



**Cannock Chase
Local Development Framework**

**Local Plan Part 1:
Post Submission
Modifications**

Equalities Impact Assessment

October 2013

Context

Local Authorities are required by law to promote equality of opportunity, tackle discrimination and foster good relations in respect of race, disability, age, sex, gender reassignment, religion or belief, pregnancy/maternity, marriage and civil partnerships and sexual orientation. Relevant legislation includes the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and Age Discrimination Act 2006, now encompassed in the Equality Act 2010. As a public service provider Cannock Chase Council must ensure that it delivers services and offers employment fairly and equitably for all, taking into account the resources available and the communities it serves. We are working towards the goal of making the District a place where people want to live and work, a place where everyone has equal opportunities and choices.

The role of Planning in guiding and shaping new developments can have a fundamental impact on the way in which people live in their communities, and should aim to improve the lives of the widest cross-section of society. Equality and diversity issues therefore need to be built into all levels of the Local Development Framework (LDF) which will guide the future development of the District between 2006 and 2028. Community involvement is vital to ensure that the LDF is relevant to the needs and aspirations of all members of the local community. The 'Local Plan Part 1' is the central document in the LDF and sets out strategic policies to help shape the way the physical, social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District will change. In addition it provides a more specific development framework for Rugeley Town Centre to aid its regeneration.

The Equality Act 2010 introduced a new Public Sector Equality Duty that was brought into effect in April 2011. This places a duty on public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. In order to demonstrate the Council's compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on any new or changing policies and services. This process allows us to show how we have considered our legal duties in relation to equality when making decisions. Once an EqIA is complete the Council is required to publish the results and an Action Plan may need to be developed to address any concerns.

Methodology and Assessment

Following introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in April 2012 **the document under preparation by the Council formerly known as the 'Core Strategy' has now been combined with a further document also under preparation, the 'Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan'(RTCAAP), as the 'Local Plan Part 1'.**

The Core Strategy was developed through early public consultation to define a range of issues and build up a District profile which together inform the vision, objectives and strategic approach. It is 'objectives-led' with objectives central to pointing the way to meeting the vision and supported by a suite of core policies. The vision has three strands: a vibrant local economy, opportunities for all and a clean, green, safe environment. The strategic approach is to direct development to urban areas across the District in proportion to population sizes at the start of the plan period and to protect the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and other green infrastructure. The District-wide objectives are as follows:

- Promote pride in attractive safe local communities
- Create healthy living opportunities across the District
- Provide for housing choice
- Encourage a vibrant local economy and workforce
- Encourage sustainable transport infrastructure
- Create attractive town centres
- Provide well-managed and appreciated environments
- Support a greener future

A suite of 16 core policies support these objectives covering the following topics:

- Strategy
- Developer contributions for infrastructure
- Chase shaping – design
- Neighbourhood-led planning
- Social inclusion and healthy living
- Housing land
- Housing choice
- Employment land
- A balanced economy
- Sustainable transport
- Centres hierarchy
- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation
- Landscape character and Cannock Chase AONB
- Historic environment
- Climate change and sustainable resource use

Current good practice indicates that equality and diversity issues should be integral to the process of developing new policies so during preparation of the Core Strategy an initial informal self-assessment in relation to the 2008 Issues and Options stage was undertaken (see Appendix 1). The spatial options and issues were colour coded red, amber and green in a matrix to align with the Sustainability Appraisal. This ensured that equality and diversity issues were embedded into the process at the earliest possible stage and highlighted potentially negative impacts as areas of concern (red) and areas where more work was needed (amber), the rest adequately addressed (green). Consultation responses on Issues and Options were analysed and further evidence gathered.

A checklist from the ODPM Good Practice Guide 'Diversity and Equality in Planning' (2005) was also applied to the Issues and Options stage to ensure that issues around diversity and equality were accounted for and inbuilt into the process from the outset (see Appendix 2).

Analysis of the Issues and Options informed the Preferred Options stage in 2009 when a fuller screening process was carried out on the vision, draft strategic approach and draft policy areas to highlight any issues which might arise at this stage (see Appendix 3). An EqIA matrix formed part of the consultation exercise which was the subject of particular scrutiny by voluntary and community sector groups. By this stage the majority of the impacts were positive with the remainder needing more work to ensure potentially negative impacts were avoided, with potential to be turned into a positive impact later with careful attention to detail.

The next stage was due to be the statutory Publication and Submission stage, leading to public examination for adoption. However in preparing this final version significant concerns were raised regarding the overall scale of development within the sub-region and its effects on the internationally important Special Area of Conservation (SAC) on Cannock Chase. So the decision was taken to delay the Publication stage until additional studies were sufficiently advanced to ensure these concerns could be dealt with. In the meantime it was decided to undertake a non-statutory Pre-Publication stage of consultation in summer 2010 before the Core Strategy was refined for its final statutory stages. This allowed stakeholders to comment further on the strategic approach and detailed policies which would have represented the Publication and Submission version. It also allowed the opportunity to gauge stakeholder views and identify any areas in need of further refinement. Each proposed policy was assessed using the Council's full procedures to establish their effects in relation to equalities. This comprised a systematic assessment through completion of a form and matrix. The EqIA was included in the Pre-Publication consultation in respect of which no further comments were received.

With two exceptions the potential impact of the proposed policies was positive:

- A fair distribution of development across the District
- Presumption in favour of sustainable development supporting positive growth and change for the better
- Integration of new development reflecting local distinctiveness
- Give communities the opportunity to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood
- Conditions which encourage access to a range of local facilities
- A balanced housing market including provision for gypsies and travelling people
- A balanced economy including social enterprise and volunteering
- Access to services, employment, leisure etc without the need to rely on a car
- A thriving range of facilities in local centres
- Improved access to a variety of green and open space
- Managed access to the SAC and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- An enhanced and protected historic environment
- Climate change and sustainability dealt with in an appropriate way

Some of these positive impacts will benefit the whole community, some will particularly favour the young, elderly and disabled and some await more detailed proposals aimed at specific target groups. The exceptions relate to housing and employment land policies - there is no specific target population for amount and distribution of housing at a strategic level, housing choice being covered by a separate policy, and the impact of distribution of employment uses at a strategic level will not be able to be assessed until more detailed proposals are worked up, so both have been rated 'amber' (require more work in the detail). The Equalities Impact Assessment stages 1, 2 and 3 prepared for the Core Strategy Pre-Publication stage is attached at Appendix 4.

The EqIA was revisited in July 2012 prior to Publication: Draft stage and after updates to reflect changes in national policy, including a change of title to Local Plan Part 1, and the updated matrix formed part of the Publication Draft consultation exercise. The Publication: Draft EqIA is attached at Appendix 5 and the consultation produced no further comments.

The Publication EqIA is attached at Appendix 6. Following Publication, Submission and Post Submission public hearing sessions of the Local Plan (Part 1), a number of Main Modifications are proposed to the Plan which include clarification of policy wording and supporting text. The Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to Local Plan (Part 1) is attached as an addendum to this Assessment. Those of particular relevance to the Equalities Assessment allow for some additional housing land capacity and clarify the basis for affordable housing contributions, having a potential further positive impact on age characteristics; also strengthen the opportunity to deal with shortfalls and/or additional demand from the gypsy and traveller community with a potential further positive impact on race. The EqIA is now taken forward as the Post Submission Modifications EqIA.

Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan comprises more specific guidance to aid Rugeley's regeneration and attract new development into the town centre. In 2006 the Council concluded that it required assistance as a third of its population were known to be shopping elsewhere and the urban fabric was looking tired and in need of investment. The planning framework draws on the District-wide strategy as well as national good practice guidance and has been developed through parallel consultation stages to the Core Strategy. The Plan includes general guidelines as well as identifying specific sites which are suitable for redevelopment over the next ten years. Five key objectives have been identified:

- A more competitive town centre which provides for the daily shopping needs of its local community
- A centre which is accessible to all and benefits from increased pedestrian and cycle linkages
- A centre which stays alive in the evening as well as the daytime and provides cultural and leisure opportunities for residents and visitors alike

- High quality public spaces which complement the existing conservation areas and take full advantage of the Trent and Mersey Canal
- An increase in the resident population through provision of high quality housing in appropriate locations with a mix of dwelling types

Eleven policies support these objectives covering the following topics:

- Regeneration strategy
- Town centre land uses
- Urban design principles
- Aelfgar Centre/former Squash Courts, Taylors Lane
- Market St garages
- Market Hall/Bus Station and surrounding area
- Land at Wellington Drive
- Former Celcon Blockworks, Leathermill Lane/Trent and Mersey Canal Corridor
- Public realm
- Transport
- Flood alleviation measures

Issues and Options consultation on the RTCAAP was carried out in 2008 and on the Preferred Options in 2009. Comments received in response to these consultations have been reviewed and taken into consideration in producing the current document. It was planned that an Equalities Assessment would accompany the final version of the document, however in so far as it draws on the wider strategy equality and diversity issues were integral to policy development. An equalities matrix was prepared for the policies and formed part of the Publication Draft consultation exercise. All the potential impacts are positive though careful attention to the details of proposals will be required to fulfil this potential:

- A strategy to enhance retail choice, improve vitality and viability and improve the town centre environment, maximising equality of opportunity for the whole of the local community and reducing the need to travel.
- Provide a complementary mix of town centre uses to meet local employment, shopping, recreation, leisure and housing needs, enhancing diversity, meeting changing needs, increasing choice and reflecting local distinctiveness
- Encourage high standards of design respecting historic context, extending and enhancing pedestrian links, creating active frontages and improving the public realm, with a grant scheme of financial assistance for business owners and tenants of historic buildings
- Guidelines for opportunity sites support the strategy with potential to strengthen vitality, improve facilities and shopping choice, encourage increased housing options for different sectors of the population in a sustainable location, improve connectivity through town, enhance condition of historic buildings in town centre and local identity.
- Guidelines for public realm and transport enhancement include upgrading of signage, seating, paving and reduction of 'clutter', improved

pedestrian/cycle facilities, access to public transport and accessible car parking and enhanced links to canal towpath.

Most of these positive impacts will benefit the whole of the local community, though development of the opportunity sites may benefit particular groups, depending on the specific proposals. *The Proposed Main Modifications do not impact on the Rugeley Town Centre AAP.*

The Local Plan Part 1: Post Submission Modifications EqIA, including the updated Core Strategy equalities matrix and the RTCAAP equalities matrix (to which there is no change) follows (note: the Equality Impact Assessment interactive form is an attachment within this file- see left hand pane and click 'open' to view):

Policy reference	Policy title	Potential impact	Comments on protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation)
Policy CP1	Strategy	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategy for the distribution of development was strongly favoured during consultation as it was felt that this was the most fair option in terms of distributing development across the District in proportion to the scale of the existing communities, rather than focussing upon a more limited number of specific areas which would create exclusion for other communities which would not benefit Strategy updated to reflect presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in National Planning Policy Framework 2012 supporting positive growth and change for the better to the benefit of the whole community.
Policy CP2	Developer Contributions for Infrastructure	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developer contributions will be required towards provision of affordable housing and/or the infrastructure needed to deliver the Local Plan based on economic viability. Inclusion of policy accords with National Planning Policy Framework 2012 which requires a meaningful proportion of funds generated to be passed to neighbourhoods whilst supporting new development.
Policy CP3	Design	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New developments will be integrated in a way which is relevant to the local area/ local need to avoid issues of exclusion and to reflect local distinctiveness. We will be developing more information on what we mean by 'good design' through a District Design Guide SPD. The target population will depend upon the detail of each scheme and so cannot be specified at this strategic stage (for example housing for the elderly). This should also be cross referenced to the following policies: CP12, CP15 and CP16.
Policy CP4	Neighbourhood Planning	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities are increased for community and neighbourhood planning at town/parish council and neighbourhood forum level, with assistance from the District Council. Inclusion of policy accords with National Planning Policy Framework 2012 which seeks to ensure that local people get the right type of development in

			<p>their community and gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood aligned with the strategic needs of the wider area.</p>
Policy CP5	Social Inclusion and Healthy Living	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specific target population at this strategic stage in terms of equality and opportunity screening as the opportunity to keep healthy is relevant to all. However, more detailed proposals, requiring planning applications, may well be aimed at specific target groups (eg young people, people with mobility issues etc). More detailed proposals at the more local level will also look at issues of accessibility for all members of the community. • We recognise that we cannot insist that some such facilities – such as a local shop for instance – are provided or retained as these depend upon market conditions (the ‘use it or lose it’ principle) but we will ensure that the conditions are right to help enable such facilities to be provided. • We recognise that some services may not be viable in rural areas but in order to be sustainable and ensure that vulnerable groups of people are not put at serious disadvantage by their location we feel it is vital that a basic level of service is provided: at the very least a flexible facility (such as a community centre) so that a variety of services can be run from there which will address changing need in the community. • We also recognise that a full range of facilities needed or desired by everyone in the community (eg health, needs of faith groups, leisure facilities etc) cannot realistically be provided in every community and we are therefore seeking to ensure that such facilities are accessible by a number of different means (eg public transport, cycling, walking, even outreach provision) • This policy links with policies CP3, CP7, CP9, CP10, CP11, CP12 and CP16
Policy CP6	Housing Land	=	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specific target population for a general policy dealing with the amount and distribution of housing at a strategic level: this is covered through policy CP7, Housing Choice. <i>Proposed Main Modifications allow for some additional housing land capacity.</i>
Policy CP7	Housing Choice	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced Housing Markets: in order to enable choice and equality of opportunity regarding where people live, this policy has been formulated having

			<p>been informed by detailed studies which have assessed where there are gaps and opportunities in housing provision in the District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable housing can address the needs of many different sectors of the population, for example young people on low incomes, the disabled, the elderly. The provision of affordable housing has the potential to positively impact upon the lives of a wide variety of people with differing needs. However, schemes need to be thought through carefully to ensure that they are addressing the right kind of need in the right place and that other issues are also linked such as accessibility to services (Policies CP5 and CP10) Proposed Main Modifications clarify the basis for affordable housing contributions (Policy CP7). Aspirational housing will provide local people with more housing choice locally Housing an ageing population includes the application of 'Lifetime Homes standards'. Implementing these housing standards means that new housing will be equipped to cater for a variety of different needs but most specifically the elderly and those with certain disabilities. Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople - this section of the policy has a very specific minority target population ie Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople who have very specific accommodation needs. It is considered that this policy will have a positive impact in relation to the needs of this group. In considering the detailed needs however, further work will need to be undertaken in the same way that we are proposing for bricks and mortar accommodation: for example accessibility to services without the need for a car which particularly affects young people, the elderly and those with mobility difficulties. <i>Proposed Main Modifications will strengthen the opportunity to deal with shortfalls and/or additional demand.</i>
Policy CP8	Employment Land	=	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no specific target population for a general policy dealing with the distribution of employment uses at a strategic level: This has therefore been rated 'amber' as the impact will not be able to be assessed in more detail until more detailed proposals are worked up: see policy CP9.
Policy CP9	A Balanced Economy	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The target population is everyone who is of working age. We consider that this proposed policy area will – subject to detailed planning – have a positive impact as it aims to strengthen the local economy which will give local people more

			<p>equality of opportunity in having access to a wide range of jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of support for the voluntary and community sector, the policy may have a particularly significant impact with regard to people with certain disabilities, and those of retirement age as these groups may experience particular issues in accessing traditional employment although they may wish to contribute to the local economy and community. However other groups may also positively benefit from this policy area, for example young people wanting to gain particular skills and experience, or other working age people who may, for example, wish to retrain or gain an additional skill. This policy is intended to enhance the opportunities for equality of access to employment, but also to acknowledge the importance of both social enterprise and volunteering in their own right. • This policy links with policy CP5
Policy CP10	Sustainable transport.	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that people can access services, employment, opportunities for leisure and recreation without needing to rely on a car is one of the key factors which underpins the Core Strategy. It is about equality of opportunity for everyone, but as with other objectives groups particularly likely to benefit are the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car. • This policy links with policies CP5 and CP16
Policy CP11	Centres Hierarchy	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring a good, thriving range of local facilities encourages a vibrant local economy and reduces the need to travel. While everyone benefits from having good quality local services, this policy particularly benefits the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car. • This links with policies CP3, CP5, CP10 and CP16.
Policy CP12	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy will help to increase access to a variety of local green / open space. As with other policies this policy particularly benefits the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car. • This policy should be cross referenced to policies CP5, CP10 and CP16.
Policy	Cannock Chase Special Area of	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy will help to manage access to the SAC. As with other policies, this

CP13	Conservation		<p>policy particularly benefits the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car and, through the appropriate management of the SAC will be able to benefit from greater accessibility to the less environmentally sensitive areas. People will also benefit from investment in other areas of open space which are improved to encourage people to visit them and thus reduce pressure on the SAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should be cross referenced in particular to policies CP5, CP10, CP14 and CP16.
Policy CP14	Landscape Character and Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy will help to manage access to the AONB. As with other policies, this policy particularly benefits the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car and, through the appropriate management of the AONB will be able to benefit from greater accessibility to the less environmentally sensitive areas. People will also benefit from investment in other areas of open space which are improved to encourage people to visit them and thus reduce pressure on the AONB. • This policy should be cross referenced in particular to policies CP5, CP10, CP13 and CP16.
Policy CP15	Historic Environment	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enhancement and protection of the historic environment contributes to equality of opportunity by ensuring that town centres are attractive and valued – places people want to go to rather than travelling elsewhere. This policy, while relevant to all, particularly benefits the elderly, the disabled and young people as these are the groups least likely to have access to a car. • In addition, clear direction on the historic environment will mean that buildings are encouraged to be adapted appropriately (in line with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act) so that they are more accessible: the target population benefiting will therefore be the disabled. • This policy should be cross referenced to policies CP3 and CP5.
Policy CP16	Climate Change and Sustainable Resource Use	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Policy area will benefit everyone, however, it could be argued that there is a particular benefit for young people, as they are the generation who will be living with the long term consequences of climate change. • This policy should be cross referenced to policies CP3, CP5, CP10 and CP12

Policy reference	Policy title	Potential impact	Comments on protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/belief, sex, sexual orientation)
Policy RTC1	Regeneration Strategy	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed from Core Strategy vision for Rugeley and refined through early consultation on three spatial options plus additional evidence Strategy seeks to enhance retail choice, improve vitality and viability and improve the town centre environment, maximizing attractiveness and equality of opportunity for whole of local community and reducing the need to travel, particularly benefitting those least likely to have access to a car eg young, elderly and those with disabilities.
Policy RTC2	Town Centre Land Uses	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary mix of retail, business and leisure uses to provide employment opportunities as well as shopping and recreation with residential infill to meet local/affordable housing need More productive use of vacant floorspace, adaptable buildings to meet changing needs, uses to enhance diversity of the cultural scene and development which reflects local distinctiveness Target population will depend on detail of each scheme but potential to benefit whole community by increasing choice and range of facilities.
Policy RTC3	Urban Design Principles	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key good practice design principles to encourage high standards of new development which respects historic context, repair and alteration of buildings to reinforce town's identity, extend and enhance pedestrian links through town centre to Elmore Park and Canal, create active frontages to roads, promote use of streets and squares for markets and community events and improve the public realm Partnership Scheme with English Heritage to offer grants to assist business owners and tenants help revitalize urban fabric to act as catalyst for economic regeneration Supports implementation of Strategy benefitting whole community particularly business community. Public realm enhancement and better links will particularly benefit pedestrians, cyclists and those with disabilities and maximize sustainable travel opportunities
Policy RTC4	Aelfgar Centre/former Squash Courts, Taylors Lane	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and use criteria relating to an opportunity site identified in early consultations A well designed residential development on this fringe town centre site will contribute to housing provision/options in a sustainable location, including an element of affordable housing, and fit well within its context including enhancing the approach to the Rugeley Rose community facility. Target population will depend on detail but increases housing options for different sectors of the local population and affordable housing has potential to impact positively on the lives of a variety of people with differing needs.

Policy RTC5	Market St Garages	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and use criteria relating to an opportunity site identified in early consultations • This fringe site is felt to have greatest potential for residential development including affordable housing and though currently partly in commercial use it was previously long vacant, so if suitable alternative site can be found for existing business a comprehensive redevelopment could contribute to housing provision/options and fit within context to enhance adjacent historic buildings. • Target population will depend on detail but increases housing options for different sectors of the local population in a sustainable location and affordable housing has potential to impact positively on the lives of a variety of people with differing needs.
Policy RTC6	Rugeley Market Hall/Bus Station & surrounding area	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and use criteria relating to an opportunity site identified in early consultations • Key town centre site currently occupied by outdated indoor market, bus station and surroundings. Potential for replacement market and bus station plus anchor retail store, replacement taxi rank and cycle parking facility. Present market identified in consultation as a weakness of town. New bus station would provide better use of land and enhanced facilities for users. Site links Elmore Park and Brook Square and thus Heritage Trail through District, with potential to improve connectivity through town, strengthen vitality and enliven frontages. • Potential to benefit whole community, particularly bus passengers and market traders/businesses at southern end of town centre by increasing footfall, also easing accessibility in and out of town centre for pedestrians, cyclists and residents of surrounding residential areas thus particularly benefiting those least likely to have access to a car.
Policy RTC7	Land at Wellington Drive	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and use criteria relating to an opportunity site identified in early consultations • Planning history for mixed retail, office, business and residential development plus public car parking. Potential enhancements to pedestrian routes/links through town centre (accessible, safe and well lit), cycle parking and public realm. • Potential to benefit whole community particularly pedestrians and cyclists by enhancing routes/links and cycle parking, car drivers (including the elderly, those with disabilities and parents with children) by increasing parking in a central accessible location, and businesses at south end of town centre by increasing footfall.
Policy RTC8	Former Celcon Block Works, Leathermill Lane/Trent & Mersey Canal Corridor	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and use criteria relating to an opportunity site identified in early consultations • Planning history for retail superstore (Tesco) with car parking/cycle parking/improved bus service with improved access to adjacent canal towpath and dedicated pedestrian/cycle route to improve connectivity between site and town centre. Associated regeneration of historic town centre buildings and the canal side with enhancement of facilities for boaters,

			<p>renovation of canal warehouse and creation of a new waterfront leisure destination focused on canal bridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to benefit whole community by increasing shopping choice, particularly pedestrians and cyclists, those reliant on public transport, boaters and other visitors, car drivers (including the elderly, those with disabilities and parents with children) with car parking close to amenities and ease of access between the canal towpath and town centre. Associated regeneration of buildings in historic town centre will enhance attractiveness of area to businesses and customers and improved connectivity with the town centre will help to minimize any adverse impact on trade. Enhanced leisure facilities will add diversity to the cultural scene to the benefit of the whole community.
Policy RTC9	Public Realm	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public realm enhancements to canal towpath (including gradients, surfacing, seating, signage and removal of 'clutter'), refurbishment/renewal of town centre paving/street furniture including signage, lighting, upgraded CCTV coverage and public art, and environmental enhancements in key locations. • Potential to benefit whole community particularly pedestrians, including the infirm, sight impaired and those with other disabilities, cyclists, boaters and visitors. Public art will reinforce local identity and add diversity to the cultural scene.
Policy RTC10	Transport	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved pedestrian/cycle links through town centre and across District via Heritage Trail, town centre cycle storage facilities, new bus station and accessible taxi rank, enhanced bus service from main residential areas, improved pedestrian route to Town railway station and improved public car parking. • Potential to benefit whole community particularly pedestrians, including the infirm, sight impaired and those with other disabilities, bus and train users, cyclists and visitors.
Policy RTC11	Flood Alleviation Measures	+ve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood alleviation and compensation measures required by the Environment Agency upstream of the A51 will offer a degree of flood mitigation downstream in the town centre. • Potential to benefit whole community particularly tenants and business/property owners in affected area.

Conclusions and next steps

The community has been involved throughout the process of development of the Local Plan Part 1 in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. In particular 'Hard to Reach' groups identified by the Citizen's Panel in 2005 (the young and elderly, those with disabilities including physical, sight, hearing, learning disabilities, long term limiting illnesses and ethnic minorities) have been engaged. The nature of the 'front-loaded' planning process involved a more collaborative approach in the early stages evolving into consultation events and presentations later on. A variety of techniques were used including leaflets and widely circulated press features, road shows, forums and area-based focus groups, and workshops with community and voluntary sector groups, schools and the 'Young Chamber' of South Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce. Both the Core Strategy and Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan separately, and more recently together as the Local Plan Part 1, have followed this course, with responses fed back into the plans as they developed. By the time of consultation on the Pre-Publication Core Strategy in 2010 and the Publication Draft Local Plan Part 1 in 2012 no further comments were received on the accompanying Equalities Impact Assessments which sought to illustrate and offer commentary on the process carried out.

The proposed Local Plan Part 1 policies have therefore been refined through the whole process to mitigate any potential adverse impacts. The actions needed form an integral part of the delivery, management and monitoring of the strategy, so an Action Plan is not required in this case. *The whole Local Plan Part 1 document, including the EqIA, was published and submitted to the Secretary of State. The public hearing procedure resulted in a number of Modifications to the policies and supporting text which have a further positive impact on age and race characteristics of the local community.* The outcomes and indicators for monitoring the Local Plan which support the objectives and meet the vision are based around its delivery. The monitoring process will be co-ordinated through preparation of the annual Monitoring Report linked to the Council's Corporate Monitoring Process.

List of Appendices, bound separately:

Appendix 1 – Core Strategy Issues and Options Stage: matrix

Appendix 2 – Core Strategy Issues and Options Stage: ODPM Good Practice checklist

Appendix 3 - Core Strategy Preferred Options Stage: matrix

Appendix 4 - Core Strategy Pre-Publication Draft Impact Assessment (stages 1-3)

Appendix 5 – Local Plan Part 1 Publication Draft EqIA including updated Core Strategy Equalities Matrix and Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan Equalities Matrix.

Appendix 6 – Local Plan Part 1 Publication EqIA including updated Core Strategy Equalities Matrix and Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan Equalities Matrix.

EqIA Addendum- Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to Local Plan (Part 1) – As at 22nd October 2013

Additional Modification No	Document Page No	Policy/ Paragraph	Modified text (deleted text shown as struck through ,additional text shown in bold and CCDC comments <i>in italics</i>
1. Additional housing capacity for land to the West of Pye Green Road, Hednesford			
MM1.1	8	Under Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes, Housing paragraph	Housing: 1,550 houses on urban sites and 750 homes (with potential for 900) as an urban extension on a strategic site west of Pye Green Road.
MM1.2	11	4 th Paragraph, 'Housing Land', 4 th sentence	Urban extensions within Cannock Chase District are identified via a strategic site west of Pye Green Road for 750 new houses (with potential for 900) , and south of Norton Canes for 670 houses.
MM1.3	46	Paragraph 4.28	<i>Add new sentence at end of paragraph</i> In addition to flexibility provided within the SHLAA there is potential for the housing capacity of the land West of Pye Green Road to be increased to approximately 900 dwellings without raising any new significant infrastructure issues.
MM1.4	87	Paragraph 5.12	<i>Add new sentence at end of paragraph</i> In addition to this supply, the potential for the site capacity of land West of Pye Green Road to increase to 900 dwellings has since been identified.
MM1.5	93	Figure 6.1, Key	750 additional houses (with potential for 900) and range of facilities as part of strategic site
MM1.6	111	Policy CP6, point 3	<i>Add new sentence at end of paragraph</i> In addition there is potential for the site's capacity to increase to 900 dwellings, consistent with the site's strategic allocation.

Additional Modification No	Document Page No	Policy/ Paragraph	Modified text (deleted text shown as struck through ,additional text shown in bold and CCDC comments <i>in italics</i>)
2. Intervention measures to deal with any deficit in supply and criteria for bringing sites forward			
MM2.1	111	Policy CP6, final paragraph	<p>Replace Depending on the results of monitoring it may be necessary to adjust the pace of delivery of housing by bringing forward, or holding back, new development with The annual review of the SHLAA and Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) provide the mechanisms for monitoring. The SHLAA process, which involves house building professionals via the SHLAA Panel, will also help facilitate the advancement of sites into the five year deliverable supply. Alongside the SHLAA process, the Council will continue to positively engage with developers in bringing sites into the five year supply as part of the development management process. This includes positive consideration of sites not currently identified in the SHLAA (windfalls). Where the SHLAA identifies a shortfall in the five year deliverable supply of housing land, measured against the requirements of the NPPF, the Council will undertake measures to unlock existing planning permissions and bring forward currently non-consented/unallocated sites. A range of measures can be employed which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working positively with developers to overcome site specific constraints (including those related to viability); - actively considering joint working on Council-led ventures, where it is practicable; - a positive approach to the redevelopment of appropriate existing employment sites for housing (see Policy CP8).
MM2.2	113	Policy CP7	<p><i>Insert text at end of final paragraph</i> If the monitoring of supply against targets identifies a shortfall and/or additional demand comes forward, the Council will work positively with the Gypsy,</p>

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			Traveller, Travelling Showpeople communities and landowners within the broad area of search to bring forward additional pitches/plots. If necessary, a formal review of requirements and site allocations will be undertaken no later than 2021.
3. Mitigation for Cannock Chase SAC			
MM3.1 (Replaces M75)	70	Para 4.88	...Mitigation and Implementation Strategy. A 15Km zone of influence from the SAC boundaries has been identified in the evidence base and agreed by Natural England. and Cannock Chase District lies completely within this. Through implementation of the final Local Plan policies, supported by relevant Supplementary Planning Documents, suitable mitigation measures will be put in place which may including e the delivery of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) to overcome possible adverse effects on the integrity of the SAC and the need to encourage sustainable travel to support a reduction in greenhouse gas nitrogen emissions.
MM3.2 (Replaces and amends M15)	71	Para 4.89	The HRA of the Local Plan makes the following recommendations with regard to Cannock Chase SAC with which the Council will aim to comply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require air quality modelling for new housing which adds to traffic use on roads within 200m of the SAC • Encourage application of the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 6 standards within larger housing developments to help reduce air pollution from new housing • Update the 2009 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment to produce an Air Quality Strategy for the District covering potential impacts on biodiversity (including impacts on European

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			<p>sites) in addition to impacts and on human health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to site new developments in locations where commuting distances will be minimised with existing strong public transport links, walking and cycling opportunities (as recognised in Obj 5) • Aim to maximise provision of on-site facilities for major developments in order to reduce the need to travel, These could include GP facilities, retail outlets, schools, community facilities and public open space, an approach already taken within the adopted development brief for Land to the West of Pye Green Road • Seek submission of Travel Plans for all new developments within the District to show how public transport, walking and cycling opportunities will be maximised. S106 agreements may also be required in order for developers to assist in achieving air pollution reduction for their development, including a commitment to monitor its impact • Consider traffic calming and reduction in car parking as part of the management of the SAC to reduce pressure on sensitive areas • Avoid new housing development within 400m of SAC • Aim to increase size of heathland and improve connectivity between different blocks with appropriate management practices and review of track, path and firebreak systems • Aim to carry out a public consultation, education, awareness and information programme • Seek to provide SANGS, including in locations around the SAC minimum size 30ha, in accordance with Natural England SANGS quality guidance

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="871 345 1808 415">• Aim to undertake a biological, habitat condition and visitor monitoring programme.
MM3.3 (Replaces M77 and incorporates M43 and M44 for clarity)	126	Policy CP13 2 nd para	In order to retain the integrity of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) all development within any agreed zone of influence Cannock Chase District (as identified by the evidence base and subject to further refinement) that leads to a net increase in dwellings which is likely to have an adverse impact on the SAC should will be required to mitigate for such adverse effects. in line with The ongoing work by the relevant partner authorities to will develop a Mitigation and Implementation Strategy (SPD).
MM3.4 (Replaces M42)	126	Policy CP13 1 st paragraph	'...adverse effect upon the integrity of the European site network...'
4. Housing, including affordable housing			
MM4.1 (Replaces M32)	111	Policy CP6, final paragraph	Annual housing completions will be monitored and a minimum five year plus 5% housing land supply ensured. If monitoring identifies persistent under delivery of housing, a minimum five year plus 20% land supply will be provided.
MM4.2 (Replaces M33)	112	Policy CP7, Affordable Housing, first bullet point	Initially based on viability evidence produced in 2013, 20% affordable housing being provided by commercial housebuilders on developments of 15 or more units
MM4.3 (Replaces)	112	Policy CP7, Affordable	On smaller sites of fewer than 15 units and exceptionally on sites of more than 15 units, financial contributions based on the formula in the

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M34)		Housing, second bullet point	evidence on viability to be made to delivery on other sites
MM4.4 (Replaces M35)	112	Policy CP7, 1 st main paragraph	The overall target for affordable housing provision on commercial housebuilders' sites will be maximised, informed by an assessment of economic viability reviewed when evidence of changes in market conditions indicates this to be appropriate. This will be reviewed when changes in market conditions justify. Details will be elaborated in a Housing Choices SPD. Individual site viability issues will be considered in the context of the above evidence.
MM4.5 (Replaces M36)	112	Policy CP7, 2 nd main paragraph	Delivery on commercial housebuilders' sites or the alternative of pro-rata financial contributions will be secured by conditions imposed on the grant of planning permissions or the completion of planning obligations. Where sites have a construction programme which is proposed to extend beyond 2 years, the planning obligation will provide for the affordable housing component of later phases to be reviewed in the light of changes in the cost/revenue equation which will based on updated viability evidence which may result in an increase of the affordable housing requirement if demonstrated by the reviewed assessment.
5. Other			
MM5.1 (Replaces M49)	130	Policy CP15 8 th main paragraph	Additional sentence at end of paragraph: 'For heritage assets of archaeological interest or sites with potential interest an appropriate level of assessment and/or evaluation will be required to inform decision making.'
MM5.2	1	4 th para	...the strategic policy. Part 2 will also help address Birmingham's

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(Replaces and amends M79)			housing needs should this be necessary following further evidence gathering, either by identifying further capacity within the plan period or safeguarding land for development beyond the plan period. In addition, Part 2 will safeguard sites for potential development beyond the plan period to help meet future District needs. Part 2 will be informed by a review of the Green Belt to be undertaken in full consultation with stakeholders. Should any further Area Action Plan be considered appropriate for the District this will also be undertaken within Part 2. Local Plan policy...
MM5.3 (Replaces M86)	79	Paragraph 4.109	<i>Insert text at end of paragraph</i> Rugeley Power Station has recently been granted full planning consent for its conversion to become almost fully-fuelled by biomass (although as a national energy provider, this site does not contribute to the District's potential for generating 5-7% of its own energy from local renewable and low carbon energy sources). The Council will continue to engage positively with the site owners (recognising its contribution to the national energy network) in relation to any future proposals for it. The need for a site-specific policy for the Power Station will be kept under review and considered further in Local Plan (Part 2).
MM5.4 (Replaces M90 which also incorporates M27)	110	Policy CP5, 1 st paragraph	The Council will work with public, private and third sector partners to ensure that appropriate levels of infrastructure are provided to support social inclusion and healthy living in the District. Subject to viability, development proposals will be required to have regard to the wider determinants of health and make a positive contribution to provision of infrastructure, design and layout which supports social inclusion and healthy living for sustainable communities. The key elements of this

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			<p>infrastructure compromise: include the items identified immediately below. The Council will work with applicants to identify and agree which of those elements of infrastructure are directly related to the proposed development (and are not already fully funded from other sources) and seek to agree an appropriate level of contribution.</p>
MM5.5 (Replaces M92)	111	Policy CP6, 4 th paragraph	<p>Land removed from the Green Belt and identified on the Policies Map as safeguarded for longer term development under the Local Plan 1997 (known as Land East of Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes), will continue to be safeguarded for potential development beyond the plan period subject to consideration within Local Plan (Part 2-if appropriate) and/or a Local Plan review or replacement. The appropriateness of the Green Belt boundary at this site will be assessed as part of Local Plan Part 2.</p>
MM5.6 (Replaces M99)	132	Policy CP16 (3a), 4 th sentence	<p>All new residential developments should achieve water efficiency standards equivalent to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3/4 of 105 litres/person/day or less (currently equivalent to Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3/4) as a minimum and should have regard to wider sustainability standards of the Code (using Level 3 as a good practice benchmark, or any future equivalent national standard).</p>