prepared to develop the evidence base for renewable energy capacity within the West Midlands authorities up to 2030 in order to help local authorities maximise their contribution towards the UK target of generating 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. The study reveals a potential renewable energy resource of 54.2GW by 2030 for the West Midlands as a whole. The majority of the resource is made up of wind (71%), followed by microgeneration (25%), with biomass and hydropower contributing much more modest proportions (3% biomass and less than 1% hydropower). For Cannock Chase, the assessment shows that the District has a potential renewable energy capacity of 394MW, which is around 0.7% of the total capacity identified for West Midlands. There is considerable potential for renewable energy generation from microgeneration, as well as some wind potential. The Study highlighted the potential for co-firing of biomass at the Rugeley Power Station; however proposals for this have since been scrapped. Rugeley Power Station has now closed (June 2016) and options for the future use of the site are currently under consideration. In terms of existing provision there is an unmanned electricity generating power station powered by methane gas at the Poplars landfill site and also a facility at the reclaimed Grove Colliery site.
- 3.12 During the period 2016-2017 Cannock Chase Council reported that one renewable/low carbon energy scheme was granted planning permission – this was the installation of a ground source heat pump. In the District there are currently 300 photovoltaic (PV) systems installed. At present there is also installed capacity for approximately 7.3MW of electricity generation from the Poplars landfill gas scheme which provides power to the leachate treatment plant and pumps. This site also has an estimated capacity of 6.5MW from an anaerobic digestion facility which is linked to the adjoining Sainsbury's store (at Orbital Retail Park) and provides electricity via local connection. Other schemes in the District include Cannock Chase Hospital Combined Heat and Power system and Wyrley Grove Landfill electricity generation from landfill gas⁷.

⁵ UK Climate Projections (August 2014; Accessed March 2018) Maps & key findings Online at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23767?emission=medium>

⁶ Telford and Wrekin Council (March 2011) The Renewable Energy Capacity Study for the West Midlands

⁷ Cannock Chase Council (May 2018) Authority's Monitoring Report 2016-2017

- 3.13 The latest Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy figures⁸ are set out in **Table 3.1** and show generally decreasing trends for CO₂ emissions (kilotonnes) in Cannock Chase from 2005 to 2015. The decreasing trend in emissions reflects the decrease in overall emissions for the UK during this period. Over this same ten year period, carbon dioxide emissions in the West Midlands fell 26% from 8.4tCO₂ per capita to 5.8tCO₂ per capita which was a decrease of 26%. Across the UK the decrease was recorded as 27% for this period⁹.
- 3.14 The main drivers of the decrease in UK emissions in 2015 were changes in the fuel mix for electricity generation, with a decrease in the use of coal and more use of nuclear and renewables. This is similar to the main drivers which resulted in decreases in emissions in the UK up to 2015, although reductions in industrial combustion and increased efficiencies in passenger cars were also noted to have played a significant role. Emissions for many local authorities are heavily influenced by activities at industrial sites, and changes at a single site can have a big impact on emissions trends¹⁰. The recent closure of Rugeley Power Station will be significant in this context.
- 3.15 In addition, the latest Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy figures¹¹ for energy consumption (in thousand tonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe)) per consuming sector and household from 2005 to 2015 in Cannock Chase are set out in **Table 3.2**. There has been a general decreasing trend in energy consumption as well as CO₂ emissions between 2005 and 2015. This also reflects a steady year on year decrease in total energy consumption in Great Britain with the only anomaly occurring between 2009 and 2010, when there was a small increase due to the particularly cold winter that year resulting in a higher consumption of fuels used for heating purposes. The decreasing trend is in part a result of a decrease in average domestic consumption of electricity across the UK. This is evident in figures available for the West Midlands which has seen the largest decrease (over 900kWh) of the regions in the UK in terms of average domestic consumption between 2005 and 2015. The trend for a decrease in energy consumption in the UK has been attributed to a number of different variables including weather conditions; energy efficiency improvements, such as increased levels of insulation, new boilers and more energy efficient appliances; increased energy prices; the recession; changes in the building stock; increases in solar photovoltaic self-generation by household, and household composition¹².

Table 3.1: Source of CO₂ Emissions in Cannock Chase by Sector (2005-2015)

Year	Industry and Commercial (kt CO ₂)	Domestic (kt CO ₂)	Transport (kt CO ₂)	Total (kt CO ₂)	Per Capita Emissions (t)
Cannock Chase District					
2005	220.5	246.4	129.5	595.5	6.3
2006	220.3	249.7	128.5	597.3	6.3
2007	220.8	241.9	128.6	589.8	6.2
2008	191.5	242.9	119.4	552.1	5.8
2009	166.8	215.9	116.0	496.8	5.1
2010	189.0	230.4	115.0	532.4	5.5
2011	168.0	202.6	113.2	481.7	4.9
2012	179.2	216.3	109.1	502.5	5.1
2013	185.9	212.8	107.9	504.3	5.1
2014	154.2	169.0	109.9	430.6	4.4
2015	138.9	162.0	113.0	411.2	4.2

⁸ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (June 2017) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005-2015. . Online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

⁹ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (June 2017) Local authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2015

¹⁰ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (June 2015) Local Authority carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2013

¹¹ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (September 2017) Total sub-national final energy consumption, 2015

¹² Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (January 2018) Sub-national Electricity and gas consumption statistics

Table 3.2: Energy Consumption in Cannock Chase by Sector (2005-2015)

Year	Industry and Commercial (ktoe)	Domestic (ktoe)	Transport (ktoe)	Total (ktoe)
2005	58.2	82.8	36.2	177.3
2006	56.1	81.6	36.8	174.7
2007	57.3	79.8	37.0	174.3
2008	50.0	76.9	35.2	162.2
2009	46.0	71.0	34.6	151.7
2010	50.2	70.3	34.0	154.8
2011	46.9	67.1	33.8	147.9
2012	45.9	66.4	32.4	144.9
2013	49.5	65.1	32.2	147.3
2014	44.6	61.0	32.8	139.4
2015	43.34	57.8	33.9	139.2

Environment and Biodiversity

Landscape

- 3.16 The Review of Cannock Chase Landscape Character Assessment¹³ splits the District up into seven landscape character types (LCT):
- Forest Heathlands (New LCT);
 - Sandstone Hills and Heaths (Formerly called Wooded Estatelands);
 - Settled Heathlands (New LCT);
 - Settled Farmlands (Includes a small area of Settled Plateau Farmlands);
 - Coalfield Farmlands;
 - Planned Coalfield Farmlands (New LCT defined in original District LCA); and,
 - River Meadowlands.
- 3.17 The District includes the high dissected sandstone plateau of Cannock Chase, the northern part of the Black Country plateau and lower fringing landscape of softer Permo-Triassic sandstones and mudstones. The coalfield area is largely covered by glacial till, which gives rise to heavy, poorly drained soils originally covered with heathland.
- 3.18 Cannock Chase is dominated by lowland heathland and coniferous woodland. There are extensive coniferous woodland plantations in Cannock Chase. In the surrounding landscapes there is a mixture of ancient, plantation and secondary woodlands.
- 3.19 There are open arable areas with low hedges, areas of smaller hedged fields and large unenclosed areas in Cannock Chase. Generally mixed farming, together with horticulture is the main agricultural land use, with more demanding crops such as potatoes and sugar beet on the higher quality land. Grassland supporting dairying and other livestock enterprises is generally concentrated further north.
- 3.20 Streams drain radially from the high ground around Cannock to the surrounding rivers of the Penk, Sow and Trent. There is a strongly contrasting settlement pattern with some areas densely populated, while others are unpopulated and 'wild'. There are many industrial and archaeological features.
- 3.21 Cannock Chase is England's smallest AONB at 68 square kilometres and 39% falls within the District. Cannock Chase AONB is the largest surviving area of lowland heath in the Midlands. Lowland heath is an internationally scarce and threatened wildlife habitat. The AONB also has extensive areas of forest, and woodland along with areas of designated parkland, sand and gravel quarrying and mixed agriculture. The core of the AONB is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and parts of the AONB are a designated Special Area of Conservation

¹³ Cannock Chase Council (November 2016) Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District

(SAC). The presence of Cannock Chase SAC within the AONB has a major impact on accommodating future housing needs as there is a need to ensure no harm arises to the SAC.

- 3.22 The Review of AONB Landscape Character Framework¹⁴ identified that there are nine LCTs within the AONB as follows:
- Forest Heathlands;
 - Sandstone Hills and Heaths;
 - Settled Heathlands;
 - Sandstone Estatelands;
 - Settled Plateau Farmland;
 - Settled Farmlands;
 - River Meadowlands;
 - Coalfield Farmlands; and
 - Planned Coalfield Farmlands
- 3.23 The LCT Forest Heathlands, which is strongly associated with the high plateau of Cannock Chase, is the most widespread within the AONB occupying much of the central core of the land within its boundaries.
- 3.24 The AONB Management Plan¹⁵ sets out the approach that will be taken to conserving and enhancing the AONB over the period 2014-2019. It lists the following as high level objectives for the AONB:
- Develop Cannock Chase AONB as a special, peaceful and tranquil place for everyone who lives in, works within or visits the area.
 - Conserve and enhance the distinctive and nationally important landscape of Cannock Chase AONB and the locally, nationally and internationally important biodiversity and geodiversity it supports, ensuring links between habitats within the AONB and surrounding landscape.
 - Develop a place valued and understood by everyone who comes into contact with Cannock Chase AONB, so that they can contribute positively to the shaping of its future.
 - Ensure a safe, clean and tranquil environment that can contribute to a high and sustainable quality of life.
 - Support a balance between a working landscape where prosperity and opportunity increase, biodiversity flourishes and pressure upon natural resources is diminished.
 - Create a place of enjoyment for everyone, providing opportunities for quiet recreation and maintaining ecosystems that contribute positively to physical and mental well-being.
 - Maintain and develop a successful partnership, working together to manage Cannock Chase AONB effectively.
- 3.25 Many parts of the District's landscape are also recognised for their role in providing green infrastructure. The following areas are recognised to fulfil this role:
- Cannock Chase AONB (including Country Parks, SACs and SSSIs).
 - Cannock Extension Canal SAC, which plays an important role in providing a green corridor.
 - Hednesford Hills, Hazelslade, Hawks Green and Mill Green Valley Local Nature Reserves and all Sites of Biological Importance.
 - Cannock Chase District Green Space Network (particularly where the space forms a distinct, vital role i.e. flood risk management).
 - Trent and Mersey Canal and River Trent corridor.

¹⁴ Cannock Chase AONB Unit (August 2017) Review of AONB Landscape Character Framework

¹⁵ Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee, Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014-2019

- Parts of the Green Belt, namely planned coalfield landscapes to the north and east of Norton Canes and Wimblebury; heath landscapes to the east and north of Hednesford and Wimblebury; wooded estate lands and heath landscapes to the south of Rugeley and Brereton (leading into the Cannock Chase AONB).
- Chasewater Country Park (Lichfield District).

3.26 In addition, there are important linkages between other areas such as Cannock Chase and Sutton Park.

Green Belt

3.27 Approximately 60% of Cannock Chase District is located within the West Midlands Green Belt. The Green Belt was designated to prevent the sprawl of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry, the merging of surrounding towns and encroachment into the surrounding countryside. It has also helped to preserve the setting and special character the main urban areas, as well as smaller settlements. At a strategic level, the Green Belt, tightly drawn around settlements, has helped to encourage regeneration by directing development to brownfield sites within the major urban areas. The Green Belt also plays a fundamental role in providing green open spaces for formal and informal recreation, which are visually important. Most of these spaces are accessible to the public, and some provide important wildlife habitats.

3.28 The Local Plan (Part 1) refers to the need for the Local Plan (Part 2) to undertake a Green Belt review in order to inform the safeguarding of land for potential development beyond the plan period to help meet future District needs. It also states that safeguarding or identification of sites may be required to help address Birmingham's housing needs. A Green Belt Review¹⁶ was therefore undertaken to inform the evidence base for the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) and will continue to inform the evidence base for the full new Local Plan now that the Local Plan (Part 2) is no longer being prepared. It has demonstrated that the majority of the Green Belt in the District continues to serve its purposes very well, and alongside other national and international designations, it helps to maintain the identity of this part of the West Midlands and provides opportunities for residents to enjoy the countryside close at hand. It is recognised that the Council will gather additional evidence, in relation to topics such as ecology, heritage and flooding constraints and deliverability, and will use this information alongside the results of the Green Belt study to determine appropriate locations for future development within the District.

Biodiversity

3.29 Across the UK, increasing anthropogenic demands on our environment have led to a significant decline in biodiversity. Staffordshire is no exception and has suffered large losses of habitats and species through the increasing pressures of urban development and post-war agricultural intensification. This is of particular concern because Staffordshire is rich in biodiversity and supports a wide range of both nationally and internationally protected species. Due to its location within the UK, Staffordshire contains many species at the northern or southern edge of their distributions making them especially sensitive to environmental change¹⁷.

3.30 There is no entirely 'natural' habitat left in Staffordshire as it has all been influenced to some extent by human activity. Forms of management include agriculturally improved grassland, arable fields and conifer plantations. Lower intensity types of management result in land which usually supports the greatest level of biodiversity. These are referred to as semi-natural habitats and within Staffordshire¹⁸ include:

- Broadleaved Woodland;
- Wood-pasture and parkland;
- Hedgerows;
- Grasslands;

¹⁶ LUC (March 2016) Cannock Chase Green Belt Study

¹⁷ Staffordshire Biodiversity Partnership, (2011) Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan,

¹⁸ Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire Wildlife Sites Partnership (December 2017) Guidelines for the selection of Local Wildlife Sites in Staffordshire

- Heathland;
 - Standing water;
 - Streams and rivers; and
 - Wetlands.
- 3.31 The UKBAP priority habitat types within the Cannock Chase District are lowland heathland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, lowland dry acid grassland and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.
- 3.32 Three SSSIs are located partially or wholly within Cannock Chase District. These include Cannock Extension Canal (5.15 ha), Cannock Chase (1,264.3 ha, of which around 391ha is within Cannock Chase District with the remainder in Stafford District), and Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths (530.33 ha, of which around 265ha is within Cannock Chase District with the remainder in Lichfield District). The percentage of each SSSI which was identified as being in favourable condition for the year 2016-2017¹⁹ is as follows:
- Cannock Chase – 5.4%
 - Cannock Extension Canal – 41.1%
 - Chasewater and the Southern Staffs Coalfield Heaths – 3.81%
- 3.33 Two Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive, are located within the District. Cannock Chase SAC is designated primarily for its European Dry Heaths, with Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths also present, but not a primary reason for selection of the site. Cannock Extension Canal SAC runs from the very south of the district up to Norton Canes (just south of the A5) and is designated as an example of lowland habitat supporting floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) at the eastern limit of the plant's natural distribution in England. Both were designated on the 1st April 2005. The Council reported that for the year 2016-2017 the percentage of SSSIs/SACs in favourable condition had been maintained from the previous reporting year.
- 3.34 There are three Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in the District. Hazel Slade (12.7 ha) represents an area of secondary woodland, pool and wetland and agriculturally unimproved grasslands on the edge of Cannock Chase AONB. Hednesford Hills (100 ha) is regarded as a "leading light" in heathland conservation in the West Midlands (and is also part of the Chasewater and the Southern Staffordshire Coalfield Heaths SSSI). Mill Green and Hawks Green Valley (31 ha) contains hay meadows, rush pastures, woodlands and wetland. Staffordshire also has a Geodiversity Action Plan (2004) which aims to conserve, through partnership working, important geological sites in the District, such as the Etching Hill Local Geological Site (formerly known as a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)) at Etching Hill, Rugeley, and the Cannock Chase Pebble Beds. Such sites also often have high biodiversity value and in the case of the Triassic period Pebble Beds, heathland biodiversity.
- 3.35 There are several areas of Ancient Woodland within the District, including to the west of Cannock and south of Rugeley. In addition, there are approximately 30 Sites of Biological Interest (SBIs) located throughout the District. These are sites of County-level importance and are considered to have substantive nature conservation value.
- 3.36 The River Trent forms the northern most boundary of the District and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal crosses this waterbody to run into the north of Cannock Chase at Rugeley. Rising Brook also flows into Rugeley but does so from the south. The Cannock Extension Canal passes into the south east of the District to the south of Norton Canes and the M6 Toll motorway from the Pelsall Junction on the Wyrley and Essington Canal. Kingswood Lake is also located in the southern portion of Cannock Chase into which a number of smaller waterbodies empty, including Newlands brook. Other important waterbodies in the District include Wyrley Brook and Ridings Brook which are to the south west by Rumer Hill.

¹⁹ Cannock Chase Council (May 2018) Authority's Monitoring Report 2016-2017

Historic Environment

- 3.37 The modern historic landscape character of the District is dominated by several historic landscape character types. Woodland represents approximately 28% of land use within the District, with coniferous woodland accounting for 61% of all the woodland. Settlement represents 23% of the land use, 89% of which was constructed within the 20th century. If Industrial and Extractive land use is included under the Settlement character category then the coverage is approximately 34% of the District. Fieldscapes cover 26% of the District.
- 3.38 The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) database holds information on the county's archaeological and historic sites, monuments and buildings. Historic Landscape Character (carried out by Staffordshire County Council in partnership with English Heritage (now Historic England)) and HER data form the basis of the Historic Environment Character Assessment for Cannock Chase.
- 3.39 This work was initially undertaken in 2009 to form part of the evidence base for the options assessment of the Cannock Chase Core Strategy. The Historic Environment Character Assessment Addendum for Cannock Chase was produced in 2017 to take account of the additional options which had been brought forward as part of the local planning process. This work assessed 13 additional areas at Cannock and six additional areas at Rugeley. Of those additional areas assessed, those identified as having a moderate or moderate/high value in terms of heritage assets present (and therefore with less potential to accommodate development without adverse effects on heritage assets) were CHECZ 24: Cannock Wood (Cannock), CHECZ 30: Watling Street (Cannock), RHECZ 13: Rising Brook (Rugeley) and RHECZ 14: Brereton (Rugeley)²⁰.
- 3.40 The District has 74 Listed Buildings, none of which are defined as "buildings at risk" by Historic England²¹. Of these Listed Buildings, 66 are Grade II and eight are Grade II*²². The relatively small number means that they are important to the District. There are eight Conservation Areas in the District, covering 45.7 hectares, including Cannock Town Centre, Rugeley Town Centre, Church Street, Rugeley, The Trent and Mersey Canal (a Conservation Area throughout Staffordshire), Bridgtown (North Street), Brereton (Main Road), Talbot Street/Lichfield Street, Rugeley and Sheepfair/Bow Street, Rugeley. None are identified as being at risk by Historic England. .
- 3.41 In addition, there are four Scheduled Monuments in the District, including Courts Bank Covert Dam (Metal Working Site) (Cannock Wood), Castle Ring Iron Age Hill Fort (Cannock Wood), Churchyard Cross (St. Luke's Church, Cannock) and a World War I Model of a Trench System (Penkrige Bank, Brindley Heath)²³. None are identified by Historic England as being at risk.
- 3.42 There is evidence for considerable and potentially significant late medieval/early post-medieval industrial activity taking place in the southern area of Cannock Chase. This includes a coal mine held by the Bishops of Lichfield in Beaudesert Park in the 14th century. Within the park there are the remains of numerous bell pits, from which coal and/or ironstone was extracted. Known sites for Post medieval iron working were concentrated upon several brooks towards the north of the District, notable including Rising Brook. As such there is potential for further sites of archaeological value within the District²⁴.
- 3.43 There are also a number of non-designated sites of local historical and archaeological value that are of importance but are vulnerable to loss and alteration due to their non-designated status. Cannock Chase Council has identified the opportunity to develop a Local List of undesignated heritage assets that are valued by the local community in contributing to the special qualities of the area. As part of the consultation undertaken during the preparation of the recently adopted Design Supplementary Planning Document (April 2016) the proposal to develop a Local List was supported; however this has not yet been progressed further due to resource constraints.

²⁰ Staffordshire County Council (February 2017) Historic Environment Character Assessment Addendum

²¹ Historic England (October 2017), Heritage at Risk West Midlands Register 2017

²² Historic England, National Heritage List for England Online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

²³ Historic England, National Heritage List for England Online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

²⁴ Staffordshire County Council (October 2009) Historic Environment Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District Council

Air, Water and Soils

Air Quality

- 3.44 The Environment Act 1995 introduced the National Air Quality Strategy and the requirement for local authorities to determine if statutory air quality objectives (AQOs) are likely to be exceeded. All local authorities now report to DEFRA on an annual basis, and have the obligation to declare Air Quality Management Areas and develop action plans for improvement of air quality if objectives are likely to be exceeded.
- 3.45 The main pollutant of concern in the Cannock Chase Council area is nitrogen dioxide, which is released into the atmosphere when fuels are burned (for example petrol in a car engine or natural gas in a domestic central heating boiler). Three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared in the District:
- A5 Watling Street in Bridgtown;
 - A5 Watling Street between Churchbridge and the Turf Island; and
 - A5190 Cannock Road, Heath Hayes²⁵.
- 3.46 The AQMA at the A5190 is located around the 'Five Ways Island' area of Heath Hayes and was the most recently declared of the District's AQMAs in March 2017. The two AQMAs along the A5 take up the entire length of the A5 in the District between the boundary with Walsall to the east and boundary with South Staffordshire to the west.
- 3.47 An action plan to achieve improved levels of air quality is in place for the AQMA at the A5 Watling Street. The levels of pollutants present at this location had in recent years been showing signs of improvement and it had previously been hoped that if the improved pollution levels were sustained, the AQMA designation for the A5 could be revoked. However, monitoring results from 2016 demonstrated that the required improvement had not yet been reached. Furthermore, the overall trend for reduced nitrogen dioxide levels over recent years in the District has seen a reverse in 2016, suggesting that factors such as weather and local traffic continue to cause year on year variations²⁶.
- 3.48 The main arterial roads in Cannock Chase consist of the M6 Toll motorway which crosses the southern part of the District, the A5 Watling Street running south east to north west across the southern section of the District, the A460 and A4601 running south west to north east through Cannock to Rugeley and crossing Cannock Chase AONB, the A34 running south to north through Cannock, the A51 at Rugeley and the A5190 running east from Cannock. The M6 Toll motorway is a trunk road operated by Midland Expressway Limited which has a 53 year concession to design, build and operate the M6 Toll motorway. Since the Infrastructure Act (2015) and the creation of Highways England, the Department for Transport have retained the highway authority status for M6 Toll motorway with Highways England carrying out some of the everyday liaison functions on the Department for Transport's behalf, however these functions are limited. The A5 is a trunk road under the responsibility of Highways England. As such these routes therefore have a different status to the other roads listed above. The major sources of pollution are associated with these roads. The most notable polluting industrial and commercial source was from Rugeley Coal Fired Power Station, which began the decommissioning process in June 2016.

Water

- 3.49 The main rivers in Cannock Chase are the River Trent, Rising Brook, Ridings Brook, Saredon Brook and Wash Brook. The risk of flooding within the District has been determined through the production of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)²⁷ which concludes that Cannock Chase has a medium risk of fluvial flooding, with high consequences. There has been no significant increase/decrease in the flood extents since 2008; however the UK has experienced two major flood events in summer 2012 and winter 2013. The watercourses within Cannock Chase impose a

²⁵ Cannock Chase Council (March 2017) Declaration Of An Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) 'Five Ways Island' Junction, A5190 Heath Hayes

²⁶ Cannock Chase Council (July 2017) 2017 Air Quality Annual Status Report

²⁷ Capita on behalf of South Staffordshire, Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council & Stafford Borough Council (June 2014) South Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Lichfield & Stafford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

fluvial flood risk to the urban areas within the District and other settlements downstream; the courses of Rising Brook in the north of the District and Ridings Brook and Wash Brook in the south are at significant risk of flooding, being located in Flood Zones 2 and 3. The SFRA identifies that surface water (pluvial) flood risk is the main source of flood risk facing Cannock Chase District, with areas at high risk including Rugeley town centre and Cannock town.

- 3.50 South Staffordshire Water Plc. supplies water to properties in the District and has a number of abstraction points within the area. In 2009/10 Owfat introduced water efficiency targets for all water companies. South Staffordshire Water was set a target of reducing demand by 0.53MI/d (each year up to 2014/15). This target has been met and exceeded by South Staffordshire Water. South Staffordshire Water is currently consulting on a new Water Resources Management Plan, which will set out in detail how it plans to secure affordable and sustainable water supply for the area while also addressing potential environmental issues which might arise over the 25 year plan period. Up to 2045 it is expected that an additional 23% increase in connected properties will result. While overall household demand for water is forecast to rise by 25 megalitres (MI) of water a day by 2044/45, per capita consumption is expected to fall from 126l/p/d to 121l/p/d up to the same period. It is also estimated the impact of climate change will result in a reduction in amount of available water by 9.5MI a day by 2045²⁸.
- 3.51 The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) objectives are to prevent deterioration of waterbodies and to improve them such that they meet the required status for that given waterbody (rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and groundwaters). Water quality enhancements are required along watercourses within the District to meet WFD targets, particularly those related to the District's wastewater treatment. Environment Agency Data reported by the Council in 2016-2017 shows that in 2016, three rivers in Cannock Chase (River Trent from River Sow to Moreton Brook, River Trent from Moreton Brook to River Tame and Rising Brook) had 'poor' ecological status while one (Saredon Brook from Source to River Penk) was 'moderate'. In terms of chemical status all four rivers were classed as 'good'²⁹. There are a number of Groundwater Source Protection Zones within Cannock Chase District, which the Environment Agency has identified to show where pollution could result in groundwater contamination. Included in these zones in the District are areas to the north, east and west of Cannock and one on the western side of Rugeley.
- 3.52 District-wide Objective 8 in the Local Plan (Part 1) refers to the findings of the Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study³⁰, which concluded that there are sufficient water resources for the level of growth proposed, although water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure upgrades may be required in places to support proposals (although these are not a barrier to development). Cannock Wastewater Treatment Works is identified as having capacity constraints which also requires early consultation on the part of developers with Severn Trent Water.

Soils

- 3.53 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)³¹ system provides a framework for classifying land according to the extent to which its physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations on agricultural use. The principal factors influencing agricultural production are climate, site and soil. These factors, together with interactions between them, form the basis for classifying land into one of five grades, where Grade 1 describes land as excellent (land of high agricultural quality and potential) and Grade 5 describes land as very poor (land of low agricultural quality and potential). Land falling outside of these scores is deemed to be 'primarily in non-agricultural use', or 'land predominantly in urban use'.
- 3.54 The majority of land within Cannock Chase is deemed to be either 'primarily in non-agricultural use' (the northern part of the District associated with the AONB) or on Grade 3 and 4 land (good to moderate or poor soil quality) typically found in the south, north and east of the District. The remaining land is in urban use.

²⁸ South Staffordshire Water (March 2018) Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019

²⁹ Cannock Chase Council (May 2018) Authority's Monitoring Report 2016-2017

³⁰ Stafford Borough, Lichfield District, Tamworth Borough, South Staffordshire District and Cannock Chase District Councils (July 2010) Southern Staffordshire Outline Water Cycle Study

³¹ Natural England (November 2011) Agricultural Land Classification map West Midlands Region

Amenity/light pollution

- 3.55 The latest light pollution map for the Cannock Chase District³² shows that it is the 211th darkest district out of the 326 within England. Proportionally, light pollution in Cannock Chase is greater when compared to Staffordshire, West Midlands and England. The District has three distinct areas over Cannock, Rugeley and Norton Canes that are within the highest levels of light pollution in the county (greater than 32 Nanowatts/cm²/sr). The darkest areas of the District (between 0.5 and 1 Nanowatts/cm²/sr) are in the north east and lie within the Cannock Chase AONB, however brighter light ranging between 1 and 8 Nanowatts/cm²/sr are recorded at the periphery of the AONB. Cannock Chase AONB is the brightest of all 34 AONBs in England, although 47% of its landmass falls in the third darkest category and there is no severe light pollution. The majority of the light spills out from the towns of Cannock, Rugeley and Stafford into the AONB.

Waste and Minerals

Waste

- 3.56 Of the 38,723 tonnes of household waste produced in Cannock Chase in 2016-2017, 45.4% was sent for reuse, recycling or composting³³. Approximately 392.1kg of waste per person was collected during this year. There was a slight decrease in waste generation per household in 2016-2017 compared to 2015-2016 levels (392.4kg per household in 2015-2016) and a slight decrease also in recycling rates (46.7% in 2015-2016). The issue of recycling is of particular concern in view of the need to reduce reliance on the major landfill site to the south of Cannock Town Centre (Poplars). The Poplars landfill is also used by a number of adjoining authorities including Lichfield District Council, Stafford District Council and South Staffordshire District Council.
- 3.57 The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan³⁴ was adopted in March 2013. It sets out the authorities' proposed strategy for developing the required waste management facilities in the Plan area and includes policies that identify how the overarching Vision for the Plan will be achieved. The four Strategic Objectives set out in the Plan cover issues including climate change mitigation, reducing reliance on landfill, improving the quality of waste management facilities and supporting economic growth.
- 3.58 The 2013 refresh of the Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy³⁵ is an update to the 2007 full strategic plan, addressing the management of municipal solid waste within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to the year 2020. It has been prepared by Staffordshire Waste Partnership (SWP), which comprises Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and eight Staffordshire District/Borough Councils, including Cannock Chase. The Strategy sets a number of core objectives including:
- To maintain zero waste to landfill and reduce the amount of local authority collected municipal and commercial residual produced in Staffordshire, benchmarked against the top 10% of residents, thus reducing the overall volume of waste that is treated, recovered, disposed, or recycled.
 - To achieve efficiency savings across SWP, thus reducing the total budget for waste management below the rate of inflation.
 - To ensure the maximisation of resource value from collected materials, as a commodity or as energy provision.
 - To reduce the total carbon emissions for waste collection, processing and disposal activities by 2% year on year, by ensuring consideration in future contracts, infrastructure and procurement decisions.

³² CPRE and LUC (June 2016) England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies: Cannock Chase District

³³ Defra (December 2017) Local Authority Collected Waste Generation from 2000/01 to 2016/17

³⁴ Staffordshire County Council and City of Stoke-on-Trent (March 2013) Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010 - 2026

³⁵ Staffordshire Waste Partnership (September 2013) 2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent (2007 - 2020)

- To provide and support appropriate infrastructure with suitable contracts that ensure value for money, by developing procurement policies to maximise efficiency & sustainability.
- To provide efficient and cost effective waste services to local residents and businesses.

Minerals

- 3.59 Staffordshire County Council adopted its Minerals Local Plan (2015-2030)³⁶ in February 2017. This has replaced the saved policies from the previous Minerals Local Plan.
- 3.60 The Minerals Local Plan identifies Minerals Safeguarding Areas throughout Staffordshire which combine to cover a large proportion of the County's area. Cannock Chase District is almost entirely within a Mineral Safeguarding Area for 'all minerals except coal and fireclays', while the southern part of the District is covered by a Minerals Safeguarding Area for coal and fireclays.

Population

- 3.61 The resident population of Cannock Chase in 2016 was estimated to be 98,500, with an almost even split between males and females (48,800 males and 49,700 females)³⁷. The population of Cannock Chase is less diverse than the national average; in 2011, 97.7% of the population in Cannock Chase was classed as white, compared with 85.9% in England & Wales³⁸.
- 3.62 The District had a marginally higher proportion of people who are of working age (63.5%) when compared to the West Midlands region (62.2%) and Great Britain as a whole (63.1%) in 2016. The proportion of working age residents who were reported as being economically active for the period January 2017 to December 2017 (85.2%) is markedly higher than the figure for the wider West Midlands region (76.4%) and the national (78.4%) figure.
- 3.63 The 2016-based Subnational Population Projections produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)³⁹ are an indicator of future trends in population making use of local authority fertility, mortality and migration assumptions using estimated values from the five years before the base projection year. These projections indicate that the Cannock Chase population will grow by 1% between mid-2016 and mid-2026. Population projections for the District also indicate that the proportion of people over the age of 65 is expected to grow from 18.6% in mid-2016 to 21.9% in mid-2026. It is expected that the over 75 age group will grow faster in Cannock Chase than the rest of the country (48% compared with 38% nationally) up to this same period. This equates to an additional 5,300 people aged 75 and over by 2026⁴⁰.
- 3.64 In 2016 Cannock Chase had a population density of 1,249 persons per square kilometre⁴¹, which is higher than the England and Wales average (387 persons per square kilometre), and the second highest in Staffordshire after Tamworth (2,496 persons per square kilometre).

Housing

- 3.65 For the year 2018 it was estimated that Cannock Chase had around 42,828 households⁴². This figure is expected to rise to approximately 47,102 households by 2039. In the year 2016, Local Authorities (including those outside of the District) owned and were responsible for 5,130 dwellings⁴³.
- 3.66 Houses in Cannock Chase on average cost £1,619 per square metre which is significantly lower than the average England and Wales of £2,395 per square metre⁴⁴. The average house price in Cannock Chase in March 2018 was recorded as £163,150, which is an increase of 5% from

³⁶ Staffordshire County Council (February 2017) The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 to 2030) .

³⁷ Nomis (Accessed May 2018) Labour Market Profile – Cannock Chase Online at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157173/report.aspx#tabrespop>

³⁸ ONS (2011) Table KS201UK Ethnic Group.

³⁹ ONS (May 2018) Subnational population projections for England: 2016-based

⁴⁰ Cannock Chase CCG (March 2017) CCG health and wellbeing profiles 2017

⁴¹ ONS (March 2018) Population Estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

⁴² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (July 2016) Household projections for England and local authority districts

⁴³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (January 2018) Dwelling stock: Number of Dwellings by Tenure and district

⁴⁴ ONS (October 2017) House prices Online at:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/housepriceshowmuchdoesonesquaremetrecostinyourarea/2017-10-11>

£155,328 in March 2017. Over the same period the national average housing price increased by 4.0% to £240,949. The Cannock Chase average house price was the second lowest in Staffordshire at the end of March 2018, after Newcastle-under-Lyme (£143,435)⁴⁵.

- 3.67 The median housing affordability ratio in Cannock Chase in 2016 was recorded as being 6.0. This is lower than the figure at a national level given that in 2016 workers across the UK could typically expect to spend around 7.6 times annual earnings on purchasing a home⁴⁶. In 1997 the figure was recorded as 3.2 for the District and 3.6 nationally. This demonstrates the trend for increasingly unaffordable homes within the District and at a national level and therefore there is a need for affordable housing in Cannock Chase.
- 3.68 The Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study⁴⁷ identifies a need for future provision to be focused on smaller dwellings suited to younger people, whilst recognising the aspirations of people to live in larger properties (3 and 4 bedrooms). The 2012 Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) conducted for Cannock Chase identified an affordable housing requirement of 197 homes per annum, which equates to over 70% of the total identified housing requirement of all tenures in the same report. This clearly demonstrates the current shortfall of affordable housing in the District⁴⁸.
- 3.69 The local housing requirement for Cannock Chase as set out in the Local Plan (Part 1) was 5,300 dwellings for the Local Plan period 2006-2028. When taking into account homes which have been completed from 2006/07 to 2016/17 (2,679 dwellings), the requirement in the Local Plan (Part 1) stood at 2,621 dwellings giving a managed delivery target of 238 dwellings per annum. The most recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)⁴⁹ produced by the Council indicated that the total recalculated five year supply of sites would accommodate 1,647 dwellings. The total recalculated SHLAA supply which would cover the plan period currently sits at 3,348 dwellings.
- 3.70 Cannock Chase forms part of the Greater Birmingham Housing Market Area (HMA) along with Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Dudley, Lichfield, North Warwickshire, Redditch, Sandwell, Solihull, South Staffordshire, Stratford upon Avon, Tamworth, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Across this area, there is a significant housing shortfall of 28,150 dwellings to 2031 and 60,900 to 2036. How much of this shortfall will need to be met in Cannock Chase District is currently uncertain but as part of the new Local Plan preparation, the Council will need to explore options for delivering some housing to meet the shortfall⁵⁰.

Health

- 3.71 The health of people in Cannock Chase is varied compared with the England average. Health deprivation is higher than average and 19.0% of children (3,300)⁵¹ live in low income families. Life expectancy between 2013 and 2015 in the District was 78.9 for men and 2.5 for women, which was slightly lower than the national averages of 79.5 and 83.1 respectively. Life expectancy is 8.9 years lower for men in the most deprived areas of Cannock Chase than in the least deprived areas, and 5.1 years lower for women in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived areas⁵². This shows a trend towards a slight decrease in local life expectancy and a slight widening of the gap since 2016 between the life expectancy of those living in the most deprived areas in the District and those living in the least deprived areas⁵³.
- 3.72 The health summary for the District shows that Cannock Chase performs significantly worse than the England average in terms of percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at the end of key stage 4; violent crimes committed against residents; episodes for alcohol-specific conditions

⁴⁵ HM Land Registry (23 May 2018) UK House Price Index England: March 2018 Online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-house-price-index-england-march-2018/uk-house-price-index-england-march-2018>

⁴⁶ ONS (March 2017) Housing affordability in England and Wales: 2016

⁴⁷ Cannock Chase Council, Lichfield District Council and Tamworth Borough Council (May 2012) Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and Strategic Housing Market Assessment SHMA update

⁴⁸ Cannock Chase Council (2018) Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023

⁴⁹ Cannock Chase Council (October 2017) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

⁵⁰ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review Issues and Scope Consultation Document

⁵¹ Public Health England (July 2017) Cannock Chase Health Profile, 2017

⁵² Public Health England (July 2017) Cannock Chase Health Profile, 2017

⁵³ Public Health England (September 2016) Cannock Chase Health Profile, 2016

for those under 18; percentage of physically active adults; percentage of adults who are classified as overweight or obese; admissions involving an alcohol-related primary diagnosis; percentage of residents diagnosed with diabetes; numbers of infant mortality; and under 75 mortality rate for cardiovascular disease. The health priorities for Cannock Chase have been identified as including childhood obesity, smoking in pregnancy, drug misuse and aging well⁵⁴.

- 3.73 The latest update of the Sport England Active People Survey published in December 2016 interviewed 500 people in Cannock Chase about their weekly physical activity. It was reported for the October 2015 to September 2016 figures that of those interviewed 32.5% participated in thirty minutes moderate intensity sport once a week (at least four sessions in the previous 28 days). This showed an increase on figures for April 2016 to March 2016 which was 30.0%⁵⁵.

Social Inclusion and Deprivation

- 3.74 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015⁵⁶ 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. According to the 2015 IMD, Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived district in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent), with a rank of 133 out of 326 local authorities nationally. There was a particularly low rank for education, skills and training where the District was ranked 48 out of 326. Cannock Chase is also ranked as the second most deprived district in Staffordshire for health deprivation and disability.
- 3.75 The Locality Profile for Cannock Chase District⁵⁷ 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.
- 3.76 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%^{58 59}.
- 3.77 Across the UK during 2017-2018, 1,332,952 people (of which 484,026 were children) were supported by three day emergency food supplies from foodbanks established by The Trussell Trust. This total number increased from 1,162,954 during 2016-2017 and 1,109,954 during 2015-2016. In the West Midlands the number of those supported by such services in 2017-2018 was recorded as 119,946. The top four reasons for referral to a foodbank in The Trussell Trust network in 2017-18 were 'low income – benefits, not earning' (28.49%), 'benefit delay' (23.74%), 'benefit change' (17.73%) and 'debt' (8.53%)⁶⁰.
- 3.78 The Cannock and District Foodbank was launched in October 2012. Between April 2013 and March 2014 the Foodbank collected 36,299 kilograms of food donated by the local community. More than 34,500 kilograms of food was distributed during this period (34,516 kg), with 2,608 adults and 1,292 children served with food parcels. Key reasons for people across the District being referred to the Foodbank during this period included changes and delays to welfare benefits, low income and debt. Two hundred people who received food vouchers from local providers were unemployed, with at least 110 people without a fixed abode⁶¹.

⁵⁴ Public Health England (July 2017) Cannock Chase Health Profile, 2016/2017

⁵⁵ Sport England (December 2016) Active People Survey

⁵⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (September 2015) Index of Multiple Deprivation

⁵⁷ Staffordshire county Council (April 216) Cannock Chase: Locality Profile

⁵⁸ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (June 2017) Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2017

⁵⁹ Staffordshire County Council (February 2014) Cannock Chase Enhanced District Profile, 2014

⁶⁰ The Trussell Trust, (Accessed 24 May 2018) 'Foodbank Stats' Online at: <http://www.trusselltrust.org/stats>.

⁶¹ Cannock & District Foodbank, April 2013-March 2014, statistics courtesy of Sharon Jagger, Agency Co-ordinator

- 3.79 Children from the most disadvantaged backgrounds (those eligible for free school meals) are less likely to achieve the expected level of attainment at each stage in the education system or to progress to higher education⁶². The percentage of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) was 13% in Cannock Chase in 2015 which is lower than the West Midlands figure of 18% and the national figure of 15%⁶³.

Crime

- 3.80 The Feeling the Difference (FtD) report for residents of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent identifies that 69% of respondents indicated that the level of crime is key in making the local area a good place to live⁶⁴. Staffordshire Police has divided the District into eight neighbourhoods (Brereton Ravenhill and Hagley, Cannock East and North, Cannock South and West, Chase Rural, Etching Hill and The Heath, Hednesford, Norton Canes, and Rawsley) for the monitoring and prevention of crime. In March 2018 Cannock South and West experienced the highest number of crimes reported (194) out of all of the neighbourhoods in the District. This neighbourhood is Cannock's main industrial sector as well as the central area for the town's retail parks and takes in Hatherton, Dartmouth, Carfax, Rumer Hill and Progress Drive⁶⁵.
- 3.81 Recorded levels of crime in Cannock Chase have shown an increase in recent years. There were a total of 6,966 crimes recorded during 2016/17. This is an 18% increase (1,085 crimes) when compared with the previous year and was 14% higher than the number recorded in 2010/11. The levels of violent crime and increasing levels of domestic violence are key concerns which will require to be addressed over the plan period. There has, however, been a reduction in the level of anti-social behaviour which has been reported in the District⁶⁶.
- 3.82 Comparing Cannock Chase to the other local authority areas in the County, the District is ranked as the third most deprived District in Staffordshire with reference to crime, after Newcastle-under-Lyme and Tamworth⁶⁷. While the District has seen a recent rise in the rate of reported crimes 99% of respondents to the Feeling the Difference survey in Cannock Chase for the period 2014-2015 stated that they feel 'very/fairly safe' outside in their local area during the day. 86% of respondents state that they feel safe after dark. This level is above the Staffordshire averages of 98% and 81% respectively for the same period.
- 3.83 The Design SPD for Cannock Chase District⁶⁸ which was adopted in April 2016 refers to the potential for high quality new development to design out crime and highlights evidence that homes built to 'Secured by Design' standards suffer up to 75% less burglary, 25% less vehicle crime and 25% less criminal damage.

Education

- 3.84 There are 34 mainstream schools in the District, 27 primary (infants and juniors) and seven secondary. Four of the secondary schools are classed as technology colleges. In addition, Cannock Chase Technical College has premises in Cannock and Bridgtown. There are two special schools and one independent school in the District.
- 3.85 Statistics from January 2017 to December 2017 show that the proportion of adults (above age 16) in Cannock Chase who have attained qualification levels equivalent to NVQ level 4 and above (27.7%) is slightly below that of the West Midlands (31.8%) and Great Britain (38.6%). While up to date figures are not available at District level in relation to those residents who have no qualifications the proportion of those in the West Midlands who fall into this category is 10.4% which is higher than the national average of 7.7%. GCSE attainment for Cannock Chase pupils is significantly worse than the England average. Furthermore there are inequalities within the

⁶² HM Government (May 2012) Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers: A Strategy for Social Mobility: Update on Progress Since April 2011

⁶³ Staffordshire County Council (April 2016) Cannock Chase: Locality Profile

⁶⁴ Staffordshire Observatory, Feeling the Difference Survey 2015-2016 (four waves of the Survey from September 2014 to March 2016)

⁶⁵ Staffordshire Policy (Accessed 24th May 2018) Online at: <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/article/2748/Cannock-Chase>

⁶⁶ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) Consultation Document

⁶⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (September 2015) Index of Multiple Deprivation

⁶⁸ Cannock Chase Council (April 2016) Design Supplementary Planning Document

District in relation to educational achievement (specifically pupils achieving five GCSEs or more) which range from 25% in Cannock North ward to 59% in Hawks Green ward⁶⁹.

Culture, Leisure, Recreation and Tourism

- 3.86 There are a range of leisure and recreational facilities in the District, including the Cannock and Rugeley Leisure Centres, commercial fitness centres and various golf courses. The District also has a number of community centres, village and parish halls, youth centres and places of worship in which to congregate and run events, as well as Welfare Centres and Social Clubs (Working Men's Clubs) such as Lea Hall in Rugeley. Commercial leisure opportunities include a cinema, a local ice rink and a number of traditional public houses.
- 3.87 While the District's cultural centres are primarily focused on the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock and the Rose Theatre in Rugeley, there are a number of other cultural/community centres and facilities available in the District, including the Museum of Cannock Chase, the Cannock Chase Visitor Centre and the Birches Valley Forest Centre. The number of visitors to the Prince of Wales Theatre and the Museum of Cannock Chase in 2016-2017 increased from 54,974 to 64,121 and from 33,121 to 38,172 respectively from the previous year⁷⁰.
- 3.88 Cannock Chase Council has undertaken an assessment of open spaces in the District. This has identified a wide range of formal and informal spaces providing for recreation, nature conservation and other uses, many of which are multi-functional⁷¹.
- 3.89 There are three main town centres within Cannock Chase, including at Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley. Cannock provides a variety of shopping malls, including some well-known chain stores as well as local businesses, and a traditional market, while Hednesford offers a variety of specialist and traditional shops and cafes and Rugeley provides access to some major retail chains as well as a mix of locally owned shops. The Rugeley market also operates three days a week. The Cannock Chase Retail and Leisure Study⁷² provided an assessment of retail and leisure needs and capacity in the period up to 2030 and reviewed the performance of Cannock, Rugeley and Hednesford town centres. The Study showed that there is a clear need to enhance leisure provision in the District, and identified a number of potential site options for leisure-related development. The Study also recognised a lack of business confidence and identified that a high number of businesses in Cannock were looking to close or relocate.
- 3.90 Staffordshire has traditionally been recognised for its manufacturing base rather than as a holiday destination, although there are a number of long-standing caravan sites within the District and areas such as Cannock Chase itself are popular for day visits. More recently, it has begun to market itself as a destination for holidays and short breaks under the "Enjoy Staffordshire" branding.
- 3.91 Tourism trip figures for 2013 are available at a County level (including Stoke-on-Trent). In the area 23.9 million trips; 22.3 million day trips, and approximately 1.6 million overnight visits were recorded for 2013. The total spend over this period was approximately £1,139 million which equates to approximately £95 million monthly spend into the local economy. Spend on tourism in the area supports around 28,331 jobs, both for local residents and for those living nearby. Approximately 20,153 of those employed work directly in tourism related jobs and an additional 8,177 non-tourism jobs are supported by increased local spend related to tourism⁷³.

Employment and Economic Activity

- 3.92 Between January 2017 and December 2017 the percentage of economically active people in Cannock Chase was 85.2 %. This was above the West Midlands average of 76.4% and the national average of 78.4%. Across the same period, the unemployment rate was recorded as 5.2% for the West Midlands (data was not available at the District level for this period) of the economically active population (ages 16-64), which was higher than the average for Great Britain (4.4%). The District's employment rate has increased over recent years and remains higher than

⁶⁹ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) Consultation Document

⁷⁰ Cannock Chase Council (May 2018) Authority's Monitoring Report 2016-2017

⁷¹ Cannock Chase Council (December 2009) Cannock Chase Open Spaces Assessment

⁷² WYG (November 2015) Cannock Chase District Council - Cannock Chase Retail and Leisure Study: Final Report

⁷³ Enjoy Staffordshire (April 2015) Destination Staffordshire Tourism Review, Strategy And Action Plan 2015-2018

regional and national level. Youth unemployment remains below the national average having only increased slightly in recent years⁷⁴. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance as a percentage of the working age resident population as of April 2018 was 1.5%, compared to 2.8% for West Midlands and 2.2% nationally.

- 3.93 There were 39,000 employee jobs recorded in the District in 2016, comprising 27,000 full-time and 12,000 part-time^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. The three main employment sectors in the District between January 2017 and December 2017 were professional occupations (16.8%), associate professional and technical (16.0%) and Managers, Directors and Senior Officials (9.4%). These figures are similar to those recorded for the West Midlands during the same period of time. In 2017, the average full time worker weekly pay for those residents of the District was £521.10. (This figure is slightly higher than the West Midlands average (£517.40) but lower than the national average (£552.70). On average, male full-time workers who were residents in Cannock Chase were paid more than females (£574.9 compared to £ 561.30)^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}⁷⁵. Out commuting (largely within Staffordshire and to the West Midlands conurbation) plays an important role in the local labour market with commuting flows resulting in a net population decrease of 8,655 in the District.
- 3.94 Of the 3, 400 enterprises within Cannock Chase in 2017, 88.2% were considered as 'micro' size (0-9 employees), 10.3% were considered to be 'small' (10-49 employees), 1.2% were considered to be 'medium' (50-249 employees) and 0.3% were considered to be 'large' (250+ employees)^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}. Over the past 4 years enterprises within the District have increased by almost 10% demonstrating a degree of stability in local job provision⁷⁶.
- 3.95 The Local Plan (Part 1) includes a district-wide objective to encourage a vibrant local economy and workforce and recognises the need to rebalance and strengthen the local economy. It identifies structural weaknesses in the local economy including low levels of educational attainment and adult skills.
- 3.96 The Cannock Chase Employment Land Availability Assessment (ELAA) (2017)⁷⁷ has identified that there is currently a shortfall of approximately 3ha of available employment land against the Local Plan (Part 1) target of providing for at least 88ha of new and redeveloped employment land. This shortfall has recently arisen as a result of the use of Mill Green for a designer retail outlet village instead of B class employment use. Land at Rugeley Power Station represents a potentially large additional source of employment land supply in the District. Assessment work in relation to timescales and potential uses at this site is ongoing. The available supply is dominated by two large sites in particular coming forward for B1/B8 warehousing uses (at Kingswood Lakeside). Trends indicate that B1 and B8 developments have dominated the local employment land provision in recent years. The completed employment development in Cannock Chase from 2006-2007 to 2016-2017 was 51.22ha, equating to 4.7ha per annum. Of these completions 9.41ha (18%) was on brownfield land and was redeveloped from industry⁷⁸.
- 3.97 Cannock Chase Council is a partner in the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), along with Staffordshire County Council, City of Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford Borough Council, South Staffordshire Council, Lichfield District Council, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Tamworth Borough Council and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. The LEP has a vision to create 50,000 jobs and increase the size of the economy by 50% by 2021. This vision is set out through the Strategic Economic Plan⁷⁹. Cannock Chase Council is also a member of Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP which takes in Greater Birmingham and Solihull, including Southern Staffordshire and North Worcestershire. The LEP has set ambitious targets through its SEP⁸⁰ to be the leading Core City LEP by 2030, in terms of private sector job creation and economic output per head with 250,000 additional jobs and economic growth of £29bn (GVA). Cannock Chase Council also has strong links to, but is not a member of, the Black Country LEP.

⁷⁴ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) Consultation Document

⁷⁵ Nomis (Accessed May 2018) Labour Market Profile – Cannock Chase Online at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157173/report.aspx#tabrespop>

⁷⁶ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) Consultation Document

⁷⁷ Cannock Chase Council (October 2017) Cannock Chase Employment Land Availability Assessment

⁷⁸ Cannock Chase Council (May 2018) Authority's Monitoring Report 2016-2017

⁷⁹ Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (March 2014) Strategic Economic Plan

⁸⁰ Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP (September 2016) GBSLEP Strategic Economic Plan 2016-2030

Transport

- 3.98 The District is well served by the major national highway network, particularly since the opening of the M6 Toll motorway in December 2003, with its junction at Churchbridge. Key north/south routes are provided by the A34 and A460 whilst the A5 and A51, A513 and A5190 provide links to the east and west. The M6 Toll motorway is operated by Midland Expressway Limited which has a 53 year concession to design, build and operate this route. The Department for Transport have however retained the highway authority status for M6 Toll motorway with Highways England carrying out some of the everyday liaison functions on its behalf. The A5 trunk road is under the responsibility of the Highways England.
- 3.99 For rail travel, the District is served by the Chase Line, which provides a passenger service between Birmingham, Walsall and Stafford, with the potential for more frequent services in future. The Chase Line served more than 700,000 passenger per annum. There are stations at Cannock, Hednesford and Rugeley (Town) as well as another station at Rugeley – Rugeley Trent Valley – which lies just outside the District, but which does serve the District and in particular Rugeley by providing links to London. The £100m Chase Line electrification is due to be completed in December 2018 and will result in the introduction of faster, longer and more frequent services, including two trains per hour throughout the day to Birmingham, and new direct services to the NEC/Birmingham Airport and London Euston. The line speed will also be increased from 45mph to 60mph as part of this improvement process.
- 3.100 Through its involvement with the innovative Chase Line 'Stations Alliance' with the West Midlands Combined Authority, LEPs, Network Rail and West Midlands Trains, Cannock Station is the focus of attention for a major upgrade, in view of its close proximity to the £120m, Mill Green retail designer outlet village, which will attract 3-4 million visitors per annum. Although not providing direct access to the HS2 Service between London and Crewe, the West Coast Main Line (WCML) is likely to result in the improvement of rail services accessible at Rugeley including the introduction of hourly services to Crewe, Stafford, Milton Keynes and London.
- 3.101 Bus services in the District are strongest at the existing urban core areas including services from Cannock to Wolverhampton, Stafford, Lichfield, Walsall and Wolverhampton and from Rugeley to Stafford and Lichfield. There is a national trend towards a reduction in local bus services and this has been experienced within Cannock Chase with recent County Council budget cutbacks leading to the loss of evening and Sunday bus services⁸¹.
- 3.102 Cannock Chase District has one of the highest rates of all local authorities in England and Wales for journeys to work by car/van/taxi/motorcycle. 82% of people making journeys to work do so via these modes compared to 64% nationally. 5% of people make journeys via public transport (compared to 16% nationally) whilst 10% make journeys via walking/cycling (compared to 14% nationally)⁸². This suggests that the District's residents are more likely to travel to work via non-public transport means. Levels of walking and cycling to work are broadly in line with the national average. A new cycleway has been created along the A5 and a network of cycle routes provided across the district along former rail lines.
- 3.103 Levels of car ownership in Cannock Chase are high. Only 20% of households in the District do not own any cars, compared with 25.6% in England & Wales⁸³. 41% of all Cannock Chase households own one car or van and 29.8% of households own two cars or vans. This is broadly in line with the England and Wales average of 42.2% of households owning one car or van and 24.7% of households owning two cars or vans. Overall, 53,070 cars and vans are owned in Cannock Chase District.

⁸¹ Cannock Chase Council (July 2018) Local Plan Review (Issues and Scope) Consultation Document

⁸² ONS (March 2011) Census of Population

⁸³ ONS (March 2011) Census of Population, 2011 – car or van availability

4 Key Sustainability Issues and Likely Evolution without the Plan

- 4.1 Analysis of the baseline information has enabled a number of key sustainability issues facing Cannock Chase to be identified. Identification of the key sustainability issues and consideration of how these issues might develop over time if the Local Plan were not to be prepared helps to meet the requirements of Annex 1 of the SEA Directive to provide information on:

"the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan; and

any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan."

- 4.2 A set of key sustainability issues for Cannock Chase was initially identified and set out in the January 2013 SA Scoping Report for the Local Plan (Part 1) and it was revised and refined during the preparation of the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options SA Report (January 2017). That list of key issues has now been reviewed again to reflect the updated baseline information presented in the previous chapter. The main changes relate to the identification of a recent increase in the level of reported crime in the District and a current shortfall of employment land in the District against the Local Plan (Part 1) target over the plan period. The updated set of key sustainability issues is presented in **Table 4.1** overleaf.
- 4.3 It is also a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area (in this case Cannock Chase) if the Local Plan was not to be implemented. This analysis is also presented in **Table 4.1**, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.
- 4.4 The information in **Table 4.1** shows that, in general, the current trends in relation to the various social, economic and environmental issues affecting Cannock Chase would be more likely to continue without the implementation of the Local Plan, although the implementation of policies in the adopted Local Plan (Part 1), which would still be in place, would go some way towards addressing many of the issues. In most cases, the emerging Local Plan offers opportunities to directly and strongly affect existing trends in a positive way, by updating the strategic policies in the Local Plan (Part 1) and also by including more specific policies that build on those strategic policies.

Table 4.1 Key Sustainability Issues for Cannock Chase and Likely Evolution without the Local Plan

Key Sustainability Issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
<p>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.</p>	<p>An ageing population in Cannock Chase is likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the Local Plan, reflecting national trends. The adopted Local Plan (Part 1) already includes a policy seeking to promote social inclusion, including access to health facilities for all (Policy CP5: Social Inclusion and Healthy Living), a policy promoting ease of access and mobility with the design of new developments (Core Policy CP3: Chase Shaping – Design) and a policy to ensure that the housing needs of an ageing population are met (Policy CP7: Housing Choice). Relevant issues are also addressed in the adopted Design SPD. 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.</p>
<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>Whilst the issue of affordable housing is addressed in Local Plan (Part 1) (Policy CP7: Housing Choice), 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.</p>
<p>Cannock Chase is ranked as the most deprived District in Staffordshire (excluding Stoke-on-Trent).</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) already includes policies which seek to address deprivation i.e. Policy CP5 - Social Inclusion and Healthy Living and Policy CP7: Housing Choice, although not in a direct way. The new Local Plan offers an opportunity for additional policies to be adopted to specifically address the issue of deprivation in the District.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) Policy CP5: Social Inclusion and Healthy Living already sets out a high level aspiration for the provision of education facilities. The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop this overarching policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their proximity to educational facilities through the SA.</p>
<p>There has been an increase in the amount of reported crime in the District in recent years.</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) Policy CP3 - Place Shaping – Design seeks to incorporate measures at new developments which will help to design out crime and anti-social behaviour based upon Police guidance. The policy also requires that this approach is taken in relation to opportunities for the enhancement of town and local centres and other public open spaces. The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop this approach and to incorporate any design specific standards which might be necessary at new sites which are to be allocated.</p>
<p>Average weekly earnings in the District are lower</p>	<p>Local Plan (Part 1) addresses this issue through the district-wide objectives, one of which</p>

Key Sustainability Issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
than the national averages.	relates to encouraging a vibrant local economy and workforce. A number of more specific policies also seek to address the issue, including CP8: Employment Land and CP9: A Balanced Economy. However, the new Local Plan offers opportunities to update and develop these policies by allocating appropriate sites for high quality new employment development, which will encourage investment and improve the quality and range of employment opportunities available.
There is currently a shortfall of 3ha of available employment land in Cannock Chase over the remainder of the plan period against the Local Plan (Part 1) target of 88ha.	Local Plan (Part 1) Policy CP8: Employment Land identifies sites at new and redeveloped land as being currently available. While the use of Mill Green for a designer retail outlet village instead of B class employment use has resulted in a shortfall in available employment land which could limit planned for employment growth up to 2028, the new Local Plan may allocate additional sites to help meet employment land requirements in the District.
The identified health priorities for the District relating to childhood obesity, smoking in pregnancy, drug misuse and aging well are unlikely to be suitably addressed unless preventative measures are taken.	Local Plan (Part 1) already addresses health directly through Policy CP5: Social Inclusion and Healthy Living which relates to providing access to healthcare facilities, and indirectly through Policy CP10: Sustainable Transport which promotes walking and cycling. The new Local Plan also offers the opportunity to ensure healthcare priorities are specifically addressed through additional policies.
Car dependency in the area is amongst the highest in the UK. There is potential for further traffic growth without planning intervention which could have implications for air quality in the District. The recent reduction in provision of local bus services may further impact this issue.	Although the Local Plan (Part 1) seeks to promote sustainable transport (Policy CP10- Sustainable Transport), the new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update this policy and also set out additional policies relating to encouraging the use of sustainable transport. It may also address this issue through the allocation of appropriate sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on transport patterns through the SA, and the incorporation of appropriate mitigation within site specific policies. Therefore, without the adoption of the new Local Plan this issue may be less well addressed. The new Local Plan also offers the opportunity to set out green infrastructure standards which could encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport. However, it is also recognised that ongoing rail improvement works such as the Chase Line electrification could encourage modal shift even in the absence of the new Local Plan.
Climate change is likely to affect biodiversity and lead to increased hazards from surface water and fluvial flooding and increased temperatures.	Climate change is likely to have ongoing effects regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan, although the adopted Local Plan (Part 1) already includes policies seeking to address this issue, and these would continue to apply in the absence of the new Local Plan. Policy CP16 seeks to tackle climate change and ensure sustainable resource use through consideration of initiatives and supporting development proposals that, for example, consider flood risk, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and renewable energy. Relevant issues are also addressed in the adopted Design SPD. The new Local Plan may offer additional opportunities to address this issue, for example by allocating sites that are selected following consideration of their impacts on issues such as flood risk.

Key Sustainability Issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
The decline of local air quality is evident given the declaration of the A5190 Cannock Road, Heath Hayes AQMA in March 2017. This is particularly an issue in the District due to emissions from vehicle traffic.	Local Plan (Part 1) already includes a policy aim to reduce or mitigate all forms of pollution, based upon air quality modelling where necessary, and having regard to strategic local issues including air quality (Policy CP16 - Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use). It also sets out measures seeking to encourage the use of sustainable transport (Policy CP10 – Sustainable Transport). However, without the additional policies to be included in the new Local Plan, this issue may not be as fully addressed. The new Local Plan may also offer opportunities for mitigation to be built into the wording of site specific policies, further reducing the impacts of development.
The chemical status of rivers within Cannock is 'poor' for a large proportion of the District.	Local Plan (Part 1) already contains a general aspiration to protect the water environment through Policy CP16: Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use (part 3d). However, without additional policies to be included in the new Local Plan, this issue may not be as fully addressed.
SFRA shows that parts of Cannock Chase are at risk from pluvial and fluvial flooding . The watercourses within the Cannock Chase Council area impose a fluvial flood risk to urban areas, particularly Rising Brook, Risings Brook and Wash Brook	Local Plan (Part 1) already contains a general aspiration to avoid development in high flood risk areas through Policy CP16: Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use (part 3c). However, without the additional policies to be included in the new Local Plan, this issue may not be as fully addressed. The new Local Plan also offers the opportunity to 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 Local Plan (Part 1) already includes an aspiration through Policy CP16: Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use (part 1e) to reduce waste generation. Relevant issues are also addressed in the adopted Design SPD and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan. However, 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 adopted Local Plan (Part 1) already includes policies seeking to protect and (where appropriate) enhance biodiversity, including Policy CP12: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and Policy CP13 – Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop this policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their impacts on biodiversity through the SA. It may also offer the opportunity to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate, in order to reduce the impacts of new development.
39% of the District falls within the Cannock Chase AONB which is under pressure from development.	The adopted Local Plan (Part 1) already includes a specific policy seeking to protect landscape character and the Cannock chase AONB (Policy CP14). The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop this overarching policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their impacts on landscape and the

Key Sustainability Issues for Cannock Chase	Likely Evolution without the Local Plan
	character of the AONB through the SA. It may also offer the opportunity to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate, in order to reduce the impacts of new development.
<p>Although none of the heritage assets in Cannock Chase are on the Heritage at Risk List there are numerous important built heritage assets that should be preserved and enhanced. Furthermore these assets are continuously facing pressures for change.</p>	<p>The adopted Local Plan (Part 1) already includes a specific policy seeking to protect the historic environment (Policy CP15 – Historic Environment). The Council has also identified the opportunity to develop a Local List, identifying non-designated heritage features worthy of protection. The new Local Plan offers the opportunity to update and develop this overarching policy through additional policies and site allocations that are selected following consideration of their impacts on cultural heritage through the SA. It may also offer the opportunity to incorporate mitigation into site specific policies where appropriate, in order to reduce the impacts of new development. The new Local Plan also offers opportunities to deliver heritage-based regeneration, for example linked to canal networks and former collieries.</p>
<p>60% of the District is designated as Green Belt and this is continuously under pressure from urban influences and the demand for land to accommodate new development is strong.</p>	<p>Pressures on the countryside are likely to continue regardless of the adoption of the new Local Plan, particularly if additional housing is required to help meet the shortfall arising mainly from Birmingham but also from the wider Greater Birmingham Housing Market area. However, without the updated and additional policies and site allocations to be included in the Local Plan, further development may not come forward in the most appropriate locations and pressure on the countryside could be increased.</p>

5 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

- 5.1 The development of a set of SA objectives (known as the SA framework) is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared.
- 5.2 A set of SA objectives for the Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) was developed and used throughout the SA of the Core Strategy and the SA of the combined Local Plan (Part 1) including both the Core Strategy and the Rugeley Town Centre AAP (although some of these SA objectives were not applied to the appraisal of the Rugeley Town Centre AAP before it was combined with the Core Strategy to comprise the Local Plan (Part 1), see Table 4.1 in the final SA report for the Local Plan (Part 1)). That set of SA objectives was subject to consultation with the statutory consultees at that time. The SA objectives were developed from the review of plans, policies and programmes, the collection of baseline information and the identification of the key sustainability issues at that time.
- 5.3 The SA framework that was used for the Local Plan (Part 1) was used as the starting point for the SA framework that was developed and used for the SA work on the Local Plan (Part 2) before work on that plan ceased. During the preparation of the SA Scoping Report for the Local Plan (Part 2) the SA framework was reviewed in light of the revised and updated review of plans, policies and programmes, baseline information and key sustainability issues for Cannock Chase and amendments were made to a number of the objectives to ensure that they were appropriate for the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2).
- 5.4 In particular, the SA objectives were reviewed to ensure that all of the topics specifically required by the SEA Regulations were clearly addressed in the headline SA objectives and that any repetition or crossover between the SA objectives was avoided. As a result, the total number of SA objectives was reduced from 20 to 17, and they were revised and in some cases re-ordered to ensure that the headline objectives provided for a clear and focussed appraisal of each policy or proposal in the Local Plan (Part 2). The review of the SA objectives also sought to remove duplication and avoid any single SA objective covering too many issues. That revised SA framework was consulted on within the August 2016 Scoping Report for the Local Plan (Part 2) and as a result of comments received, one amendment was made to the wording of the historic environment objective. The SA framework as amended was then used for the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options. None of the consultation comments received in relation to that report have resulted in further changes to the SA objectives being made.
- 5.5 The SA framework has again been reviewed during the preparation of this SA Scoping Report and no further changes to the SA framework are proposed.
- 5.6 The SA framework for the Local Plan is presented in **Table 5.1** overleaf. The final column in the table demonstrates which SA objective addresses each of the topics that are required by the SEA Directive to be covered (set out in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations).

Table 5.1: SA framework for Cannock Chase Local Plan

SA Objectives	SEA Directive Topic(s) covered
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

Use of the SA framework

- 5.7 The findings of the SA of the new and amended policy and site options for the Local Plan will be presented in SA matrices, which will include a colour coded symbol showing the score for the site/policy against each of the SA objectives along with a concise justification for the score given. The detailed SA matrices will be presented as an appendix to the full SA report. This approach is consistent with the options appraisal work that was undertaken previously during the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2) – much of that work will be brought forward into the forthcoming SA Report for the new Local Plan Issues and Options, as most of the options that were considered for the Local Plan (Part 2) remain reasonable alternatives for the new Local Plan.
- 5.8 The use of colour coding in the matrices allows for likely significant effects (both positive and negative) to be easily identified, as shown in the key below.

Key to SA scores

++	The option or policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objective(s).
++/-	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant positive and minor negative effects on the SA objective(s).
+	The option or policy is likely to have a positive effect on the SA objective(s).
0	The option or policy is likely to have a negligible or no effect on the SA objective(s).
-	The option or policy is likely to have a negative effect on the SA objective(s).
--/+	The option or policy is likely to have a mixture of significant negative and minor positive effects on the SA objective(s).
--	The option or policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA objective(s).
?	It is uncertain what effect the option or policy will have on the SA objective(s), due to a lack of data.
+/- or ++/--	The option or policy is likely to have an equal mixture of both minor or both significant positive and negative effects on the SA objective(s).

Assumptions

- 5.9 SA inevitably relies on an element of subjective judgement. However, in order to ensure consistency in the appraisal of the site options, detailed sets of assumptions were developed during the SA of the Local Plan (Part 2) and these were applied during the SA of site options for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options consultation. The same assumptions are proposed to be applied to the SA of the new and amended site options to be appraised for the new Local Plan, to ensure consistency with the work undertaken previously.
- 5.10 For each of the SA objectives in the SA framework, a clear set of decision-making criteria and assumptions for determining significance of the effects are set out. These assumptions, many of which are applied through the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, are presented in **Appendix 2**.

Health Impact Assessment

- 5.11 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) aims to ensure that health-related issues are integrated into the plan-making process. As described in **Chapter 1**, the HIA will be incorporated into the SA. SA objective 12 directly addresses health issues, while achievement of SA objectives 13, 14, 9 and 16 would also indirectly benefit people's health. The options and later policies for the Local Plan will all be assessed against these objectives as part of the SA. The SA report will make recommendations for how the health-related impacts of the Local Plan can be optimised as the

options are developed into detailed policies. This work will build upon and be consistent with the HIA work that was undertaken previously for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 5.12 There are three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, which public authorities including Cannock Chase Council must meet in exercising their functions:
- To eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
 - To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.
 - To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.13 The Equality Act 2010 identifies nine 'protected characteristics' and seeks to protect people from discrimination on the basis of these characteristics. They are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Marriage and civil partnership
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
- 5.14 The Local Plan will be assessed to consider the likely impacts of the draft policies on each of the nine protected characteristics from the Equality Act 2010 listed above. For each protected characteristic, consideration will be given to whether the Local Plan is compatible or incompatible with the three main duties set out in the Equality Act 2010. A colour coded scoring system (positive/negative/neutral) will be used to show the effects that the Local Plan policy and site options are likely to have on each protected characteristics. This work will build upon and be consistent with the EqIA work that was undertaken previously for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options.

Proposed structure of the SA report

- 5.15 A Sustainability Appraisal Report for each consultation stage of the Local Plan will be produced as a key output of the appraisal process. Elements of this Scoping Report will be included as relevant (see proposed structure below). The SA Report will contain information on the effects of the proposed plan options, policies or site allocations (depending on the stage) and will be published for formal public consultation. It will include the updated table 'signposting' where each of the requirements of the SEA Directive has been met (as shown in **Table 1.1** of this Scoping Report). In preparing the SA Report for the first iteration of the new Local Plan, the SA Report that was prepared in January 2017 for the Local Plan (Part 2) Issues and Options will be drawn on and built upon.
- 5.16 The SA report will be written in a user-friendly way in order to ensure that it will be understood by as wide an audience as possible. It will be accompanied by a Non-Technical Summary and is likely to be structured as set out below:

Introduction

- Purpose of the SA and the SA Report.
- Local Plan objectives and an outline of its contents.
- Explanation of the move to prepare a new Local Plan to replace the adopted Local Plan (Part 1) and the previously emerging Local Plan (Part 2).
- Compliance with the SEA Directive.

Appraisal methodology

- Approach to the SA.
- When the SA was carried out.
- Who carried out the SA.
- Who was consulted, when and how.
- Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment.

Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

- Links to other strategies, plans and policies and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account.
- Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline.
- Difficulties in data collection and its limitations.
- The SA framework, including objectives, targets and indicators.
- Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified and the likely evolution of those issues without implementation of the Local Plan.

Local Plan Options

- Policy and site options considered and how they were identified.
- Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options.
- How social, environmental and economic were considered in choosing the preferred options.
- Other options considered and why these were rejected.
- Any proposed mitigation measures.

Local Plan policies/site allocations

- Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the draft policies and site allocations. Reference will also be made to the HRA, HIA and EqIA findings.
- How social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policies and proposals.
- Proposed mitigation measures.
- Uncertainties and risks.

Conclusions and monitoring

- Conclusions regarding the SA findings, including summary of the potential significant effects.
- Proposals for monitoring.

- 5.17 The SA matrices presenting the detailed assessment of each option, policy or site allocation against each of the SA objectives will be presented as appendices to the main SA report. Information about how any consultation responses received in response to earlier stages of the SA have been addressed will also be presented in an appendix, as will the results of the EqIA.

- 5.18 Once the appraisal work is undertaken, it may be necessary to make refinements to the proposed report structure described above, in order to present the findings of the SA in the most easily understandable way. However, the content of the report will reflect the above list of issues, and will be fully compliant with the reporting requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations.

6 Conclusions and Next Steps

- 6.1 In order to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive, the views of the 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.
- 6.2 This SA Scoping Report is being published for an eight week period between July and August 2018 for consultation with the three statutory bodies as well as the general public.
- 6.3 In particular, the consultees are requested to consider:
- Whether there are any additional plans, policies or programmes that are relevant to the SA and should be included (see **Appendix 1**).
 - Whether the information provided in **Chapter 3** is robust and comprehensive, and provides a suitable baseline for the SA of the emerging Local Plan.
 - Whether there are any additional key sustainability issues (**Chapter 4**) that should be included.
 - Whether the SA framework (**Chapter 5**) is appropriate and includes a suitable range of objectives.
 - Whether the assumptions for judging significant effects for the site options are appropriate (see **Appendix 2**).
- 6.4 It should be noted that the proposed approach to the SA of the new Local Plan is consistent with that used previously for the SA of the now-superseded Local Plan (Part 2), i.e. the same SA framework and assumptions that were previously consulted on are proposed to be used for the new and revised options being considered.
- 6.5 As the Local Plan is drafted, it will be subject to the later stages of the SA using the SA framework presented in **Chapter 5**. A full SA report (incorporating the later stages of the SA process) will then be produced and made available to other stakeholders and the general public for wider consultation alongside the emerging Local Plan.

LUC
June 2018

Appendix 1

Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Table A1.1: Review of plans, policies and programmes relevant to the preparation of the Cannock Chase Local Plan and the SA

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
International			
IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014) ⁸⁴	To limit and/or reduce all greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change	The Local Plan should support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.	Include sustainability objectives to support reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)	Commitment to building a humane, equitable and caring global society aware of the need for human dignity for all. Renewable energy and energy efficiency. Accelerate shift towards sustainable consumption and production.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the principles of the Declaration.	Include sustainability objectives to enhance the natural environment and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
Aarhus Convention (1998)	Established a number of rights of the public with regard to the environment. Local authorities should provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right of everyone to receive environmental information • The right to participate from an early stage in environmental decision making • The right to challenge in a court of law public decisions that have been made without respecting the two rights above or environmental law in general. 	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the principles of the Convention.	Ensure that public are involved and consulted at all relevant stages of SA production. <i>Relates to the overall SA process.</i>
European			
<i>SEA Directive 2001</i> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.	Allocate sites and develop policies that are selected based on the SEA findings (as well as other relevant factors).	Requirements of the Directive must be met in Sustainability Appraisal where an integrated SA/SEA is being undertaken (as is the case for the Cannock Chase Local Plan). <i>Relates to the overall SA process.</i>

⁸⁴ IPCC (2014) Fifth Assessment Report on Climate Change

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
<p><i>The Industrial Emissions Directive 2010</i></p> <p>Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</p>	<p>This Directive lays down rules on integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. It also lays down rules designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions into air, water and land and to prevent the generation of waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole.</p>	<p>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as the more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objective for reducing pollution.</p>
<p><i>Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010 on the energy performance of buildings 2010/31/EU</i></p>	<p>The Directive aims to promote the energy performance of buildings and building units.</p> <p>It requests that member states adopt either national or regional methodology for calculating energy performance and minimum requirements for energy performance.</p>	<p>Policies and site allocations should take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Include SA objective relating to the energy performance/efficiency.</p>
<p><i>The Birds Directive 2009</i></p> <p>Directive 2009/147/EC is a codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended</p>	<p>The preservation, maintenance, and re-establishment of biotopes and habitats shall include the following measures:</p> <p>Creation of protected areas.</p> <p>Upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones.</p> <p>Re-establishment of destroyed biotopes.</p> <p>Creation of biotopes.</p>	<p>Allocated sites and development management policies should make sure that the upkeep of recognised habitats is maintained and not damaged from development.</p> <p>Avoid pollution or deterioration of habitats or any other disturbances affecting birds.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives for the protection of birds.</p>

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
<p><i>The Waste Framework Directive 2008</i> Directive 2008/98/EC on waste</p>	<p>Prevention or reduction of waste production and its harmfulness. The recovery of waste by means of recycling, re-use or reclamation. Recovery or disposal of waste without endangering human health and without using processes that could harm the environment.</p>	<p>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives that minimise waste production as well as promote recycling.</p>
<p><i>The Air Quality Directive 2008</i> Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe</p>	<p>Avoid, prevent and reduce harmful effects of ambient air pollution on human health and the environment</p>	<p>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives to maintain and enhance air quality.</p>
<p><i>The Floods Directive 2007</i> Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks</p>	<p>Establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.</p>	<p>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives that relate to flood management and reduction of risk.</p>
<p><i>The Water Framework Directive 2000</i> Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy</p>	<p>Protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters.</p>	<p>Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives to protect and minimise the impact on water quality.</p>

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
		derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	
<p><i>The Landfill Directive 1999</i> Directive 99/31/EC on the landfill of waste</p>	Prevent or reduce negative effects on the environment from the landfilling of waste by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy.	Include sustainability objectives to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste.
<p><i>The Drinking Water Directive 1998</i> Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption</p>	Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance water quality.
<p><i>The Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994</i> Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste</p>	Harmonise the packaging waste system of Member States. Reduce the environmental impact of packaging waste.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in national policy.	Include sustainability objectives to minimise the environmental impact of waste and promote recycling.
<p><i>The Habitats Directive 1992</i> Directive 92/43/EEC on the</p>	Promote the maintenance of biodiversity taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.	Allocate sites and develop policies	Include sustainability objectives to protect and maintain the natural

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conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Conservation of natural habitats and maintain landscape features of importance to wildlife and fauna.	that have been selected taking into account HRA findings along with other factors. The Plan must be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment in line with the Directive.	environment and important landscape features.
<i>The Nitrates Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/676/EEC on nitrates from agricultural sources.	Reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution.
<i>The Urban Waste Water Directive 1991</i> Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment	Protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water collection, treatment and discharge, and discharge from certain industrial sectors.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Directive as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objectives to reduce water pollution.
European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)	Economic and social cohesion across the community. Conservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. Balanced competitiveness between different tiers of government.	Allocate sites and develop policies that take account of the Spatial	Include sustainability objectives to conserve natural resources and cultural heritage.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
		Development Perspective as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	
EU Seventh Environmental Action Plan (2002-2012)	The EU's objectives in implementing the programme are: (a) to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital; (b) to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy; (c) to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing; (d) to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation; (e) to improve the evidence base for environment policy; (f) to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right; (g) to improve environmental integration and policy coherence; (h) to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities; (i) to increase the Union's effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.	Develop policies that take account of the Environmental Action Plan as well as more detailed policies derived from the Directive contained in the NPPF.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and enhance the natural environment and promote energy efficiency.
European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2002)	The convention promotes landscape protection, management and planning.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.	Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) <i>Revision of the 1985 Granada Convention</i>	Protection of the archaeological heritage, including any physical evidence of the human past that can be investigated archaeologically both on land and underwater. Creation of archaeological reserves and conservation of excavated sites.	Ensure that site allocations and policies take account of the Convention.	Include sustainability objectives to protect the archaeological heritage.

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National			
Localism Act (2011)	<p>The Localism Act introduces a number of measures to decentralise decision making process to the local level, creating space for Local Authorities to lead and innovate, and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them. The Localism Act includes a number of important packages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new act makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life; • The act makes sure that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done. • The act places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives. • The act provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development. • The act reduces red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area's future. • The act reinforces the democratic nature of the planning system passing power from bodies not directly to the public, to democratically accountable ministers. • The act enables Local Authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs, and make the system fairer and more effective. • The act gives Local Authorities more control over the funding of social housing, helping them plan for the long- term. <p>In relation to planning, the Localism Act enables the Government to abolish regional spatial strategies, introduce Neighbourhood Plans and Local Referendums.</p>	<p>The Local Plan will need to reflect the principles of Localism as identified in the document. The Local Plan will need to incorporate the concept of Neighbourhood Planning, with the intention of giving neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which people live.</p>	<p>To ensure the concepts of the Localism Act are embedded within the SA framework.</p> <p><i>Relates to the overall SA process.</i></p>

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<p>National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</p> <p>MHCLG (2018) National Planning Policy Framework – Draft text for consultation</p>	<p>Presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>Delivering sustainable development by:</p>	<p>Development plan has a statutory status as the starting point for decision making.</p>	<p>Sustainability appraisal should be an integral part of the plan preparation process, and should consider all the likely significant effects on the environment, economic and social factors.</p>
	<p>Building a strong, competitive economy.</p>	<p>Set out clear economic visions for that particular area.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to strengthening the economy.</p>
	<p>Ensuring vitality of town centres.</p>	<p>Recognise town centres as the heart of their communities.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the vitality of town centres.</p>
	<p>Promoting sustainable transport</p>	<p>To implement sustainable transport modes depending on nature/location of the site, to reduce the need for major transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable transport.</p>
	<p>Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.</p>	<p>Enhance the provision of local community facilities and services by supporting the expansion of electronic communications networks.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to improving communication.</p>

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	Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes. [Delivering a sufficient supply of homes] in the NPPF review	Identify size, type, tenure and range of housing that is required in particular locations.	Include a sustainability objective relating to housing availability and quality.
	Requiring good design. [Achieving well-designed places] in the NPPF review	Establish a strong sense of place to live, work and visit.	Include a sustainability objective relating to good design and creating well designed places.
	[Making effective use of land] in the NPPF review	Promote an effective use of land while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the effective use of land.
	Promoting healthy communities. [Promoting healthy and safe communities] in the NPPF review	Promote safe and accessible environments with a high quality of life and community cohesion.	Include a sustainability objective relating to health and well-being.
	Protecting Green Belt Land.	To prevent the coalescence of neighbouring towns.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the coalescence of towns.
	Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change.	Use opportunities offered by new development to reduce causes/impacts of	Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change mitigation and adaption.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
		flooding.	
	Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.	Recognise the wider benefits of biodiversity.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment.
	Conserving and enhancing the historic environment	Sustain and enhance heritage assets and put them to viable uses consistent with their conservation.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the conservation of historic features.
	Facilitating the use of sustainable materials.	Encourage prior extraction of minerals where practicable and environmentally feasible.	Include a sustainability objective relating to sustainable mineral extraction.
Housing and Planning Act (2016)	The Act makes widespread changes to housing policy at the national level. Measures introduced in the Act relate to starter homes, and permitting the sale of higher value local authority homes. Starter homes are the new affordable housing product designed by the government to specifically meet the housing needs of younger generations and to allow them to access home-ownership. The overarching aim of the Act is to promote home ownership and increase levels of house building.	The Cannock Chase Local Plan will need to take account of the provisions of the Act in relation to housing provision.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the provision of an appropriate range of housing within the District.
Housing White Paper (DCLG, 2017) Fixing our broken housing market	The emphasis of the Paper is on four areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Planning Authorities planning for the right homes in the right places. • Building homes faster. 	The Local Plan will need to take account of the changes proposed	Include sustainability objectives relating to housing provision, community facilities and services.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversifying the housing market. • Helping people right now to invest in affordable homes. 	<p>in the White Paper. Greater clarity required in respect of Objectively Assessed Housing Need, delivery rates, the process of plan making, generation of new communities.</p>	
<p>Part of the Housing White Paper Fixing our broken housing market Planning for the right homes in the right place: consultation proposals (DCLG, 2017)</p>	<p>The consultation document sets out a number of proposals to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes and increase local authority capacity to manage growth.</p> <p>Proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A standard method for calculating local authorities' housing need. • How neighbourhood planning groups can have greater certainty on the level of housing need to plan for. • A statement of common ground to improve how local authorities work together to meet housing and other needs across boundaries. • Making the use of viability assessments simpler, quicker and more transparent. • Increased planning application fees in those areas where local planning authorities are delivering the homes their communities need. <p>It also includes a 'Housing need consultation data table' which sets out the housing need for each local planning authority using the proposed method, how many homes every place in the country is currently planning for, and, where available, how many homes they believe they need.</p>	<p>The objectively assessed need for housing will need to be based on the new standardised methodology for calculating housing need.</p>	<p>Include sustainability objectives relating to new housing provision and the local authority's capacity to manage growth.</p>
<p>National Planning Practice Guidance (2014)</p>	<p>The National Planning Practice Guidance provides technical guidance on topic areas in order to support</p>	<p>The Cannock Chase Local Plan</p>	<p>The principles and requirements of national policy will need to be</p>

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	policies set out within the NPPF. It aims to allow for sustainable development as guided by the NPPF.	will need to reflect the guidance set out within the NPPG.	embedded within the SA framework and appraisal
National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	Sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. Replaces Planning Policy Statement 10.	The Local Plan should be in conformity with national waste planning policy.	Include a sustainability objective relating to waste generation and management.
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015)	<p>The Governments planning policy for Traveller sites which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local planning authorities make their own assessment of need. • Work collaboratively to meet need through identification of land setting pitch and plot targets. • Plan for sites over a reasonable timescale. • Protect Green Belt from inappropriate development. • Promote more private Traveller site provision. • Reduce number of unauthorised developments. • Include fair, inclusive and realistic policies in Local Plans. • Increase the number of sites in appropriate locations. • Reduce tension between Travellers and settled communities in planning decisions. • Ensure accessibility to services and facilities. • Protect the local environment and amenity. 	The Local Plan should include any policies and site allocations needed to support Gypsy and Travellers.	Ensure the requirements of national planning guidance are reflected in the SA Framework.
HM Government (2018) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment	<p>The 25 Year Environment Plan sets out government action to tackle a wide range of environmental pressures.</p> <p>The 25 Year Environment Plan identifies six areas around which action will be focused. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using and managing land sustainably. • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes. • Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing. 	Develop policies that promote conservation and enhancements of the natural environment and ensure that site allocations take account of the goals of the	Include sustainability objectives that relate to the protection of the natural environment.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste. Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans. Protecting and improving the global environment 	Environment Plan.	
DEFRA (2018) Draft Clean Air Strategy 2018	The draft Clean Air Strategy 2018 sets out actions to improve air quality by reducing pollution from a wide range of sources. The final Clean Air Strategy will inform the detailed National Air Pollution Control Programme, to be published by March 2019.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.
DEFRA and DfT (2017) Improving air quality in the UK: tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities: Draft UK Air Quality Plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide	The Plan provides an overview of actions that the UK Government plans to take to achieve reduction of harmful air pollution, particularly nitrogen dioxide. Proposes reducing air pollution is via charging Clean Air Zones (CAZs) – areas in which emission standards determine whether a vehicle’s owner must pay a charge to enter.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.
DEFRA (2017) UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations	Statutory air quality plan for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂), setting out how the UK will be reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations.	Ensure that site allocations and policies will contribute to maintaining and improving air quality.	Include sustainability objectives to protect and improve air quality.
HM Government (2017) The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment	<p>The Climate Change Act requires the Government to compile every five years its assessment of the risks and opportunities arising for the UK from climate change. It identifies six urgent climate change risks for the UK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure. Risks to health, wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures. Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry, with 	The Local Plan should acknowledge the six priority areas identified and ensure that policies and site allocations help to address such matters, rather	Include sustainability objectives relating to the six urgent climate change risks identified in the assessment.

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	<p>impacts on freshwater ecology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity. • Risks to domestic and international food production and trade. • New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals. 	<p>than increasing the risks.</p>	
<p>HM Government (2017) The Clean Growth Strategy</p>	<p>Under the Climate Change Act, the Government is required to publish a set of policies and proposals that will enable the legally-binding carbon budgets, on track to the 2050 target, to be met. The Clean Growth Strategy sets out a range of policies and proposals, as well as possible long-term pathways for UK emissions in two ways – by decreasing emissions and by increasing economic growth.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should support renewable energy provision including electricity, heat and transport.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to increasing energy provided from renewable sources.</p>
<p>HM Government (2017) Industrial Strategy: Building a Britain fit for the future</p>	<p>The Government White Paper sets out the approach to building an industrial strategy that addresses long term challenges to the UK economy by improving living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country. It identifies five foundations of productivity: Ideas; people; Infrastructure; Business Environment; and Places.</p>	<p>The policies will need to encourage economic growth across the whole plan area and take account of changing economic conditions and requirements to support businesses and enterprises.</p>	<p>The SA will need to consider objectives in relation to economic growth and development.</p>
<p>Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (2011)</p>	<p>The Housing Strategy sets out a package of reforms to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the housing market moving again • Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future • Support choice and quality for tenants • Improve environmental standards and design quality. The new strategy addresses concerns across 	<p>The Local Plan needs to include policies that help in the delivery of housing.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to housing provision.</p>

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	<p>the housing market making it easier to secure mortgages on new home, improving fairness in social housing and ensuring homes that have been left empty for years and are lived in once again.</p> <p>There is the target to deliver up to 100,000 new homes by freeing up public sector land with Build Now, pay later deals.</p>		
<p>UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future (2005)</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out 5 principles for sustainable development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living within environmental limits; • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; • Achieving a sustainable economy; • Promoting good governance ; and • Using sound science responsibly. <p>The strategy sets four priorities for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable consumption and production; • Climate change and energy; • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement; • Sustainable communities <p>The strategy commits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A programme of community engagement; • Forums to help people live sustainable lifestyles; • Open and innovative ways for stakeholders to influence decision; educating and training 	<p>The Local Plan should seek to deliver sustainable communities. These are places which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents • People want to live and work in • Are sensitive to their environment • Contribute to a high quality of life • Are safe and inclusive • Are well planned, built and run; and • Offer equality of opportunity and good services for all 	<p>To ensure that the requirements of the Strategy are embedded within the SA framework.</p>

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English Heritage Historic England Corporate Plan 2015 to 2018 (2015)	<p>The plan sets out its three purposes as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings; Promote the preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of conservation areas; and Promote the public's enjoyment of, and advance their knowledge of, ancient monuments and historic buildings. 	The Local Plan should contain a planning framework which safeguards the historic environment.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the historic environment.
National Policy Statement EN1: Overarching Energy Policy Statement (2011)	This policy document sets out government policy for the delivery of major planning applications for energy development. These will be dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate, rather than local authorities in which the development occurs. The document also specifies the criteria for waste management, traffic and transport, water quality and quantity, noise and vibration, open spaces and green infrastructure, the landscape, visual impact, dust flood risk, historic environment, odour, light, smoke/steam, insects, coastal change, aviation, biodiversity and geodiversity.	The Local Plan will need to be consistent with the National Policy Statement.	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency.
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future (2003)	<p>There are four key aims in this document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To put ourselves on a path to cut the United Kingdom carbon dioxide emissions- the main contributor to global warming- by some 60 % by about 2050, with real progress by 2020; To maintain the reliability of energy supplies; To promote competitive markets in the United Kingdom and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and To make sure that every home is adequately and affordably heated. 	The Local Plan and its policies need to promote development that is energy efficient and increases the use and/ or availability of renewable energy.	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency.
The Carbon Plan: Delivery our Local Carbon Future (2011)	<p>The Carbon Plan sets out the government's plans for achieving the emissions reductions it committed to in the first four carbon budgets.</p> <p>Emissions in the UK must, by law, be cut by at least 80%</p>	The Cannock Chase Local Plan will need to include policies	Include a sustainability objective relating to greenhouse gas emissions.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	of 1990 by 2050. The UK was first to set its ambition in law and the Plan sets out progress to date.	that reflect the targets within the Carbon Plan.	
Safeguarding our Soils- A Strategy for England (2011)	Current practices focus on protecting English soils and the important ecosystem services they provide. Research is focused on addressing evidence gaps to adapt and refine these policies in order to strengthen protection and their resilience as the climate changes. A Soil Strategy for England sets out the current policy context on soils and a number of core objectives for policy and research.	The Cannock Chase Local Plan will need to include policies on the safeguarding of soils.	Include a sustainability objective relating to soils.
The Plan for Growth implementation update (2013)	<p>The plan for growth, published alongside Budget 2011, and as part of the Autumn Statement 2011, announced a programme of structured reforms to remove barriers to growth for businesses and equip the UK to compete in the global race. These reforms span a range of policies including improving UK infrastructure, cutting red tape, root and branch reform of the planning system and boosting trade and inward investment, to achieve the governments four ambitions for growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the most competitive tax system in the G20 • Encouraging investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy • Making the UK the best place in Europe to start, finance and grow a business • Creating a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe. 	The Cannock Chase Local Plan policies will need to reflect the ambitions set out within the Plan for Growth 2013.	Include a sustainability objective relating to economic growth.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)	<p>The new, ambitious biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how the UK is implementing its international and EU commitments.</p> <p>It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.</p>	The Local Plan will need to contain policies that protect biodiversity.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

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Lifetime Neighbourhoods (2011)	<p>This document is a national strategy for housing in an ageing society. It seeks to support residents to develop lifetime neighbourhoods in terms of resident empowerment, access, services and amenities, built and natural environment, social networks/well-being and housing.</p>	<p>The policies and site allocations will need to reflect the requirements set out within the national strategy.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to the creation of sustainable communities.</p>
UK Bioenergy Strategy (2012)	<p>The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that its policies only support bioenergy use in the right circumstances. This strategy is based on four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy.</p> <p>In summary the four principles state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond. • Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of the overall energy goals. • Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy. • At regular time intervals and when policies promote significant additional demand for bioenergy in the UK, beyond that envisaged by current use, policy makers should assess and respond to the impacts of this increased deployment on other areas, such as food security and biodiversity. 	<p>The principles of the Bioenergy Strategy 2012 will need to be reflected within the Cannock Chase Local Plan policies.</p>	<p>Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change.</p>
Future Water: The Government's Water Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2008)	<p>Sets out how the Government want the water sector to look by 2030 and an outline of the steps which need to be taken to get there.</p> <p>The vision for 2030 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "improved the quality of our water environment and the ecology it supports, and continue to 	<p>Policies should aim to contribute to the vision set out in this Strategy.</p>	<p>Include SA objectives which seek to protect, manage and enhance the water environment.</p>

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	<p>maintain high standards of drinking water quality from taps;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainably managed risks from flooding and coastal erosion, with greater understanding and more effective management of surface water; • Ensure a sustainable use of water resources, and implement fair, affordable and cost-reflective water charges; • Cut greenhouse gas emissions; and • Embed continuous adaptation to climate change and other pressures across the water industry and water users”. 		
The Climate Change Act (2008)	<p>The Climate Change Act was passed in 2008 and established a framework to develop an economically credible emissions reduction path. It also strengthened the UK’s leadership internationally by highlighting the role it would take in contributing to urgent collective action to tackle climate change under the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>The Climate Change Act includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2050 target. The act commits the UK to reducing emissions by at least 80% in 2050 from 1990 levels. This target was based on advice from the CCC report: Building a Low- carbon Economy. The 80% target includes GHG emissions from the devolved administrations, which currently accounts for around 20% of the UK’s total emissions. • Carbon Budgets. The Act requires the Government to set legally binding ‘carbon budgets’. A carbon budget is a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period. The first four carbon budgets have been put into legislation and run up to 2027. 	The Cannock Chase Local Plan policies must reflect the objectives of The Climate Change Act, in order to contribute to reducing UK carbon emissions.	Include a sustainability objective relating to climate change.
Heritage Protection for the 21 st Century: White Paper (2007)	The proposals in this White Paper reflect the importance of the heritage protection system in preserving our heritage for people to enjoy now and in the future. They are based around three core principles:	The Cannock Chase Local Plan policies will need to ensure that	Include a sustainability objective relating to cultural heritage.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a unified approach to the historic environment; • Maximising opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and • Supporting sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system 	they protect the District's heritage assets.	
The Air Quality Strategy for England vol. 1 (2007)	<p>The Air Quality Strategy sets out a way forward for work and planning on air quality issues by setting out the air quality standards and objectives to be achieved. It introduces a new policy framework for tackling fine particles, and identifies potential new national policy measures which modelling indicates could give further health benefits and move closer towards meeting the Strategy's objectives. The objectives of strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further improve air quality in the UK from today and long term. • Provide benefits to health, quality of life and the environment. 	The Cannock Chase Local Plan policies will need to work towards further improving air quality in the UK.	Include a sustainability objective relating to air quality.
Working with the grain of nature – A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2011))	This Strategy seeks to protect and improve the rural, urban, marine and global environment and lead on the integration of these with other policies across Government and internationally.	The Local Plan should minimise loss of biodiversity when allocating sites for development.	Include a sustainability objective relating to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Energy Act (2008)	<p>The Act works towards a number of policy objectives including carbon emissions reduction, security of supply, and competitive energy markets. Objectives: Electricity from Renewable Sources: changes to Renewables Obligation</p> <p>(RO), designed to increase renewables generation, as well as the effectiveness of the RO.</p> <p>Feed in tariffs for small scale, low carbon generators of electricity. Smart meters: the Act mandates a roll-out of smart meters to medium sized businesses over the next five years.</p>	Policies and site allocations will have to ensure a positive contribution in meeting the climate change challenge by capitalising on renewable and low carbon energy opportunities and	Include a sustainability objective relating to energy efficiency and climate change.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	Renewable heat incentives: the establishment of a financial support mechanism for those generating heat from renewable sources.	adaptation measures which reduce the threat of climate change.	
Green Infrastructure and the Urban Fringe (Natural England, 2009)	Promotes the concept of multifunctionality – the integration and interaction of different activities on the same parcel of land. The Countryside In and Around Towns programme acknowledges Green Infrastructure as a key mechanism for delivering regional and local change. The strategy promotes regional coalitions to pool resources, regional stocktakes to examine the extent, state and potential of the GI, influencing RSS and LDFs, putting forward exemplar projects as examples of good practice to learn from.	Polices and site allocations to deliver new green infrastructure and enhancement of existing assets in and around new developments to contribute to better quality, multifunctional environments.	Ensure the concept of green infrastructure is promoted through the SA framework.
Water for Life and Livelihoods: A Strategy for River Basin Planning (Environment Agency, 2006)	This document set out the Environment Agency's strategy to implement the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) by managing water based on river basin planning. The document aims to reduce pollution, prevent deterioration and improve the condition of aquatic ecosystems including wetlands.	Cannock Chase Local Plan policies should promote efficient use of water in new developments and good management of water resources	Consideration of water related issues within the SA framework.
National Infrastructure Plan (2014)	The Infrastructure Plan allows for long term public funding certainty for key infrastructure areas such as: roads, rail, flood defences and science. All elements highlighted in the Plan represent firm commitment by government to supply the funding levels stipulated. The Plan also highlights what steps the government will take to ensure effective delivery of its key projects	The Cannock Chase Local Plan objectives and policies should support the delivery of infrastructure to support new development.	To ensure that infrastructure delivery is embedded within the SA framework.
Waste Management Plan for England (2013)	The Waste Management Plan follows the EU principal of waste hierarchy. This requires that prevention of waste, preparing for reuse and recycling should be given priority	The Cannock Chase Local Plan policies will be	The objectives of the national waste policy will be required to be embedded within the SA framework.

Plan/ Policy/ Programme	Objectives and Requirements	How to incorporate into the Local Plan	Implications for the SA
	<p>order in any waste legislation and policy. From this principal a key objective of The Plan is to reduce the level of waste going to landfill and to encourage recycling. The Plan also requires that larger amounts of hazardous waste should be disposed of at specially managed waste facilities.</p>	<p>required to incorporate the objectives of the national waste policy. In order to encourage the reduction of waste and the reuse of materials.</p>	
<p>Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</p>	<p>The Act aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather. It provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer.</p>	<p>The Local Plan should protect existing and future development as well as residents in Cannock Chase from flood risk.</p>	<p>The overview of flood risk management in England which is provided in the Act will need to be reflected in the Framework of the SA.</p>

Appendix 2

Assumptions to be applied in the SA of site options

Table A2.1: Assumptions to be applied during the SA of site options for the Cannock Chase Local Plan

SA Objectives	Assumptions
<p>1. Protect and enhance biodiversity, fauna and flora and geodiversity.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Development sites that are within close proximity of an international, national or local designated conservation site have the potential to affect the biodiversity or geodiversity of those sites/features, e.g. through habitat damage/loss, fragmentation, disturbance to species, air pollution, increased recreation pressure etc. Conversely, there may be opportunities to promote habitat connectivity if new developments include green infrastructure. Therefore, while proximity to designated sites provides an indication of the potential for an adverse effect, uncertainty exists, as appropriate mitigation may avoid adverse effects and may even result in beneficial effects. In addition, the potential impacts on biodiversity present on each site, or undesignated habitats and species adjacent to the potential development sites, cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. This would be determined once more specific proposals are developed and submitted as part of a planning application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 250m of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites (may have a significant negative (--?) effect. • Sites that are between 250m and 1km of one or more internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, or that are within 250m of a locally designated site may have a minor negative (-?) effect. • Sites that are more than 1km from any internationally or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity sites, or that are over 250m from a locally designated site could have a negligible (0?) effect. <p>Cannock Chase District Council’s guidance on development near the Cannock Chase SAC⁸⁵ refers to a 15km area around the SAC, within which new residential development could be most likely to contribute to increased recreation pressure at the site. Given the location of the SAC within the District, most site options are likely to fall within this buffer distance. The SA will therefore record whether site options are within 15km of the SAC (giving a potential minor negative score (-?) if this is not already the case due to the above assumptions), and the issue will be considered further as part of the HRA which is being undertaken separately for the Local Plan. Once the HRA findings are available, scores will be adjusted if particular sites are identified as likely to have significant effects on one or more European designated nature conservation site.</p>
<p>2. Minimise pollution and protect and enhance air, water, and soils.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Development sites that are within, or directly connected via road, to one of the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the District could increase levels of air pollution in those areas as a result of increased vehicle traffic. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential, employment and mixed use sites that are within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect on air quality. • Gypsy and Traveller sites that are within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect on air quality (due to a lower number of vehicle movements likely to be associated with these sites).

⁸⁵ Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Guidance to Mitigate the Impact of New Residential Development (2015/16)

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All sites that are not within or directly connected via road to an AQMA are likely to have a negligible (0) effect on air quality. <p>Development sites that are within close proximity of the strategic road network (motorways or 'A' roads) could result in noise pollution affecting users of the site. However, it may be possible to mitigate effects through the design and layout of sites. Therefore in addition, which could lead to mixed effects with the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are directly adjacent to a motorway or 'A' road could have a minor negative (-?) effect on noise pollution although this is uncertain. Sites that are not adjacent to a motorway or 'A' road would have a negligible (0) effect in relation to noise pollution. <p>The effects of new development on soils will depend on its location in relation to the areas of highest quality agricultural land in the District, and whether the land has previously been developed. Therefore in addition, which could lead to mixed effects with the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3a agricultural quality would have a significant negative (--) effect on soils. Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land which is classed as being of Grade 3 agricultural quality (but where it is not known if it is Grade 3a or 3b land) could have a significant negative effect on soils although this is uncertain (--?). Sites that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land that is classed as Grade 3b, Grade 4, Grade 5, non-agricultural or urban land would have a minor negative (-) effect on soils. Sites that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land would have a minor positive (+) effect on preserving soils. <p>The effects of new development on water quality will depend on factors such as whether there is capacity at the relevant sewage treatment works to accommodate the new development, which cannot be assessed at this stage. It is recognised that policies in the Local Plan may require any necessary upgrades to be made before development proceeds. However, effects could also be influenced by the proximity of site options to Source Protection Zones. Therefore in addition, which could lead to mixed effects with the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within Source Protection Zone 1 could have a significant negative (--?) effect on water quality. Sites that are within Source Protection Zones 2 or 3 could have a minor negative (-?) effect on water quality. Sites that are not within a Source Protection Zone are likely to have a negligible (0) effect on water quality.
<p>3. Ensure development makes efficient use of previously developed land and buildings.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Development on brownfield land represents more efficient use of land in comparison to the development of greenfield sites. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential and employment sites that are relatively large in size (they would provide more than 50 homes or more than 30ha of employment land) and that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land would have a significant negative (--) effect. All Gypsy and Traveller site options and residential and employment sites that are relatively small in size (they would provide fewer than 50 homes or fewer than 30ha of employment land) and that are mainly or entirely on greenfield land would have a minor negative (-) effect.

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Gypsy and Traveller site options and residential and employment sites that are relatively small in size (they would provide fewer than 50 homes or fewer than 30ha of employment land) and that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land would have a minor positive (+) effect. Residential and employment sites that are relatively large in size (they would provide more than 50 homes or more than 30ha of employment land) and that are mainly or entirely on brownfield land would have a significant positive (++) effect.
<p>4. Adapt to the impacts of, and minimise factors contributing to, climate change.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The effects of new development on this SA objective will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates renewable energy generation on site or includes SuDS. The location of development sites will influence this SA objective in relation to whether the sites offer good opportunities for sustainable transport use and whether they are within areas of high flood risk; however these factors are considered under other SA objectives (SA objectives 8 and 5 respectively). Therefore, all site options will have negligible effects on this SA objective.</p>
<p>5. Reduce the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on this SA objective will depend to some extent on its design, for example whether it incorporates SuDS, which cannot be assessed at this stage. Where site options are located in areas of high flood risk, it could increase the risk of flooding in those areas (particularly if the sites are not previously developed) and would increase the number of people and assets at risk from flooding. National Planning Practice Guidance identifies which types of land uses are considered to be appropriate in Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b.</p> <p>Residential site options</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance identifies residential properties as a 'more vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 and 2 but would require an exception test in flood zone 3a, and is unsuitable in flood zone 3b. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are entirely or mainly on greenfield land that is within flood zones 3a and 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. Sites that are either entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zones 3a and 3b, or that are entirely or mainly on brownfield within flood zones 3a and 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zones 3a and 3b are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Gypsy and Traveller site options</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance identifies caravans, mobile homes and park homes intended for permanent residential use as a 'highly vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1 but would require an exception test in flood zone 2 and is unsuitable in flood zones 3a and 3b. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are entirely or mainly within flood zones 2 or 3 are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. Sites that are on greenfield land outside of flood zones 2 and 3, or sites that are on brownfield land within flood zones 2 and 3 are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zones 2 and 3 are likely to have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>National Planning Practice Guidance identifies offices and general industry as a 'less vulnerable use', which is suitable in areas of flood zone 1, 2 and 3a but is unsuitable in flood zone 3b. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are entirely or mainly on greenfield land that is within flood zone 3b are likely to have a significant negative (--) effect. Sites that are entirely or mainly on greenfield land that is within flood zone 3 (but where it is not known if it is 3a or 3b) could have a significant negative effect on soils although this is uncertain (--?). Sites that are either entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zone 3b, or that are entirely or mainly on brownfield within flood zone 3b are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect. Sites that are either entirely or mainly on greenfield outside of flood zone 3, or that are entirely or mainly on brownfield within flood zone 3 (but where it is not known if it is flood zone 3a or 3b) could have a minor negative effect on flooding although this is uncertain (-?). Sites that are on brownfield land outside of flood zone 3b (or flood zone 3) are likely to have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>6. Protect, enhance and manage the character and quality of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The effects of new development on the character and quality of the landscape will depend largely on its design, which is not yet known; therefore all effects will be to some extent uncertain at this stage. Where development is within or close to designated landscapes, or where it would be large in size and on previously undeveloped land, negative effects could result. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where development sites are located within, or within 1km of, Cannock Chase AONB, a potential significant negative (--) effect on the landscape is identified. <p>The Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District divides the District into a number of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and assesses their sensitivity to development. Therefore, in addition to the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within an LCT that is assessed as being of high sensitivity to development could have a significant negative effect (--?). Sites that are within an LCT that is assessed as being of moderate sensitivity to development could have a minor negative effect (-?). Sites that are within an LCT that is assessed as being 'urban' or of low sensitivity to development could have a negligible effect (0?). <p>Note that townscape character and quality is considered in SA objective 17 below.</p>
<p>7. Make sustainable use of resources and</p>	<p>All types of site options</p>

SA Objectives	Assumptions
<p>minimise waste generation.</p>	<p>While it is recognised that new development in any location may result in an increase in the consumption of water, the specific location of new development would not have a direct effect on levels of water consumption. This issue would instead be influenced by factors such as peoples' behaviour and how well water efficiency measures are incorporated into the development.</p> <p>All new development will result in the increased consumption of minerals for construction but this will not be influenced by the location of the development. The location of development sites can influence the efficient use of minerals as development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas (as identified in the adopted Staffordshire Minerals Local Plan) may sterilise mineral resources and restrict the availability of resources in the District. However, Cannock Chase District is almost entirely within a Minerals Safeguarding Area; therefore it is not possible to distinguish between most site options in this sense.</p> <p>In terms of waste generation, the effects of new development will again depend largely on people's behaviour while using the new development. However, where development takes place on previously developed land, there may be opportunities to reuse onsite buildings and materials, reducing waste generation. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are on brownfield land could have a minor positive (+?) effect on reducing waste generation although this is uncertain. • Sites that are on greenfield land would have a negligible effect on reducing waste generation.
<p>8. Encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable modes of transport.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The proximity of development sites to sustainable transport links will affect the extent to which people are able to make use of non-car based modes of transport to access services, facilities and job opportunities, although the actual use of sustainable transport modes will depend on people's behaviour. It is possible that new transport links such as bus routes or cycle paths may be provided as part of new developments, particularly at larger sites, but this cannot be assumed.</p> <p>It is assumed that people would generally be willing to travel further to access a railway station than a bus stop. It is also recognised that many cyclists will travel on roads as well as dedicated cycle routes, and that the extent to which people choose to do so will depend on factors such as the availability of cycle storage facilities at their end destination, which are not determined by the location of sites. How safe or appealing particular roads are for cyclists cannot be determined at this strategic level of assessment. However, the proximity of site options to existing cycle routes can be taken as an indicator of how likely people are to cycle to or from a development site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 1km of a railway station and 350m of a bus stop (regardless of proximity to cycle routes) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within either 1km of a railway station <u>or</u> 350m of a bus stop, but not both, (regardless of proximity to cycle routes) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are more than 1km from a railway station and 350m from a bus stop but that have an existing cycle route passing the site could have a minor negative (-?) effect although this is uncertain depending on whether the cycle route could be used for the purposes of commuting or undertaking day to day journeys. • Sites that are more than 1km from a railway station and 350m from a bus stop and that do not have an existing cycle route

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<p>passing the site are likely to have a minor negative (-) effect.</p> <p>Where information about the frequency of nearby bus routes is available, this will be taken into account in the SA which may result in the above scores being adjusted where appropriate. For example, where a bus service is known to operate less frequently than every 30 minutes, the score may be reduced.</p>
<p>9. Ensure all people are able to live in a decent home which meets their needs.</p>	<p>Residential site options</p> <p>All of the residential site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development. Housing sites of 11 homes or more will make provision for affordable housing so will have significant positive effects. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites with capacity for more than 11 homes will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites with capacity for fewer than 11 homes will have a minor positive (+) effect. <p>Gypsy and Traveller Site options</p> <p>All of the Gypsy and Traveller site options are expected to have positive effects on this objective, due to the nature of the proposed development which would help to meet local need. Therefore, all sites are considered to have a significant positive (++) effect.</p> <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore the score for all site options will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>10. Raise educational aspirations and attainment within the District and ensure that educational facilities are provided where they are required.</p>	<p>Residential and Gypsy and Traveller site options</p> <p>The effects of housing development or the development of new Gypsy and Traveller sites on this objective will depend on the availability of school places to serve the growing population, which will depend in part on whether new places are provided as part of the new development. The threshold for providing a new primary school within Cannock Chase District is generally a development of 700 or more homes, while the threshold for secondary provision is around 4-5,000 (none of the sites allocated through the Local Plan would be of that size. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential site options that would incorporate 700 or more dwellings could have a significant positive effect (++) as a result of new primary provision onsite, although this is uncertain until specific proposals for sites are known. <p>The effects of developing a site will also relate to the access that they provide to existing educational facilities although there are uncertainties as the effects will depend on there being capacity at those schools to accommodate new pupils. Further discussions with Staffordshire County Council will be undertaken outside of the SA process to understand capacity related issues.</p>

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<p>Therefore in addition, which could lead to mixed effects with the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of at least one existing primary school and at least one secondary school may have a significant positive (++) effect. Sites that are within 600m of one of either an existing primary or secondary school (but not both), may have a minor positive effect (+?). Sites that are not within 600m of an existing school may have a minor negative (-?) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore the score for all site options will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>11. Reduce crime and the fear of crime.</p>	<p>The effects of new development on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development sites (rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site). Therefore, the effects of all of the site options on this SA objective will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>12. Improve public health and ensure health facilities are accessible for those in need.</p>	<p>Residential and Gypsy and Traveller site options</p> <p>Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of existing healthcare facilities (i.e. GP surgeries or hospitals) will ensure that residents have good access to healthcare services. While public health will also be influenced by the proximity of sites to open spaces, walking and cycle paths, this is considered separately under SA objective 13 below. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that are within 600m of a hospital and a GP surgery will have a significant positive (++) effect. Sites that are within 600m of either a hospital or GP surgery (but not both) will have a minor positive (+) effect. Sites that are not within 600m of either a hospital or GP surgery will have a minor negative (-) effect. <p>If a number of sites are allocated within close proximity of one another, this could lead to existing healthcare facilities becoming overloaded. If at any point information becomes available regarding the capacity of existing healthcare facilities, this will be taken into account in the SA as relevant.</p> <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The location of employment sites is not considered likely to affect this objective; therefore the score for all site options will be negligible (0).</p>
<p>13. Protect, enhance and create open spaces for leisure</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>Sites that are within walking distance (600m) of existing open spaces (including Green Space Network sites) may encourage more people to be active outdoors in open space, including both local residents and employees during breaks and after work.</p>

SA Objectives	Assumptions
and recreation	<p>However, development of a site that includes an area of open space or public right of way could result in the loss of that feature, depending on whether it can be retained as part of the development proposal. Conversely, large-scale new housing site allocations could offer opportunities for new open space provision within the development site. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within 600m of more than one area of open space and/or more than one PRoW will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are within 600m of one area of open space or a PRoW will have a minor positive (+) effect. • Sites that are not within 600m of an area of open space or a PRoW will have a negligible (0) effect. <p>In addition, which may result in mixed effects overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential site options that would provide more than 100 new homes⁸⁶ could offer good opportunities to incorporate new open space onsite; therefore could have a minor positive (+?) effect although this is uncertain until proposals for the site come forward. • Sites that include an area of open space or public right of way could have a minor negative (-?) effect, although this is uncertain as it cannot be known whether the feature would be lost due to the development, or potentially retained and/or enhanced.
14. Provide easy access to community services and facilities to meet people's needs.	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The location of new residential development of Gypsy and Traveller sites will not directly affect the number or range of services in a particular location (although a large scale housing development could potentially stimulate the provision of new services); however the location of all types of development sites could affect this objective by influencing people's ability to access existing services and facilities (both for local residents and employees during breaks and after work).</p> <p>Cannock Chase Council has identified a centres hierarchy in the Local Plan (Part 1) through policy CP11. This classifies settlements in the District as either the strategic sub-regional centre of Cannock, Town Centres, District Centres or Local Centres. Although this policy will be updated through the preparation of the new Local Plan, in the meantime proximity to these centres can be used as an indicator of proximity to most services and facilities in the District. It is recognised that it will not always be definitive as to which town/local centre the site most clearly relates due to the nature of the District's urban areas which often merge into one another- however a judgement based upon proximity and local knowledge of the communities has been made for the purposes of the assessment. While it is expected that the Town Centres of the District will provide access to greater numbers and types of facilities and services, at Cannock Chase's one District Centre as well as its Local Centres access to such services and facilities will be variable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are in closest proximity to and are within/or which are adjoining the urban edges of the Town Centres Cannock, Rugeley or Hednesford will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are in closest proximity to and are within/or which are adjoining the urban edges of a District Centre (Hawks

⁸⁶ This threshold is based on the policy set out in the Design SPD with regards to onsite open space and play provision.

SA Objectives	Assumptions
	<p>Green) or Local Centre (Norton Canes, Heath Hayes, Chadsmoor, Bridgtown, Fernwood Drive and Brereton) would have a minor positive but uncertain (+?) effect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are not within any of the above centres but that are within walking distance of public transport links (within 1km of a railway station or 350m of a bus stop) will have a minor negative (-) effect. • Sites that are not within any of the above centres and that are not within walking distance of public transport links (within 1km of a railway station or 350m of a bus stop) will have a significant negative (--) effect.
<p>15. Help the continued regeneration of the local economy by protecting existing employment sites and ensuring there is adequate provision of new sites.</p>	<p>Residential and Gypsy and Traveller site options</p> <p>The location of residential and Gypsy and Traveller sites will in most cases not affect this objective; therefore the score for most site options will be negligible (0). However, if a site option would result in the loss of an existing employment site, a negative effect would occur in relation to the protection of existing employment sites. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are currently in employment use would have a significant negative (--) effect. • Sites that are not currently in employment use would have a negligible (0) effect. <p>Employment site options</p> <p>The provision of new employment sites in any location is likely to have a positive effect on this objective by ensuring that new job opportunities are provided to match the population growth that is being planned for within the Local Plan. Effects will be particularly positive where sites are large in size as they will result in more job creation. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large sites (those 30ha or larger) are likely to have a significant positive (++) effect. • Small sites (those under 30ha) are likely to have a minor positive (+) effect.
<p>16. Enhance the town centres in order to protect and improve their vitality and viability.</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>High quality new development in the town centres of Cannock Chase District could help to enhance the appearance of the built environment in those areas, encouraging people to visit and use the town centres and benefitting their vitality and viability. Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites that are within Cannock, Rugeley or Hednesford town centres will have a significant positive (++) effect. • Sites that are not within any of the above town centres will have a negligible (0) effect.
<p>17. Conserve and enhance the built and historic environment</p>	<p>All types of site options</p> <p>The NPPF states that the 'significance [of a heritage asset] can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting'. However, development could also enhance the significance of the asset (provided that the development preserves those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveals</p>

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	<p>the significance of the asset).</p> <p>In all cases, effects will be uncertain at this stage as the potential for negative or positive effects on historic and heritage assets will depend on the exact scale, design and layout of the new development and opportunities which may exist to enhance the setting of heritage features (e.g. where sympathetic development replaces a derelict brownfield site which is currently having an adverse effect).</p> <p>As an indication of potential effects on historic and heritage assets from development of any of the site options, the following assumptions and evidence will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where a site option is more than 500m from the nearest designated heritage assets, a negligible effect is considered likely although this is uncertain (0?) as there is still some potential for impacts on non-designated heritage features and effects may extend beyond 500m in some cases. <p>Where a site option is within 500m of a designated heritage asset, professional judgement and evidence (such as Conservation Area Appraisals, information contained on the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record, the Historic Environment Assessment and the findings of the Cannock and Rugeley Extensive Urban Surveys) will be used to inform judgements. Where there are potential impacts on multiple heritage assets this will also be taken into account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites which have potential for heritage assets to be enhanced and their significance to be better revealed could have a minor positive (+?) or significant positive effect (++?) on this objective. • Sites which are unlikely to cause adverse impacts on heritage assets could have a negligible (0?) effect on this objective. • Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets, but can be mitigated, could have a minor negative (-?) effect on this objective. • Sites which have the potential to cause harm to heritage assets where it is unlikely that these can be adequately mitigated could have a significant negative (--?) effect on this objective.

