

Shropshire Core Strategy

Background Technical Report on:

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

July 2010

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Executive Summary

This Report explains the purpose of sustainability appraisal and how it fits in with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process. The SEA process is similar to a sustainability appraisal but has a narrower focus. It evaluates the effects that certain plans have on the environment whereas sustainability appraisal assesses the impact of plans on the environment, *plus* the economy and the community. SEA is required by a European Directive which has been translated into UK law. The government encourages us to combine SEA and SA in one report. Chapter 2 explains how we have done this.

Shropshire Council carried out most of the SA work for the Core Strategy in-house. The exception was the use of an independent external consultant to review the sustainability appraisal of the Issues and Options document.

The sustainability appraisal took place at the same time as the Core Strategy documents were being prepared, published and consulted on. This means that we started work on it at the same time as we prepared the Core Strategy Topic Papers in July 2008. This report summarises the sustainability appraisal process which has been undertaken at the various Plan preparation stages. We have also asked the public for comments on each sustainability appraisal of our Core Strategy documents. Table 1.2 shows how the sustainability appraisal fits with the preparation of the Core Strategy.

The process of developing a method for sustainability appraisal requires an understanding of the main social, environmental and economic characteristics of Shropshire. These are summarised in chapter 3. From these, the key issues that should be considered if new development is to take place, can be determined. After this, the sustainability objectives (or questions used to assess the sustainability of the policies in the Core Strategy documents) can be drawn up. The key issues and sustainability objectives are summarised as follows:

Key Issues

- Promote adaptable and sustainable communities that nurture vitality and local distinctiveness
- Avoid over-exploitation of existing resources and assets including cultural sites and areas and maximise their efficient use
- Support rural regeneration which is compatible with environmental objectives and delivers increased prosperity for all
- Overall scale of new housing development
- Distribution of new housing development
- Type and affordability of new housing
- Quality and sustainability of new housing development
- Location and distribution of economic development and employment growth
- Level of employment land provision
- Network and hierarchy of centres
- Shrewsbury's strategic role
- Development of tourism
- Safeguard, improve and strengthen environmental networks
- Implement design guidance to deliver high quality places and spaces
- Balance the economic and environmental impacts of mineral working
- Maximise the environmental and economic benefits of greater resource efficiency

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- Providing adequate infrastructure, including utilities, transport infrastructure, green infrastructure and social infrastructure
- Ensuring the Core Strategy can be effectively implemented by the many delivery partners
- Use new development to reduce the need for car travel and encourage greater use of public transport, cycling and walking
- Improve access to facilities and services and reduce isolation
- Reduce the negative impacts of traffic on the environment and society whilst ensuring vital and viable communities
- Ensure continued improvements to public transport provision
- Reduction of our carbon footprint and contribution to mitigation measures, including renewable, decentralised and low carbon energy
- Adaptation to climate change

Sustainability Objectives (SOs)

1. Promote safer communities
2. Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society
3. Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire
4. Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify.
5. Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport
6. Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel
7. Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities.
8. Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services
9. Reduce Shropshire's contribution to climate change
10. Adapt to the impacts of climate change
11. Protect, enhance and manage Shropshire's landscapes and townscapes
12. Preserve and enhance features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance
13. Protect and enhance the range and populations of species, the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and Shropshire's geological heritage
14. Protect and enhance Shropshire's water resources
15. Improve local air quality
16. Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife
17. Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention
18. Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources

The sustainability objectives were then used to assess the options we put forward for our policies in the Core Strategy Issues and Options document. Similarly, the Policy Directions were subject to sustainability appraisal, then the Final Plan policies. The significant effects of the Final Plan policies are shown in the table below.

Final Plan Core Strategy: Significant Effects

Final Plan policy	Significant effects
CS1 Strategic Approach	Positive impacts with regard to the provision of affordable housing and the promotion of a strong economy.

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Final Plan policy	Significant effects
CS3 Market Towns and Other Key Centres	A strong indirect impact to meeting the objectives regarding community safety and helping to reduce the impact on climate change.
CS4 Community Hubs and Community Clusters	Positive direct impacts on the provision of affordable housing, the provision of facilities and services and on the local economy.
CS5 Countryside and Green Belt	Particularly strong positive environmental impacts due to the support given for renewable energy proposals, which if achieved would help to reduce the impact Shropshire has on climate change.
CS6 Sustainable Design and Development Principles	Strongly positive in each category area - especially climate change, resource management and water efficiency.
CS8 Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Provision	Positive environmental impacts due to the support given for renewable energy proposals, which if achieved would help to reduce the impact Shropshire has on climate change. CS8 also seeks the provision of new infrastructure as part of new developments and as such has strong and direct positive impacts towards all areas of the sustainability appraisal.
CS9 Infrastructure Contributions	Positive impacts on the provision of affordable housing across the county.
CS10 Managed Release of Housing Land	Direct positive impact on the provision of housing appropriate to identified needs in each area.
CS11 Type and Affordability of Housing	Direct positive impact with regard to the provision of affordable housing, and specialist housing
CS13 Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment	Generally positive impact across a number of sustainability objectives, not just those with an economic focus, where, as one would expect, the impacts are strongly positive.
CS14 Managed Release of Employment Land	Positive impacts on the economic objectives of the sustainability appraisal.
CS16 Tourism, Culture and Leisure	Strongly supports the need to preserve areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage.
CS17 Environmental Networks	Positive impacts relating to nature conservation and climate change.
CS18 Sustainable Water Management	Positive, particularly with regard to reducing the risk of flooding, water efficiency and safeguarding water quality, where there is a strong and direct impact.
CS19	Positive when seeking to reduce the contribution which

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Final Plan policy	Significant effects
Waste Management Infrastructure	Shropshire makes to climate change.

Only two of the Final Plan policies have negative effects which need to be minimised. Policy CS16 (Tourism, culture and leisure) may increase the need for people to travel. This could be offset by improvements to the public transport system. Policy CS20 (Strategic planning for minerals) could have an increasingly negative effect on climate change. This could be reduced by promoting the sustainable transport of minerals – by rail for example.

Now that the Core Strategy is almost finished, we need to think about how we monitor the effects of the policies. We have identified 52 different things to measure (several for every sustainability objective) which will tell us how the policies are working. These are shown in table 7.1. We intend to collect information about these indicators every year and put the results into our Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).

What the sustainability appraisal process has contributed

The sustainability appraisal process has been integral to the preparation of the Shropshire Core Strategy. It has appraised the likely significant environmental, economic and social impacts of the policies in the Core Strategy throughout the last four stages of its development:

- issues and options
- preferred options
- final plan
- submission.

Both the positive and negative impacts of all of the options put forward at the Issues and Options stage were considered. The results of this assessment were used, together with the comments you gave us on the Core Strategy Issues and Options document to set out an indication of the Core Strategy policies we intended to write. This formed the basis of our Policy Directions document.

When we prepared the Policy Directions document we also assessed the likely impacts of these emerging policies against our sustainability objectives. We then asked for comments on both our assessment of the policy directions and the Policy Directions document itself. Finally, we used our sustainability appraisal of the policy directions, together with the comments you gave us, to draw up the policies we put forward in the Final Plan publication document.

We evaluated the likely social, environmental and economic effects of these Final Plan policies and published our Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal document to tell you what these were. Again, we asked you for comments on both documents. This Report also summarises the minor amendments we are proposing to make to the Final Plan policies when we submit them for examination by an independent Inspector.

Finally, the effects of the Core Strategy policies will be monitored using the indicators set out in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and published in every year in our Annual Monitoring Report.

1. Summary and Outcomes

Introduction

- 1.1 We have produced this technical background report on the Sustainability Appraisal process to give you information about the sustainability appraisal we carried out on our Core Strategy policies.
- 1.2 This chapter provides a summary of the background report. The main report follows in chapters 2 to 7.

What is a sustainability appraisal?

- 1.3 A sustainability appraisal assesses the effects policies are likely to have on:
 - the economy
 - the environment;
 - the community.
- 1.4 The appraisal aims to promote sustainable development, which is about making sure that there is a better quality of life for everyone, now and in the future. By law, we must carry out a sustainability appraisal of the Core Strategy policies.
- 1.5 A sustainability appraisal has 2 stages:
 - Scoping – this sets out how the appraisal will be done
 - Appraisal – this evaluates policies against a set of sustainability criteria

What is the Core Strategy?

- 1.6 The Core Strategy sets out a series of policies to guide the broad pattern of future development and growth in Shropshire until 2026. These policies will be used when we consider planning applications.
- 1.7 The Core Strategy forms part of a group of development plan documents (DPDs) which together make up the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy is the first document .The second document in the Shropshire LDF is called the Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD. This will allocate land for different uses such housing and employment. It will also contain more detailed policies to supplement those in the Core Strategy.
- 1.8 We prepared our Core Strategy in 5 phases;
 - Topic Papers
 - Issues and Options
 - Policy Directions (or Preferred Options)
 - Final Plan Publication
 - Submission
- 1.9 At the end of each stage a Core Strategy document was published for and comments invited from the public and other organisations such as the Environment Agency. These comments were then used to refine the document at the next stage. In this way the Core Strategy policies have evolved to reflect what the community

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and the council feel is important for Shropshire. The table below shows consultation periods for the Core Strategy documents produced so far.

Table 1.1: Consultation Periods for Core Strategy Documents:

Core Strategy Stage	Name(s) of document(s)	Consultation period
Topic Papers	Climate change Economy Environmental Resource Management Housing Infrastructure and implementation Monitoring Spatial overview Transport and accessibility	21 st July – 1 st September 2008
Issues and Options	Shropshire Core Strategy Issues and Options	26 th January – 9 th March 2009
Preferred Policies (Policy Directions)	Shropshire Core Strategy Policy Directions	10 th August – 2 nd October 2009
Final Plan	Shropshire Core Strategy Final Plan Publication	15 th February – 29 th March 2010

How do the sustainability appraisal and the Core Strategy fit together?

- 1.10 A Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was prepared as part of early work on the Core Strategy. This was sent out for public consultation and the responses were used to develop a Sustainability Scoping Report. This set out a method for carrying out the sustainability appraisal for all of our Local Development Framework documents.
- 1.11 A sustainability appraisal (SA) was then completed each time we prepared a new Core Strategy document. The results of each SA were published for comment alongside the corresponding Core Strategy document. Consultation responses and the results of the SA were then used to refine the policies in the next Core Strategy document. The table below provides a summary of the SA documents produced:

Table 1.2: SA Document Production:

Core Strategy Stage	Sustainability Appraisal Document	Consultation period
Topic Papers	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	21 st July – 1 st September 2008
Topic Papers	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Finalised October 2008
Issues and Options	Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal	26 th January – 9 th March 2009
Preferred Policies (Policy Directions)	Policy Directions Sustainability Appraisal Update	10 th August – 2 nd October 2009
Final Plan	Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal	15 th February – 29 th March 2010

What policies does the Core Strategy contain?

1.12 The Core Strategy has 20 policies. They are grouped under themes in the table below:

Table 1.3: Core Strategy Policies:

Heading	Policy
Creating Sustainable Places	CS1 Strategic Approach CS2 Shrewsbury Development Strategy CS3 Market Towns and Other Key Centres CS4 Community Hubs and Community Clusters CS5 Countryside and Green Belt CS6 Sustainable Design and Development Principles CS7 Communication and Transport CS8 Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Provision CS9 Infrastructure Contributions
Meeting Housing Needs	CS10 Managed Release of Housing Land CS11 Type and Affordability of Housing CS12 Gypsies and Traveller Provision
A Prosperous Economy	CS13 Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment CS14 Managed Release of Employment Land CS15 Town and Rural Centres CS16 Tourism, Culture and Leisure
Environment	CS17 Environmental Networks CS18 Sustainable Water Management CS19 Waste Management Infrastructure CS20 Strategic Planning for Minerals

What is in this Background Technical Report?

1.13 This report provides information about the appraisal process which has taken place. It describes:

- How we carried out the sustainability appraisal
- The existing economic, social and environmental characteristics of Shropshire
- The sustainability issues (environmental, social and economic problems) which are important for Shropshire
- The key effects the Core Strategy policies are likely to have on the environment, the economy and the community
- How any negative effects of the policies can be minimised
- How we can monitor the effect of the Core Strategy policies.

2. Background

Purpose of the SA and the SA Report

2.1 Section 39 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) to be carried out on all Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which a Local Planning Authority (LPA) produces. The SA process is integral to the production of DPDs and SPDs and it enables the LPA to assess the degree to which the plans and proposals

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contribute towards the achievement of Sustainable Development. This understanding assists in the preparation of planning policy.

- 2.2 Sustainable Development is defined as “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The purpose of SA is to ensure that all DPDs and SPDs conform to the Government’s guiding principles of Sustainable Development, which are:
- Living within Environmental Limits;
 - Ensuring a Strong, Healthy and Just Society;
 - Achieving a Sustainable Economy;
 - Promoting Good Governance;
 - Using Sound Science Responsibly.
- 2.3 SA identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of a plan and any mitigation measures which can be taken to reduce them. These effects are identified through the use of a Sustainability Appraisal framework. The SA Report details the results of the appraisal of the preferred options and the policies set out within the Publication Core Strategy.

Core Strategy objectives and outline of policies

- 2.4 The Core Strategy is the principal document of the Shropshire Local Development Framework. It will guide future development and growth in Shropshire during the period to 2026. The Core Strategy contains a Spatial Vision and a set of Spatial Objectives which will help to achieve the vision.
- 2.5 The following Strategic Objectives have undergone consultation through the Core Strategy Issues and Options document and the Core Strategy Policy Directions document and are set out within the Submission Core Strategy document:
1. Support the development of sustainable communities which are thriving, inclusive and safe, ensuring that people in all areas of Shropshire have access to decent affordable homes, jobs, education and training, multifunctional open space and the countryside, healthcare, leisure, cultural, shopping and other facilities and services, and the provision of infrastructure, to meet their needs.
 2. Develop the roles of Shrewsbury as a sub-regional centre, and Shropshire’s market towns and key centres as self contained settlements, providing the main focus for new housing, employment and infrastructure development and the preferred location for a range of services and facilities to serve the wider needs of their respective hinterlands.
 3. Rebalance rural communities through the delivery of local housing and employment opportunities appropriate to the role, size and function of each settlement, or group of settlements, ensuring that development delivers community benefit.
 4. Provide and maintain a sufficient and appropriate supply of housing land in sustainable locations, prioritising the use of brownfield sites, where available, and taking into account the availability and capacity of existing and proposed infrastructure.
 5. Provide for a mix of good quality, sustainable housing development of the right size, type, tenure and affordability to meet the housing needs and aspirations of

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all sections of the community, including provision for specialist needs and the elderly.

6. Promote sustainable economic development and growth by providing a flexible and responsive supply of employment land and premises, and the development of further/higher education and training opportunities, to support business development, satisfy the changing needs and demands of the Shropshire economy, promote inward investment, and help generate skilled, well paid employment opportunities.
7. Support the development of sustainable tourism, rural enterprise, broadband connectivity, diversification of the rural economy, and the continued importance of farming and agriculture, ensuring that development proposals are appropriate in their scale and nature with the character and quality of their location.
8. Support the improvement of Shropshire’s transport system in a sustainable and integrated way and locate development to improve accessibility by quality public transport, cycling and walking, help reduce car dependency and the impact of traffic on local communities and the environment.
9. Promote a low carbon Shropshire, delivering development which mitigates, and adapts to, the effects of climate change, including flood risk, by promoting more responsible transport and travel choices, more efficient use of energy and resources, the generation of energy from renewable sources, and effective and sustainable waste management.
10. Promote high quality sustainable design and construction in all new development, ensuring that developments respond to their local context and create safe, accessible and attractive places which contribute to local distinctiveness.
11. Ensure that the character, quality and diversity of Shropshire’s built, natural and historic environment is protected, enhanced and, where possible, restored, in a way that respects landscape character, biodiversity, heritage values, and local distinctiveness, and contributes to wider environmental networks.
12. Improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of multifunctional open space, rights of way, and sport, recreation and cultural facilities to provide varied opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy physical activity, cultural activities and lifetime learning, helping to improve health and well-being.

2.6 The Submission Core Strategy has 20 policies grouped under 4 headings as shown in the table below:

Table 2.1: Submission Core Strategy Policies:

Heading	Policy
Creating Sustainable Places	CS1 Strategic Approach CS2 Shrewsbury Development Strategy CS3 Market Towns and Other Key Centres CS4 Community Hubs and Community Clusters CS5 Countryside and Green Belt CS6 Sustainable Design and Development Principles

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Heading	Policy
	CS7 Communication and Transport CS8 Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Provision CS9 Infrastructure Contributions
Meeting Housing Needs	CS10 Managed Release of Housing Land CS11 Type and Affordability of Housing CS12 Gypsies and Traveller Provision
A Prosperous Economy	CS13 Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment CS14 Managed Release of Employment Land CS15 Town and Rural Centres CS16 Tourism, Culture and Leisure
Environment	CS17 Environmental Networks CS18 Sustainable Water Management CS19 Waste Management Infrastructure CS20 Strategic Planning for Minerals

Compliance with the SEA Directive /Regulations

- 2.7 Under Section 39(2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is mandatory for new or revised Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). The SA process also incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". The Directive has been transposed into UK law through Statutory Instrument 2004 No 1633: The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.8 The SEA Directive requires a report to be produced detailing information that may be reasonably required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme and its stage in the decision-making process. Information likely to be provided in the Environmental Report includes: the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects; an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.
- 2.9 Government Guidance (ODPM, 2005) promotes the integration of the SA and SEA processes into one report. This report describes how the sustainability appraisal process which has been completed meets both sets of requirements.

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Table 2.2 : SEA Directive requirements and where they have been met

SEA Directive requirements	Where they have been met
a) an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	SA Scoping Report
(b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	SA Scoping Report
(c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	SA Scoping Report
(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;	SA Scoping Report
(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	SA Scoping Report
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;	Core Strategy SA
(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme;	Core Strategy SA and this Report
(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;	Policy Directions Sustainability Update and this Report
(i) a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	This Report
(j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	This Report

3. Context, Issues and Sustainability Objectives

Links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives.

- 3.1 Details of the links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives are provided in the SA Scoping Report and reproduced in Appendix A. The plans and strategies identified do not act in isolation and links between their objectives can often be made. International and national plans and policies usually provide high level guidance and their broad perspective tends to be reflected in plans at the regional and local level. The interaction between the higher level policies and those at the regional and local level provides a wide context for the preparation of Local Development Framework documents.

Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline

- 3.2 This section summarises the key social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics of Shropshire. The Scoping Report included a number of tables from which this information is drawn and these are reproduced at Appendix B

Social characteristics

- 3.3 The population of Shropshire was 289,000 in 2005. This represents a 7.2% increase over the previous 15 years compared to a 2.6% increase in the West Midlands and 5.3% increase in England over the same time period. This trend looks likely to continue.
- 3.4 Shropshire is one of the most sparsely populated counties in England with the only significant urban areas being Shrewsbury and Oswestry. The county also has a much less ethnically diverse population than both the West Midlands and England. Since 1991 the number of people of retirement age in the county has increased faster than the national average. At the same time, the number of people aged 16-29 has fallen much faster than the national average.
- 3.5 Net housing completions in Shropshire have maintained fairly consistent levels (around 1200 per year) over the 10 years to 2007 but average house prices are considerably higher than both regional and national averages. The ratio between average house prices and average incomes has widened significantly in the county since 2001 and this has taken place at a faster rate than in the West Midlands or England. County wide affordable dwelling completions have seen a decrease since a peak of 185 in 2004/05. Projections indicate that the percentage of single person households in Shropshire will rise from 29% in 2004 to 38% in 2026. Although 4000 households in the county are deemed to be overcrowded, at 3% of the total number of households, this figure compares well with regional and national averages (6% and 7% respectively).
- 3.6 Similarly, only 8% of Shropshire's population live within one of the 20% most deprived Super Output Areas – the highest proportion being in the central area. Although crime levels are relatively low, the central part of the county with 33% of the population experiences 42% of all the crimes recorded.

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- 3.7 Health deprivation levels are very low (2%) and over 70% of Shropshire residents consider themselves to be in good health. The number of people engaged in physical activity is slightly above the national and regional average, as is the percentage involved in organised sport. A higher number of people undertake a larger number of walks than is usual either regionally or nationally and access for walkers is generally good throughout the county. The number of residents who cycle for recreation is in line with regional and national figures.

Environmental characteristics

- 3.8 Shropshire has 123 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and in 2008 around 83% of the total designated area was in either in favourable condition or moving towards favourable condition. There are also around 550 Wildlife Sites. These are locally designated and represent the areas of highest biodiversity outside SSSIs.
- 3.9 The Shropshire Landscape Character Assessment recognises 27 distinctive landscape types, including the Sandstone Hills of north Shropshire, the Sandstone Estatelands in the east, Wooded Farmlands to the south-west and Open Moorland in south Shropshire. In the south, the nationally designated Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers 806 km² - around one third of the area of the county.
- 3.10 Rocks from all but two of the internationally recognised divisions of geological time occur in Shropshire giving the county a remarkably diverse geology. Several rock types take their name from areas of the county and Shropshire is also famed for its fossils. The 300 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) aim to conserve the most valuable and interesting sites.
- 3.11 Although Shropshire has a significant proportion of dark skies, light pollution is growing and these figures mask the 'saturated light area' around Shrewsbury and increasingly, Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Whitchurch. The county is regarded as tranquil but noise disturbance has increased steadily in the last 50 years.
- 3.12 Around 20% of the region's listed buildings (6,719 in total) are found in Shropshire along with 31% of the region's Scheduled Ancient Monuments. There are also 29 historic parks and gardens and 1 registered battlefield (Battle of Shrewsbury 1403). Many of the county's settlements have Conservation Areas (117 altogether). Shropshire also contains parts of 2 World Heritage Sites – Ironbridge Gorge and Pontcysyllte Canal and Aqueduct.
- 3.13 Overall the biological and chemical quality of Shropshire's rivers is significantly better than the regional average. The river Severn is the main watercourse in the county and this is the cause of the majority of the most severe and frequent flood events. There are 4473 properties in flood zone 3 (highest risk of flooding) and 12,042 in flood zone 2 in Shropshire.
- 3.14 Shropshire produces a significant proportion of the region's sand and gravel and crushed rock. The sub region, which includes Telford and Wrekin and Staffordshire, also uses 38% of the construction and demolition waste produced, as secondary aggregate.

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- 3.15 In 2005 the county generated 1.22 million tonnes of waste of which 35% was landfilled, 47% was recycled (including composting) and the remainder was recovered in other ways. Levels of municipal recycling have improved from 1% for composting and 8% for recycling in 2001/02 to 18% composting and 20% recycling in 2006/7.
- 3.16 Road transport accounts for 36% of the total carbon emissions in Shropshire in 2006. This, and the relatively high percentage of emissions from land use, land change and forestry (3% compared to 1% for the region) reflects the importance of agricultural activities in the local economy and the dispersed settlement pattern. The industrial and commercial sector and domestic activities account for the remaining 34% and 27% of carbon emissions respectively.
- 3.17 Energy consumption in 2005 roughly mirrors the carbon emission figures with road transport accounting for 42% of total energy use, the industry and commercial sector 30% and domestic activities 28%. Whilst the renewable energy potential is high, output to date is low with less than 1% of Shropshire's total energy need coming from renewable sources. Fuel poverty has become a significant issue with fuel prices increasing well above the rate of inflation and average incomes remaining low. It is estimated that 20,000 households in Shropshire are in fuel poverty.

Economic characteristics

- 3.18 The proportion of Shropshire's population that is of working age is lower than both regional and national levels but the percentage of this group that are economically active is higher and increasing steadily. Job growth has increased faster in Shropshire than regionally or nationally whilst the unemployment rate is lower. Overall start-up levels for new businesses are below the regional and national average but so are business closure levels
- 3.19 The county has a higher than average percentage of part-time employees and the average number of people per work place is low at 8.2 compared with 11.8 in the West Midlands and 11 in England. Average gross earnings are also significantly lower than the regional and national figures. The number of people commuting in to Shropshire (20,286) was lower than those travelling out to work (33,011) in 2001.
- 3.20 The percentage of the Shropshire's population with NVQ qualifications at both level 1 and above and level 4 and above is higher than the national average. The great majority of jobs in the county are in the service sector but within this, the percentage of employees in finance, IT and other business activities is nearly half the national average. In 2006, the farming sector employed 12,616 people but this represented a 13% decline on 1988 figures.
- 3.21 The rural nature of the county means that Shropshire has significantly higher levels of car ownership, residents travel longer distances to work and many more use their car, rather than public transport in comparison to the rest of the West Midlands or England.

Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems

3.22 The key sustainability issues are identified in the SA Scoping Report. They are summarised below, grouped under the headings of social, economic and environmental issues.

Social Issues

Population structure

- Shropshire has seen a higher percentage increase in its population than regional or national equivalents since 1991. Added to this, growth forecasts between now and 2026 are predicted to be significantly higher than previous forecasts, especially in the north and south areas of the county. This change could place particular sustainability issues on the provision of services, jobs, housing and infrastructure;
- Shropshire's low population density places particular pressure on sustainable access to services and employment opportunities, especially in the more isolated rural areas of the county;
- The age structure of Shropshire sees a relatively high proportion of people of retirement age and relatively low proportion of young working age people. This issue is most acute in the south of the county;
- This county's age structure has important implications for the long term creation of a balanced work force, the attractiveness of the area for future investors and for employment and housing opportunities to suit all ages;
- The growth in people of retirement age places particular pressure on continued service provision throughout Shropshire, but is likely to have particular implications in the more isolated rural areas.

Housing and accommodation

- The average house price in Shropshire is now considerably higher than averages wages for the county;
- Housing affordability issues exist in all areas of Shropshire, but are most prevalent in the South Area of the county, where on average a single person now needs to earn over £41,400 to be able to afford an entry level property;
- The number of affordable housing completions in all areas of Shropshire has shown a recent decrease. This trend is particularly apparent in the Central area of the county. When combined with other important issues, such as the rise in average house prices, relatively low wages and the increasing cost of energy and food, it is becoming increasingly difficult for younger people and other first time buyers to get on the property ladder;
- The issue of housing quantity and affordability is exacerbated by the increasing trend towards single person households in Shropshire, which affects both urban and rural areas. The trend towards increasing single pensioner households in rural areas highlights particular issues of accessibility to key services and amenities in these areas;
- The number of households considered to be in priority need for housing has seen a recent increase in the Oswestry and Bridgnorth areas of Shropshire;
- There are pockets of overcrowding in some urban wards in Shrewsbury, which can have particular impact on individuals' quality of life;
- The accommodation needs of all members of society need to be met, including young families, the elderly and retired, single people and the gypsy and travelling

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communities. The type, mix and location of future housing development are crucial to this issue.

Safer Communities

- Overall levels of crime are relatively low in Shropshire. However, peoples' perception and fear of crime are significantly higher, particularly in respect of vandalism, burglary and car crime;
- The highest levels of crime are found in the central Area of the county, reflecting the largest urban concentration in Shrewsbury;
- Anti social behaviour is a significant contributor to individuals' perceptions and fear of crime and to their quality of life, and can have an impact on the overall attractiveness of an area for people, tourists and investors. Anti social behaviour levels are highest in the central area of the county reflecting its larger urban form.
- Spatial planning should play a key role in helping to reduce opportunities for people to commit crime, whilst encouraging an environment where people feel safe.

Health, Recreation and Sport

- Despite having a slightly higher than average number of people engaged in physical activity and organised sport, Shropshire has small pockets of health deprivation, predominantly in a handful of urban wards in Shrewsbury and Ludlow. These deprivation levels can have a negative impact on peoples' ability to access appropriate levels of health provision;
- Open space is multifunctional; it contributes to people's health and wellbeing, and provides opportunities for sport and recreation. The provision of accessible open space throughout Shropshire is therefore an important sustainability consideration;
- Countryside access is good within Shropshire. The Shropshire Hills and Clun Hills are renowned areas for walking. However, provision in the Shropshire Plains area is low compared to those willing to use rights of way;
- Green networks can contribute to the economic sustainability through increased tourism and can help provide an attractive place to live and work, and reduce the need to travel by car. Creating and maintaining opportunities to access to these networks is therefore an important sustainability issue.

Environmental Issues

Carbon emissions and energy

- There is currently very little exploitation of renewable energy resources within Shropshire with around 1% of energy produced from renewables. Increasing the supply of energy from renewables is important in relation to ensuring sustainable energy production now, and in the future;
- Many areas of Shropshire are significantly disadvantaged by energy inefficiency due to a lack of access to mains gas. Some £25 million per annum is being wasted by Shropshire householders and more than £7 million per annum by Shropshire's commercial, voluntary and public sector organisations by not having cost effective energy efficiency measures in their buildings;
- Energy efficiency measures are key to reducing Shropshire's contribution to climate change and reducing fuel poverty. It will be important to ensure energy efficiency measures are implemented in new commercial and residential

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properties and take steps to reduce energy cost inequalities. The Code for Sustainable Homes provides a guide for attaining energy efficiency in residential development;

- The 'Low Carbon Communities' project aims to provide opportunities for energy efficiency measures for three specific areas of Shropshire. For the business sector this is being rolled out over the RRZ and there are plans to also expand the community and domestic projects;
- Road transport accounts for nearly half the energy consumption in Shropshire and totals 38% of overall CO₂ emissions. Reducing the need to travel, and increasing the opportunities for sustainable travel choices, are key issues for Shropshire.

The natural environment

- Whilst the percentage area of SSSIs considered favourable and recovering in Shropshire is increasing indicating an improvement to these important designations, the levels remain below the agreed PSA target;
- The achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets related to Shropshire's identified habitat and species priorities is reported on through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System. The achievement and reporting of these targets requires activities from many organisations, including NGOs, Government agencies and the Local Authorities, in making Plans and taking planning decisions;
- The Shropshire Hills AONB is one of only 4 in the West Midlands and plays a significant role in enhancing the environmental quality of the county. Spatial planning must seek to conserve and enhance this locally, regionally and nationally significant area;
- Shropshire's landscape is a significant part of the county's distinctiveness, and adds to the attractiveness of the area for residents and visitors;
- The exact effect of climate change on Shropshire's biodiversity is not known. Rising temperatures, and indirect changes from shifting patterns of agriculture, the growth of new crops, and changes to river systems will affect natural habitats and ecosystems. Spatial planning has a key role to play in protecting areas of high biodiversity and in reconnecting habitat networks to aid species migration and dispersal. Shropshire's natural systems play an important role in providing conditions for human living in Shropshire. As well as purifying air and water, preventing flood, nutrient cycling and carbon storage, they are fundamental to Shropshire's economic and social sustainability;
- Agriculture, tourism, in-migration and industry are sectors that are closely linked to the natural environment whilst population expansion, new development, climate and human interaction all affect the environment.

The built and historic environment

- Shropshire has a significant proportion of the region's listed buildings, reflecting the historic nature of the County. These buildings contribute to the character and attractiveness of Shropshire whilst also reflecting its cultural, social and economic heritage. Shropshire's wealth of built assets and rich historic environment contribute to making Shropshire an attractive place for people to live and work. It makes a vital contribution to the environmental economy of the county and to the ongoing sustainability of its towns and villages. It also provides important opportunities for heritage led regeneration, exemplified by the Ditherington Flax Mill in Shrewsbury. The historic landscape of Shropshire is unique. The cultural

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landscape reflects a number of historical periods. Remains such as Mitchell's Fold Bronze Age stone circle, Offa's Dyke and the Roman City at Wroxeter contribute to this historical legacy. Shropshire's rich heritage must be preserved and enhanced and local distinctiveness taken into account;

- Urban design and the historic environment are closely linked. Good design should contribute to the character and local distinctiveness of places and sit appropriately within existing surroundings. To achieve sustainable development it is important to maintain the vernacular of Shropshire's historic market towns and villages.

Water, flood risk and air quality

- There is a risk to groundwater sources from diffuse pollution from run-off from contaminated land and potentially from new development sites, especially around key centres such as Shrewsbury;
- The overall water quality in Shropshire has decreased slightly over the last few years, with particular issues in the northern areas of the county where the percentage of river stretches considered 'good' and 'fair' are significantly lower than central and southern areas;
- The main urban centre of Shrewsbury is located on the River Severn and therefore large areas are at risk of flooding. This will have important implications on the growth of the town in relation to its growth point status, and more specially the location of new development;
- Other areas in Shropshire have also experienced flooding, with notable events occurring in 2000 in Shrewsbury and 2007 in Ludlow;
- It is important to make the most efficient use of Shropshire's water resources to protect major aquifers from over abstraction;
- Shrewsbury has 3 designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) largely resulting from pollutants from road traffic;
- Increases in the number and concentration of vehicles could have a negative impact on meeting National and local Air Quality targets. This is likely to be a major issue around existing centres, particularly Shrewsbury where the existing AQMA area has already been expanded in recent years

Material resources

- The mineral industry makes an important contribution to the local economy and Shropshire is a significant producer of mineral aggregates, clay and building stone, which are essential to support construction and industry locally, and are exported regionally and nationally;
- Local economic performance will be adversely affected by rising waste costs unless access to business waste recycling facilities and services can be improved. The Shropshire economy largely comprises small businesses employing less than 10 people, which combined with the distribution of businesses across a large rural area, makes the Shropshire economy particularly susceptible to increases in waste costs. The provision of a sustainable network of waste facilities throughout Shropshire is therefore a key sustainability issue;
- It is crucial we maximise opportunities for recycling and the diversion of waste from landfill, for a host of environmental and economic reasons. Shropshire continues to have a dependence on landfill for managing its waste, especially municipal waste. European legislation (through LATS targets) place significant

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requirements on the future management of municipal waste, which could have significant economic implications on Local Authorities if these are not achieved;

- There is a need to promote greater resource efficiency through the adoption of sustainable construction methods, maximising re-use and recycling in order to reduce the environmental impacts of primary aggregate extraction;
- There is potential for adverse impacts on local communities from mineral extraction and waste management;
- The development and restoration of quarries and landfill sites can present opportunities to develop or enhance community facilities

Economic Issues

Economy, skills and employment

- Headline Gross Value Added (GVA) per head for Shropshire is lower than both regional and national trends, largely due to the relatively low value nature of Shropshire's economy, net out commuting and lower than average wages;
- As a whole Shropshire has a lower proportion of working age people than regional or national trends; this affects the availability of a local workforce;
- A shortfall in the number of jobs has led to more people commuting to jobs outside of Shropshire than there are commuting in;
- The structure of the County's economy is less focussed on high value added sectors than national or regional averages. This trend has contributed to a relatively low wage economy;
- Shropshire's tourism sector has been a significant supplier of jobs, and has been positive for the county's overall economy. A balance needs to be struck between continuing growth in this sector and promoting new high-value jobs, such as the knowledge and technology sector;
- Employment in the agricultural sector has decreased over the past few years, leading to particular issues for Shropshire's rural areas. This issue places particular emphasis on the role of farm and rural diversification schemes to help sustain the rural economy;
- Trends show that Shropshire has found it difficult to retain graduates because of a lack of suitable employment opportunities;
- New business 'start up' rates in Shropshire are lower than regional and national averages, particularly in the south of the county;
- Shropshire performs consistently above the national averages for educational attainment. However, there has been a slower than average increase of Shropshire's population achieving the highest NVQ levels;
- Some of Shropshire's key retail centres have experienced a 'leakage' from their traditional catchment areas as people favour travelling further to larger towns and cities outside of the county. This trend has a particular impact on local rural economies;
- The provision of a range of employment sites and business premises in suitable locations is important in offering a real choice for potential investors, and for the expansion of existing businesses. Shrewsbury's role as New Growth Point needs to be appropriately reflected.

Transport and accessibility

- Accessibility to key services, market towns and employment is a major issue for many areas in Shropshire, although this is particularly the case for more isolated rural settlements. These accessibility issues have significant implications for the

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long term economic and social sustainability of rural areas in Shropshire, as well as the quality of life for individual households;

- The current standards of accessibility of households to hospitals is considered 'very poor', as are opportunities for 16-19 year olds access to further education colleges. This has major implications for the long term health of an aging population, and for opportunities for people to access key training and develop necessary skills;
- The relatively poor access to public transport for much of the county, especially in market towns and more isolated rural areas, has contributed to higher than average levels of car ownership;
- The likely growth of Shrewsbury town in line with its Growth Point status is likely to affect the numbers of vehicles entering its town centre. This has implications for long term congestion levels in and around Shrewsbury, particularly at peak times;
- Levels of commuting in and out of Shropshire have increased considerably reflecting the growing in-balance between jobs and economically active people in the county, particularly for the county's rural areas;
- The private car is by far the most common mode of transport used to get to work in Shropshire. This reflects the increased number of people employed in the county, the increased levels of car ownership and the longer distances people are willing to travel for work;
- The increased use of the private vehicle for business, travel to work and leisure use is a major contributor to carbon emissions and to climate change. This will have a significant impact on both rural and urban areas.

The SA framework, including objectives and supplementary questions.

3.23 The SA framework formed part of the Draft SA Scoping Report which was subject to consultation in 2008. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report incorporated feedback arising from that consultation.

3.24 The SA framework of decision-making criteria cover the full range of environmental impacts stipulated by the SEA Directive and Regulations and the broad range of economic and social issues set out in the ODPM guidance on SA. Each objective is accompanied by several supplementary questions which act as an aid to the assessment process. The objectives and questions are set out in the table below.

Table 3.1: SA Objectives and Supplementary Questions:

	SA Objective	Supplementary Questions: <i>Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:</i>
1	Promote safer communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new development to design out crime, e.g. through layout and access? • Help reduce incidence of disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse? • Encourage social inclusion?
2	Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet demonstrable housing needs, in terms of affordability, tenure and mix? • Reflect the needs of an ageing

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	SA Objective	Supplementary Questions: <i>Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:</i>
		population? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help to meet the needs of priority households? • Raise design and quality standards for housing development?
3	Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an appropriate supply of employment land to support sustainable economic development? • Support opportunities to create high value jobs in both urban and rural areas? • Continue to support sustainable tourism? • Support opportunities for home working? • Support a better balance of people and jobs? • Encourage the wider distribution of broadband / ICT infrastructure in rural areas?
4	Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an attractive setting for potential investors and workforce? • Encourage the diversification of the rural economy? • Encourage investment in new or improved physical infrastructure and communication technology? • Support the development of a skilled workforce, and supports the needs of new education infrastructure?
5	Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to improving access to quality public transport? • Exploit existing transport infrastructure? • Co-ordinate development proposals with future public transport proposals and funding streams? • Enable walking & cycling? • Encourages use of rail by passengers and freight?
6	Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus development in accessible locations? • Encourage alternative ways of working, e.g. home working, local meeting points, internet trading, home deliveries? • Encourage the retention of accessible local services?

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	SA Objective	Supplementary Questions: <i>Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote a sustainable network of services and facilities in urban and rural areas?
7	Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an appropriate provision of multifunctional open space? • Enhance the amenity value of Shropshire's countryside and green urban areas? • Encourage community participation, including by the voluntary sector, to provide opportunities for social, cultural, spiritual, political and other types of community interaction? • Conserve and encourage greater use of public rights of way?
8	Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the people of Shropshire to make active, healthy lifestyle choices? • Improve access to health facilities, especially in rural areas? • Improve access to health provision for older people?
9	Reduce Shropshire's contribution to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage new development to meet the 'Code for Sustainable Homes' efficiency targets? • Seek to raise energy efficiency standards in new commercial development? • Promote renewable energy and other low carbon technologies? • Minimise the need for people to travel? • Encourage behavioural change amongst Shropshire's resident and working population?
10	Adapt to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of sustainable drainage systems? • Ensure new development is climate change proofed? • Encourage green roofs/walls? • Encourage high water efficiency standards through building design?
11	Protect, enhance and manage Shropshire's landscapes and townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the character of Shropshire's distinct landscape types? • Preserve the distinctiveness of Shropshire's historic market towns?

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	SA Objective	Supplementary Questions: <i>Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect and enhance the sense of place? • Respect the public realm?
12	Preserve and enhance features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure development is sensitive in its treatment of historic buildings, listed buildings, archaeological remains and their settings in both urban and rural areas? • Conserve and restore Scheduled Monuments at risk? • Contribute to the management of historical assets?
13	Protect and enhance the range and populations of species, the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and Shropshire's geological heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect ecosystems from harmful development? • Consider the impacts of climate change on species and habitats, for example through creating biodiversity networks and restoring existing habitats? • Protect vulnerable species outside designated sites, as well as other species of European, national and local interest?
14	Protect and enhance Shropshire's water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect water and air from harmful pollutants? • Consider the use of water efficient design in new built development? • Promote the balance of water supply and need?
15	Improve local air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address air quality impacts from specific development and broad locations? • Support the improvement of the air quality in AQMAs?
16	Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider options for reducing flood risk and managing flooding impacts? • Seek to locate new development in areas of lowest possible flood risk?
17	Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the county's best and most versatile agricultural land? • Reduce the quantity of contaminated land?
18	Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of previously developed land? • Support initiatives / projects to re-use waste as a resource? • Encourage a reduction the use of

	SA Objective	Supplementary Questions: <i>Will the Plan Option / Objective / Policy:</i>
		primary aggregate? • Encourage an increase in levels of recycling and use of secondary resources?

4. Sustainability Appraisal methodology

Approach adopted to the SA

- 4.1 The SA has been carried out using the methodology set out in Government Guidance, (ODPM, 2005). The table below shows the generic relationship between the SA process and the DPD production process.

Table 4.1: SA Process and DPD Stages

DPD Stage	SA stages	SA tasks
1. Pre-production – evidence gathering	A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	A1: Identifying other relevant 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
2. Production	B: Developing and refining options and assessing the effects	B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework B2: Developing the DPD options B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPDs
	C: Preparing the SA Report	C1: Preparing the SA Report
	D: Consulting on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report	D1: Public participation on the preferred options of the DPD and the SA Report D2(i): Appraising significant changes

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DPD Stage	SA stages	SA tasks
3. Examination		D2(ii): Appraising significant changes resulting from representations
4. Adoption and monitoring		D3: Making decisions and providing information
	E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the DPD	E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring E2: Responding to adverse effects

When the SA was carried out

- 4.2 The Sustainability Appraisal for the Shropshire Core Strategy was carried out alongside the Core Strategy document preparation process. Preparation of the Core Strategy took place in 5 stages and the Council has produced 6 sustainability appraisal documents. The relationship between the stages of the Core Strategy, the corresponding Sustainability Appraisal documents and the generic SA stages is shown in the table below.

Table 4.2: Core Strategy Production and SA Stages:

Core Strategy Stage	Shropshire SA Document Title	Generic SA Stage
Topic Papers	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Stage A
Topic Papers	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Stage A
Issues and Options	Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal	Stages B, D1 and D2(i)
Preferred Policies	Policy Directions Sustainability Appraisal Update	Stages B, D1 and D2(i)
Final Plan	Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal	Stages B, D1 and D2(i)
Submission	Sustainability Appraisal Report	C1

- 4.3 Stage D2 (ii) will be carried out should significant changes be proposed as part of the examination process. Stages D3 and E will form part of the Annual Monitoring Report process.

Who carried out the SA?

- 4.4 Shropshire Council carried out most of the SA work for the Core Strategy in-house. The exception was the use of an independent external consultant to review the SA of the Issues and Options document. The consultant's report (An Independent Assessment of Shropshire Council's Sustainability Appraisal of its Core Strategy May 2009: Teresa Adams, see www.shropshire.gov.uk/planning.nsf) concluded that the Appraisal's methodology and conclusions were robust.
- 4.5 The use of in-house staff was extremely valuable as it enabled an iterative dialogue between sustainability appraisal and policy development to take place and gave all

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involved a thorough understanding of the key sustainability issues in Shropshire. This meant that Core Strategy policy development was able to proceed in the light of a good understanding of sustainability issues and quick feedback on the likely impact of different options on sustainability objectives.

Who was consulted, when and how?

- 4.6 The Draft SA Scoping Report was published for consultation between July and September 2008. This identified relevant plans and programmes, set out relevant baseline information, identified sustainability issues and proposed a framework for carrying out the SA. The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, incorporating the consultation responses received on the Draft SA Scoping Report, was finalised in October 2008. This established the SA framework which was then used for all subsequent appraisals of Core Strategy documents.
- 4.7 An Issues and Options SA was published in January 2009. This tested the spatial vision, the spatial objectives and the initial spatial options in the Issues and Options DPD against the SA framework. The Issues and Options SA was published for consultation between January 2009 and March 2009 at the same time as the Issues and Options DPD. The results of the Issues and Options SA consultation were then used to inform the preparation of the Policy Directions DPD.
- 4.8 After this, the Policy Directions SA Update document assessed the emerging Core Strategy policies set out in the Policy Directions DPD. The DPD was published for consultation between August and September 2009 and the Policy Directions SA Update was available for public comment on the Shropshire Council website during the same period.
- 4.9 Following this, the Final Plan Publication DPD and the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal were published for representation between February and April 2010. The Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal evaluates the Final Plan Publication policies against the SA framework.
- 4.10 Lastly, the proposed changes arising out of the Final Plan Publication and Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal consultations were assessed and the results are included in section 6.2 of this Report.

Table 4.3: Consultation on SA Documents:

Core Strategy Stage	SA Document	Consultation
Topic Papers	Draft SA Scoping Report	July – September 2008
Topic Papers	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Finalised October 2008
Issues and Options	Issues and Options SA	January – March 2009
Preferred Policies (Policy Directions)	Policy Directions SA Update	August – September 2009
Final Plan	Core Strategy SA	February – April 2010

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- 4.11 Appendix C shows the consultation responses to the Draft SA Scoping Report, the Issues and Options SA, the Policy Directions SA Update and the Core Strategy SA.

Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment

- 4.12 Sustainability Appraisal requires assumptions to be made about the impacts of proposed policies. Shropshire Council used baseline data combined with professional knowledge and experience to carry out the SA of the Core Strategy. Since both these factors can be variable in their consistency and coverage, the predictions made in the appraisal processes summarised in this report could be subject to some uncertainty and potentially, some risk.
- 4.13 The two main uncertainties which have been identified concern baseline data and the strategic nature of the Core Strategy. Firstly, baseline data varies in its scope, scale and currency. If data is weak in one of these areas, it may be difficult to correctly identify the current situation and following on from this, to then predict the likely impact a policy may have. Secondly, the Core Strategy sets out strategic policy for the whole of Shropshire Council's area. SA is likely to be most accurate when the exact location, scale and design of a proposal are known. This, the much broader scope of the Core Strategy could lead to a lower confidence in SA for some policies.
- 4.14 To counteract the uncertainties and risks surrounding data, the Council maintains a large dataset of relevant information and uses monitoring data (amongst other sources) to keep this updated. The Council also minimised the risks and uncertainties associated with professional knowledge and experience by using a small group of experienced and senior officers to review each SA as it was prepared. Additionally, the SA of the Issues and Options documents was subject to external review (see also section 4.4). The SA of the forthcoming Site Allocations and Management of Development DPD (which allocates land for specific uses and sets out more detailed policies for a number of topic areas) will provide a further opportunity to identify and minimise sustainability impacts on a site-by-site basis.

5. Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Issues and Options and Preferred Options documents.

- 5.1 This section of the Report covers the Issues and Options and Preferred Options stages of the Core Strategy and shows how SA influenced policy development throughout the preparation of these two documents.

Issues and Options stage: identification of main strategic options and comparison of their social, environmental and economic effects

Key Issues

- 5.2 At the Issues and Options stage, the Council sought comments on the key issues for the Core Strategy. These were developed from an earlier consultation on thematic Topic Papers (June 2008) and are set out below under topic headings.

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Table 5.1: Key Issues

Key Issue number	Key Issue
Spatial Overview	
1	Promote adaptable and sustainable communities that nurture vitality and local distinctiveness
2	Avoid over-exploitation of existing resources and assets including cultural sites and areas and maximise their efficient use
3	Support rural regeneration which is compatible with environmental objectives and delivers increased prosperity for all
Housing	
4	Overall scale of new housing development
5	Distribution of new housing development
6	Type and affordability of new housing
7	Quality and sustainability of new housing development
Economy	
8	Location and distribution of economic development and employment growth
9	Level of employment land provision
10	Network and hierarchy of centres
11	Shrewsbury's strategic role
12	Development of tourism
Environmental Resource Management	
13	Safeguard, improve and strengthen environmental networks
14	Implement design guidance to deliver high quality places and spaces
15	Balance the economic and environmental impacts of mineral working
16	Maximise the environmental and economic benefits of greater resource efficiency
Infrastructure and Implementation	
17	Providing adequate infrastructure, including utilities, transport infrastructure, green infrastructure and social infrastructure
18	Ensuring the Core Strategy can be effectively implemented by the many delivery partners
Transport and Accessibility	
19	Use new development to reduce the need for car travel and encourage greater use of public transport, cycling and walking
20	Improve access to facilities and services and reduce isolation
21	Reduce the negative impacts of traffic on the environment and society whilst ensuring vital and viable communities
22	Ensure continued improvements to public transport provision
Climate change	
23	Reduction of our carbon footprint and contribution to mitigation measures, including renewable, decentralised and low carbon

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Key Issue number	Key Issue
	energy
24	Adaptation to climate change

Policy Options

- 5.3 Following on from the Key Issues, the Issues and Options Core Strategy document then set out a series of options for policy areas. The Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal evaluated the policy options and the written summaries for these are set out against the relevant policy option in the table below. The SA matrices are included in Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal document.

Table 5.2: Sustainability Appraisal of Policy Options

Choice 1: Strategic approach	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<p>Option A: Development is strongly concentrated in and on the edge of Shrewsbury. All other market towns will have modest growth resembling recent trends, or less if they choose. Rural development is focused on meeting local needs for affordable housing and rural renaissance.</p>	<p>The significant sustainability impacts of the option vary greatly throughout the county. The option will concentrate growth on Shrewsbury, providing significant positive impacts on housing and economic growth for the town and settlements with good access to the town. Balancing jobs and people will encourage a greater labour supply, new and improved infrastructure provision, and will have significant potential to encourage a higher value added economy in the long term. Conversely, opportunities to promote small scale economic growth, rural diversification and improved infrastructure provision in smaller settlements will be more limited.</p> <p>Whilst encouraging the greater co-location of services, jobs and housing around Shrewsbury, travel needs are likely to increase for more isolated rural communities as rural service provision become less viable in the long term. This is likely to have significant impacts upon car borne transport needs, and could add to congestion, particularly around Shrewsbury. However, concentrated growth offers significant opportunities to promote higher energy and water efficiency standards in new development.</p> <p>Increased pressure will be placed upon a range of environmental assets in Shrewsbury and its surrounding areas, including landscape quality; water abstraction; surface water run-off and air quality. There will be greater opportunities through the design, density and layout of development to encourage significant improvements to green infrastructure.</p>
<p>Option B: Development is concentrated in places with good connections to the national transport network, namely the A5 and A49 transport corridors. While initially adding to road-based travel, it sets a foundation for the longer term for better bus and rail connections along strategic corridors.</p>	<p>By focussing development on Shropshire’s key transport corridors, Option B offers particularly positive implications for economic growth and for enabling significant infrastructure improvements. However, in targeting areas of opportunity rather than areas of need, Option B has potential to lead to inequalities in service and infrastructure provision throughout the county. Some settlements on the proposed transport corridors are relatively small and could have longer term land capacity issues. However, the focussed approach will encourage larger scale housing and employment schemes, leading to positive opportunities to enable more affordable and sustainable housing.</p> <p>By its nature Option B has significant potential to encourage people to travel further to access services and jobs. Smaller settlements in particular are unlikely to be self contained. However, the focussed approach will allow the Strategy to co-ordinate effectively with public transport improvements and allow new cycle ways to be developed. Therefore there is some longer term uncertainty as to the option’s contribution to reducing carbon emissions.</p>

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Choice 1: Strategic approach	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Development is more tightly restrained in locations with poor connections than currently	The focussed approach is likely to lead to pressure on open space provision in some settlements, and there is potential for negative impacts on townscape, cultural heritage, water supply, flood risk and air quality, and mitigation measures would need to be sought. However, the option does encourage the sustainable use of brownfield land and supports existing networks of waste management facilities.
<p>Option C: Development is spread between all the market towns, to reinforce their role as thriving centres serving their rural hinterlands. The amount of development is proportionate to their size. Development in villages and rural areas is more tightly restricted than currently</p>	<p>In focussing growth on Shrewsbury and a range of market towns, Option C allows considerable potential to develop a balanced and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire; continuing to use existing infrastructure, services and facilities. Allowing significant amounts of development to smaller market towns may place some limitations on developing a higher-value economy. It is likely that the strong focus away from smaller rural settlements will encourage greater opportunities to develop more affordable housing on the back of large scale schemes across Shropshire.</p> <p>Enabling growth in a number of market towns supports the creation of self-contained settlements, and is likely to reduce the travel requirements for large numbers of people. There is likely to be an increase in the need for smaller rural areas to travel to access services, although the preparation of an appropriate transport strategy is highlighted as central to the strategy. The pattern of growth promoted is likely to lead to infrastructure and public transport improvements in the long term.</p> <p>Reducing the scale of growth in smaller rural settlements will positively affect a number of environmental considerations, including landscape and cultural heritage. The development of networks of green infrastructure could also be promoted in the longer term, particularly around Shrewsbury and the larger market towns. The encouragement of larger, more concentrated schemes will also help to promote more energy efficient design. There is some longer term concern for the impact on air quality, particularly in existing Air Quality Management Areas</p>
<p>Option D: Development occurs in proportion to the size of settlements. Small scale, incremental development in a number of larger villages in Shropshire cumulatively accounts</p>	<p>Whilst demonstrating some significant positives with regard to market housing supply; the service based economy; and low unemployment levels, the continuation of current trends is unlikely to lead to the necessary critical mass of development with which to encourage long term improvements, particularly with regard to infrastructure and rural service provision. It is unlikely that continuing the current pattern of development will have sufficient flexibility to respond to changing needs of business and enterprise, or to the long term supply of affordable housing.</p> <p>The dispersed nature of current development trends has encouraged the continued use of the private car to access a range of services and facilities. Increasingly demanding energy and water efficiency targets</p>

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Choice 1: Strategic approach	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
for a significant proportion of the total.	<p>will be hard to achieve because of the largely incremental nature of development. Both these issues have negative implications for reducing Shropshire's impact on climate change.</p> <p>Continuing current trends will offer further opportunities to protect key historic designations, landscape quality and biodiversity networks in the short term. It is unlikely air quality levels will improve. The option is positive in supporting the efficient use of existing infrastructure particularly waste management facilities.</p>
<p>Option E: Takes a positive view of development that improves the sustainability of existing rural communities, with a particular emphasis on social and economic balance, and on ensuring that people who work in the rural areas can also live there. Moderate development in the market towns and growth in Shrewsbury.</p>	<p>The dispersal of development into rural areas is likely to enhance opportunities to provide more affordable housing and small scale economic growth for a range of smaller settlements, having particularly positive consequences for the Southern Area of the county. However, opportunities to develop decent, affordable and high quality housing in the larger market towns will be more limited in the medium to long term.</p> <p>There are significant longer term uncertainties inherent in this Option, not least in the provision of accessible services; the provision of sustainable transport links; and the pressure on travel requirements for communities. The long term sustainability of this option relies heavily on achieving a 'critical mass' of population for smaller rural areas, which at this stage remains hard to gauge.</p> <p>Increasing the scale of growth to rural areas is likely to lead to more opportunities at a local level for community renewable energy schemes, although on a county wide basis there will be significantly less opportunity to encourage higher Code for Sustainable Homes standards in new development. Dispersing growth to rural areas will relieve pressure on Greenfield land in market towns, although smaller settlements are likely to be subject to much greater pressure in terms of biodiversity preservation, landscape quality, surface water run-off, and service and infrastructure provision.</p>

Choice 2: Development in the countryside	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<p>Option A: No new buildings (except for agricultural, forestry, minerals and quiet informal recreation). Conversions of existing buildings limited to employment uses only.</p>	<p>Whilst Options D and E offer significant potential to develop and diversify the rural economy, they also have the most potential to negatively affect a range of environmental considerations. By focussing on employment</p>
<p>Option B: New building and conversions restricted to employment uses and affordable housing only</p>	

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Choice 2: Development in the countryside	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option C: New building restricted to employment uses and affordable housing only, but conversions allowed more flexibility of uses.	uses, affordable housing and appropriate conversions in the countryside (subject to strict criteria), Option C is likely to offer the most balanced and sustainable option for promoting rural diversification and meeting identified housing need, whilst having the least impact on the environment.
Option D: New building and conversions allowed for general small-scale housing, live work units, rural business premises of different types and sizes, only in specific locations.	
Option E: New building and conversions allowed for general small-scale housing, live work units, rural business premises of different types and sizes, subject to limitations on impact.	

Choice 3: Shrewsbury's direction for growth	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Medium scale developments scattered all around the edge of Shrewsbury , spreading development across many sites.	Options B-E offer longer term flexibility over land supply, offering significant potential to develop higher affordable housing levels, sustainable design, and green infrastructure schemes. They each would relieve pressure on air quality within the town centre. By expanding the town, Options B-E have potential to increase overall travel requirements, although there is also the possibility to develop improved levels of public transport provision. Scattered development around the edge of Shrewsbury has the greatest potential to negatively affect landscape quality. It is considered each of the urban extension proposals (Options B-E) would positively affect the growth of Shrewsbury, particularly in the longer term. Whilst offering the greatest potential to utilise small sites close to the existing town centre, Option A is not as flexible in its long term land supply.
Option B: Urban extension to the west , in the Bicton Heath direction, accompanied by a new road to link Holyhead Road and the A5.	
Option C: Urban extension to the south west , on one or both sides of the A488 Hanwood Road.	
Option D: Major development to the south , off Oteley Road.	
Option E: Urban extension to the north , between Ellesmere Road and the railway.	

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Choice 4: Shrewsbury's role as a sub-regional centre	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Town centre only , defined as high density development within the River Loop only.	By focussing new office/retail/cultural development solely within Shrewsbury's River Loop, significant opportunities are available to reduce the need to travel, promote sustainable modes of transport, mitigate social exclusion, and to make the efficient use of land. However, the restriction on development opportunities is likely to have significant negative impacts upon long-term economic growth and investment potential. Option D would offer potential to offer short term economic opportunities, but is likely to lead to a reduction in town centre viability in the longer term, and places pressure on a number of environmental assets. Both options B and C offer largely sustainable compromises, although option C will be reliant upon developing quality public transport to and from the town centre and the wider Shrewsbury hinterland.
Option B: Town centre and edge-of centre , extending the "strategic centre" to include Frankwell; Abbey Foregate/ Old Potts Way/ Coleham area and Castle Foregate / St Michaels Street.	
Option C: Whole town , including expansion of existing centres (for example, Meole Brace and Sundorne retail parks, Shrewsbury business park, etc) and potentially new centres.	
Option D: Whole town and hinterland , including new out-of-town locations, in addition to the town centre and other urban sites. This may involve the creation of new centres associated with new urban extensions.	

Choice 5: Oswestry's direction for growth	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Make best use of brownfield sites within the existing built up area together with a planned urban extension to the south east between Shrewsbury Road, Middleton Road and the A5/A483 Oswestry bypass	By focussing on both smaller sites around the whole town and a new urban extension to the south east of the town, Option C offers the greatest flexibility for future development. Focussing solely on the urban extension (Option A) would offer significant positive impacts on providing suitable large scale schemes, enabling more affordable housing; sustainable design; infrastructure improvements; and new service provision. There is some long term uncertainty for Option A as this will rely heavily on appropriate master-planning and suitable phasing of development. Option B could place restrictions on future development opportunities and has potential to negatively impact on congestion levels surrounding the town, although it is likely to make good use of brownfield land and existing infrastructure. In promoting a combination of Options A and B, Option C sits well in terms of encouraging a sustainable pattern of further growth.
Option B: Make best use of brownfield sites within the existing built up area together with a number of small/medium scale greenfield sites on the edge of the town.	
Option C: Combination of Options A and B	

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Choice 6: Employment land provision	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Provision in line with WMRSS Preferred Option	Whilst providing higher levels of employment land provision, based on local evidence, Option B has potential to provide longer term flexibility. Whilst in overall sustainability terms there is little to choose between the two options, there is the assumption that higher levels of employment land provision has more potential to negatively impact a landscape and biodiversity levels in the longer term, although this is very uncertain.
Option B: Higher level of provision based on local evidence	

Choice 7: Release of land for housing	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Phasing in 5 year periods: Phase housing delivery in 5 year time periods, with a lower target for 2006-2011 to reflect the housing downturn and higher targets for subsequent periods. Seek to maintain an even proportion of brownfield / greenfield sites across the plan period.	Whilst there is obvious synergy between this thematic issue and sustainability appraisal objective 2 (quantity and quality of housing), the provision of good quality housing land and the very act of releasing land for housing has potential to conflict with several Sustainability Objectives. Option A (higher releases in later time periods) and Option D (the release of land at levels higher than the RSS minimum) generally support a healthy and sustainable economy. Options C and E generally support a range of environmental objectives, although the long-term effects of all the options are difficult to predict.
Option B: Gradual release: Phase housing delivery evenly over the Plan Period, based on continuous review. The mechanism to do this would be a 'gradual release' policy linked to updating of the Shropshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. Seek to maintain an even proportion of brownfield / greenfield sites across the plan period.	
Option C: Gradual release, locally specific As option B, but within a framework of local targets on an area basis. Local targets would include local housing numbers, proportion of brownfield/greenfield and local infrastructure provision.	
Option D: Higher release Set the target for total housing development above the RSS minimum, based on evidence of land availability and deliverability, and phase the planned delivery as per options A, B or C.	
Option E: Prioritise brownfield Set a higher brownfield target than required by the RSS. Prioritise brownfield sites before greenfield sites, where available and deliverable, and phase the planned delivery as per options A, B or C.	

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Choice 8: Overall affordable housing target	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: RSS Target	There is little to choose from the various options when all the sustainability objectives are taken into account. It is evident however, that option B performs well against ensuring social inclusion and achieving sustainable economic growth.
Option B: Higher than RSS target	
Option C: Area-Based Targets	
Option D: An approach based on the likely yield of affordable housing arising from separate targets for affordable housing from exception sites and open market sites	

Choice 9: Affordable housing thresholds and percentages	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Maximum requirement - all sites, of all types, in all locations, with provision at 50%	The location of new housing developments, rather than the proportion of affordable housing on them, has more relevance to many of the SA objectives. All options will deliver the mix of housing required to meet demonstrable need, aimed at producing balanced integrated communities. Option A should create the greatest number of affordable homes but is the least financially viable given the current financial climate. Option D, continuation of existing policy, could lead to the confusion of residents.
Option B: All sites above a specified minimum threshold (e.g. 2, 3, or 4 dwellings) with provision at 50%	
Option C: All sites above a specified minimum threshold (e.g. 2, 3, or 4 dwellings), but with provision at a lower percentage - perhaps 40%?	
Option D: Continuation of existing policy	
Option E: Sliding Scale – Provision starting at 33% (for sites of 1 unit) and increasing gradually to 50% (for sites of 15+ units)	

Choice 10: Gypsy and traveller sites	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: To meet the need where it arises based on north, central, south planning areas	Several sustainability objectives are not significantly impacted by the different options relating to provision of sites for travellers and gypsies. They are a small minority group and in many ways their lifestyle is not significantly intrusive on a number of sustainability issues. On balance, Option C provides flexibility
Option B: To redistribute need, based on agreed criteria such as policy constraints, throughout Shropshire	
Option C: Rationalise and expand existing site provision where possible and subject to diverse needs being met, before identifying new sites	

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Choice 10: Gypsy and traveller sites	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option D: A mix of B and C above	between utilising existing sites and finding additional sites where necessary.

Choice 11: Sustainable development and design principles	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Ensure consistency across Shropshire , aiming for similar requirements to the rest of the West Midlands.	The design and sustainability of development is fundamental to the delivery of a number of objectives in the Sustainability Framework. Option A has a positive synergy with a range of Strategic Objectives (SOs). Standardising settings across Shropshire at the regional benchmark should provide certainty to developers (SO2, 3 and 4) and deliver against environmentally focussed SOs. Although Option B has significant positive synergies with a number of Sustainability Framework objectives (SO 7, 9, 10 in particular) setting higher standards may have significant negative effects on SO 2, 3 and 4 as it will drive up costs of development. Option C has the flexibility to set higher standards in some areas and the regional benchmark in other areas. Dependent on the criteria used to identify areas this may positively impact on a wider range of objectives than Option A and B.
Option B: Ensure consistency across Shropshire, aiming for higher requirements than the regional norm.	
Option C: Explore local variation across Shropshire , with some areas having similar requirements to the rest of the West Midlands, and other areas having higher standards.	

Choice 12: Environmental networks	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Need based targeting – focus improvements towards previously identified strategic environmental networks	Dealing with the enhancement of environmental networks outside of designated sites has synergies with a number of SA Framework objectives. By focussing on areas in need Option A will make positive contributions to Shropshire’s landscape and wildlife habitats (SO 11, 13 and 14). Option B provides potential wider benefits but will only meet needs identified local to the development. However, it is envisaged to have a particularly positive impact on SO 2, 4, 5 and 7. A combination of Option A and B would direct enhancement to areas of need whilst also meeting more localised needs.
Option B: Opportunity based targeting – pragmatic approach based on practicalities of delivery rather than driven by strategic aspirations development	

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Choice 13: Waste infrastructure	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Support expansion of existing sites and facilities;	Delivering effective waste infrastructure is vital for meeting a number of Sustainability Framework objectives. Option A in particular, would support a range of environmental objectives including those for biodiversity, the protection of soil quality and making the most efficient use of land. However in concentrating solely on existing sites there is potential for negative cumulative impacts on a range of environmental considerations in the longer term. There may be negative impacts on objectives for housing and wider economic growth in the medium and long term as developing existing sites, some of which are unsuitable for expansion, is unlikely to deliver against the future economic and social needs. It is likely that a combination of certain elements of Option B and C would provide the most sustainable option for delivering effective waste infrastructure by developing viable existing locations whilst identifying suitable new facilities to be integrated with new development.
Option B: Support a combination of existing and new locations on the basis of accessibility and proximity to main urban areas;	
Option C: Concentrate on developing a spatial pattern that co-locates and integrates new waste facilities or space in the design of new development.	

Choice 14: Strategic planning for minerals	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Expand existing mineral sites;	Option A has potential to encourage longer term negative cumulative impacts by solely concentrating on existing sites, although the negative impact on wider landscapes will be mitigated. Options B and C both offer the potential to develop new sites which provide flexibility to the market. Options C and D offer significant potential to reduce climate change impacts from mineral working by focussing on reducing transport requirement and targeting environmental improvements respectively. It is considered that a mixture of Options C and D will provide the most sustainable option in terms of providing flexibility and environmental improvements.
Option B: Develop new mineral sites to reduce cumulative impacts from existing mineral working;	
Option C: Select a combination of existing and new mineral sites on the basis of proximity to markets;	
Option D: Give priority to mineral working which can deliver targeted environmental improvements	

Choice 15: Renewable energy schemes	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: Proactively identify opportunities to meet high aspirations	Addressing renewable energy schemes has a particular relevance with Sustainability Objective 9 (reducing carbon emissions) although the options have impacts across a

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Option B: Proactively positive towards local (<5MW) schemes	wide variety of economic, social and environmental objectives. Option A and B reflect a positive stance towards the implementation of renewable energy schemes. Option A, by including reference to 'areas of search', might be too prescriptive and it is important to ensure that Option A is proactive rather than reactive. Option C's more cautious approach would ensure that sensitive landscape, historic and biodiversity areas (SO 11, 12 and 13) would avoid larger schemes, although the approach contradicts SO 9 and 10. The twin track approach in Option D leads to less certainty over the compatibility with the full range of sustainability objectives. A combination of Option A and B would ensure that localised, smaller schemes are proactively encouraged whilst the creation of larger schemes can be positively addressed.
Option C: More cautious approach, with tougher policy requirements and strong protection of Shropshire's landscape	
Option D: Twin track: proactively supportive in some locations or for certain types of renewable energy whilst cautious towards others	

Choice 16: Ironbridge power station site	
	Sustainability Appraisal summary
Option A: New power generation and employment uses	Options A and C are likely to provide a positive framework for the economy of the immediate area and beyond, whilst the economic impact of Option C are likely to more locally based. Option B has a positive synergy with a number of Sustainability Framework objectives as it has the potential to enhance heritage and landscapes assets, biodiversity and wildlife habitat, promoting recreational activities and reduce the risk of flooding. The effects of Option D are less likely to be as far reaching as current trends will prevail within this option. The use of the site as a power generation facility also leads to some uncertainty, particularly over each option's possible contribution to reducing Shropshire's contribution to climate change. Much of the land adjacent to the current boundary of the power station is situated in Flood Zones 2 and 3. Without sufficient mitigation measures, longer term development opportunities for residential and employment use on and surrounding the site may be constrained.
Option B: New power generation and wildlife, recreation, tourism uses	
Option C: New power generation and mixed uses as above plus residential	
Option D: New power generation only	

Preferred Options stage: how social, environmental and economic problems were considered in developing the policy directions.

5.4 After the Issues and Options stage, the Council published a Core Strategy Policy Directions document for consultation. This established more specific policies having taken into account the findings of the Issues and Options sustainability appraisal and feedback from the public consultation on the Issues and Options document. The table below provides a summary of this process.

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Table 5.3: Development of Policy Directions

Choice in Issues and Options	How many options	Best Option from SA	Chosen option	Policy Directions Title
1. Strategic Approach	A - E	C	Combination mainly of C and E	Strategic Approach
			New policy in response to public support for Option C in Choice 1	Spatial Strategy for Shrewsbury, Market Towns and Key Centres
			New policy in response to public support for Option E in Choice 1	Spatial Strategy for Local Centres, Community Hubs and Community Clusters
2. Development in the countryside	A - F	C	New approach developed in context of proposed strategic policy direction and based on strong support for permissive approach to development in suitable locations in countryside	Spatial Strategy for the Countryside outside of Local Centres, Community Hubs and Community Clusters
3. Shrewsbury's Directions for Growth	A - F	Any of B to E	Combination of A, B and D	Shrewsbury Directions for Growth
4. Shrewsbury's Role as a Sub-regional Centre	A - E	B or C with public transport enhancements	Elements from all options	Shrewsbury's Role as a Sub-Regional Centre.
5. Oswestry's Directions for growth	A - D	C	Option C	Oswestry: Direction for Growth
6. Employment Land Provision	A - C	Little to choose, but A has less impact on biodiversity and landscape	Option B with elements of C suggested by public	Employment Land Provision
7. Release of Land for Housing	A - F	A, C, D or E	Combination of parts of all the options	Overall Scale, Distribution and Phasing of Housing Development
8. Overall Affordable	A - E	All similar, but B performs well	Combination of A and C	Type and Affordability of

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Choice in Issues and Options	How many options	Best Option from SA	Chosen option	Policy Directions Title
Housing Target		on social inclusion and sustainable economic growth		Housing
9. Affordable Housing Thresholds and Percentages	A - F	The location of development is more relevant to SA than thresholds and percentages. However, Option A delivers the most homes.	Combination of parts of B,C and D	Affordable Housing Policy
10. Gypsy and Traveller Sites	A - E	All similar	New policy based on criteria for other housing sites	Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites
11. Sustainable Development & Design Principles	A - D	C	New approach based on comments received on Choices 11 and 15	Design and Local Distinctiveness
12. Environmental Networks	A – C	All similar in terms of some negatives and some positives	Combination of A and C	Environmental Networks
13. Waste Infrastructure	A - D	Combination of B and C	Combination of B and C	Waste Management Infrastructure
14. Planning for Minerals	A - E	Combination of C and D	Combination of C and D	Strategic Planning for Minerals
15. Renewable Energy Schemes	A - E	Combination of A and B	Elements of B, C and D	Renewable Energy
16. Ironbridge Power Station	A - E	B	Combination of A and B	Ironbridge Power Station
Choices for later. Infrastructure: Delivery Framework	Public comments invited	n/a	New policy based on public comment	Contributions to Infrastructure and Delivery
Choices for later. Community Infrastructure Levy: Whether to apply Community Infrastructure Levy:	Public comments invited	n/a	New policy based on public comment	Contributions to Infrastructure and Delivery

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Choice in Issues and Options	How many options	Best Option from SA	Chosen option	Policy Directions Title
Charging schedule				
Choices for later. Flood Risk	Public comments invited	n/a	Water Cycle Study commissioned	No policy direction presented: pending outcome of Water Cycle Study
Not a Choice at this stage	None presented	n/a	New policy based on the need to take the Local Transport Plan into account and public responses to both the Topic Papers and the Issues and Options consultation	Transport and Accessibility
Not a Choice at this stage	None presented	n/a	New policy taking a lead from the Community Strategy combined with public comments on both the Economy Topic Paper and the strategic choices in Issues and Options	Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment
Not a Choice at this stage	None presented	n/a	New policy developed from comments about economic aspects of several Choices	Centres Outside Shrewsbury
Not a Choice at this stage	None presented	n/a	New policy developed from the Core Strategy evidence base and public comments on the Economy Topic Paper	Tourism and Culture

5.5 The policy directions were also subject to SA at this point. Where a policy direction had not changed substantially from one of the options, the sustainability appraisal of that option was carried forward. In all other cases, a new sustainability appraisal was carried out. The table below contains all the policy directions with their SA summaries and shows how the social, environmental and economic effects of these directions were evaluated. The full SA, including the assessment matrices are set out in the Policy Directions Sustainability Appraisal Update document.

Table 5.4: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal for Policy Directions

Spatial Strategy	
Strategic approach	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focused development to maintain and enhance the role of Shrewsbury, the market towns and key centres, with most development directed to these settlements where it can be matched by infrastructure and service provision, whilst also allowing development that meets the social and economic needs of rural communities ▪ Responsive to the aspirations of rural communities to become more sustainable and resilient, by rebalancing the housing stock and encouraging social and economic vitality. This will be achieved through greater emphasis on the type of development in local centres, community hubs and community clusters, with a positive approach to development that delivers community benefits. ▪ In the countryside, development that demonstrably meets the needs of the local communities, for instance affordable housing and economic diversification, will be permitted in rural settlements whilst protecting the countryside from wider development pressures and widespread new building. 	<p>Option C (Market Towns) scored more highly than any of the other options on the sustainability appraisal of the Issues and Options document.</p> <p>Encouraging self-contained settlements is likely to reduce travel requirements, thereby minimising carbon dioxide emissions and reducing social isolation. Concentrating development in a limited number of settlements is more likely to lead to infrastructure and public transport improvements in the long term.</p> <p>There are longer term uncertainties and risks inherent in trying to achieve sustainable smaller rural settlements. The long term sustainability of option E (Rural Rebalance) relies on achieving a ‘critical mass’ of population that will support local services, sustain social networks and provide a vibrant rural economy.</p>
Spatial strategy for Shrewsbury, Market towns and Key Centres	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shrewsbury, as the county town, will fulfil its sub-regional role as a Settlement of Significant Development and Growth Point. Oswestry will accommodate significant growth as Shropshire’s second largest town. Market Drayton and Whitchurch will maintain and enhance their roles as main market towns. Bridgnorth and Ludlow will reflect and maintain their roles as the main market towns in their localities, respecting their environmental constraints. ▪ Small market towns and key centres, namely Bishops Castle, Broseley, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms, 	<p>The growth of Shrewsbury has significant potential to encourage a higher value added economy in the longer term.</p> <p>Enabling growth in a number of market towns supports the creation of self contained settlements, and is likely to reduce travel requirements for large numbers of people. This pattern of growth is likely to lead to infrastructure, service and public transport improvements in the long term.</p>

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Spatial Strategy	
<p>Ellesmere, Highley, Minsterley with Pontesbury, Much Wenlock, Shifnal and Wem will continue to play a significant role in providing rural services and employment and in providing sustainable places for new development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The role of key centres adjoining Shropshire will also be recognised, including Tenbury and Knighton. It may be appropriate, in consultation with neighbouring authorities, to identify (within Shropshire) land for development adjoining these key centres. 	
Spatial strategy for Local Centres, Community Hubs and Clusters	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies which settlements or groups of settlements have the potential to be stronger social, economic and environmentally sustainable communities, applying a broader understanding of “sustainability” in defining sustainable communities. ▪ In and adjacent to these settlements, development that demonstrably contributes to community needs and thereby improves the sustainability of the community will be allowed. This will primarily provide for local needs for economic development, affordable housing, services and facilities, but a limited proportion of enabling open market development will also be allowed where it helps to deliver community benefit or improved sustainability. ▪ Larger villages that have potential to act as Local Centres are Gobowen and St. Martins in the NW; Baschurch, Prees, Shawbury, Woore in the NE; Bayston Hill and Dorrington in Central Shropshire; Bucknell, Burford, and Clun in the south; and Albrighton and Broseley in the east. In addition to windfall development, land allocations may be appropriate in local centres. ▪ Settlements that provide a Community Hub, and groups of settlements that together provide a Community Cluster, will be identified in the Site Allocations and Development 	<p>The proposed spatial strategy would generate a strong positive impact on meeting local needs for housing, economic activity, services and facilities. Focussing development to meet local needs in existing local centres, community hubs and community clusters would help to foster more sustainable local communities and would have a positive impact on climate change issues by helping to reduce the need to travel. Impacts on the viability of some services and the natural and historic environment are uncertain because the outcome would reflect local circumstances and the extent to which local benefits from development are perceived to outweigh negative impacts. The proposed spatial strategy is unlikely to have a significant or direct impact on objectives for environmental quality.</p>

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Spatial Strategy	
<p>Management DPD, and will reflect local community aspirations as well as the evidence base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development in Community Hubs and Community Clusters will be guided by criteria relating to impact on sustainability, scale, location, capacity of infrastructure and local aspirations. These will be elaborated in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD and in a Supplementary Planning Document, to enable the authority to “fine tune” the quantity and type of development allowed in response to monitoring and changing circumstances. 	
Spatial strategy for the countryside outside of Local Centres, Community Hubs and Community Clusters:	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development for community benefit only. Community benefit includes rebalancing the housing stock in favour of a higher proportion of affordable housing, providing rural employment opportunities, providing affordable live-work units, improving local environmental assets (built and natural) and providing local services or community facilities; ▪ No new build market housing development will be permitted (including replacement of existing dwellings); ▪ Building conversions should preferably be to employment uses. Other uses may be acceptable only where necessary to help finance the retention of buildings of historic value; ▪ Development primarily in recognisable settlements, not constituting isolated or sporadic development. 	<p>The proposed spatial strategy would generate a strong positive impact on meeting local needs for housing, economic activity, services and facilities. Focussing development to meet local needs in existing Community Hubs and Community Clusters would help to foster more sustainable local communities and would have a positive impact on climate change issues by helping to reduce the need to travel. Impacts on the viability of some services and the natural and historic environment are uncertain because the outcome would reflect local circumstances and the extent to which local benefits from development are perceived to outweigh negative impacts. The proposed spatial strategy is unlikely to have a significant or direct impact on objectives for environmental quality.</p>
Growth strategies for specific places	
Shrewsbury directions for growth	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make best use of previously developed land and buildings for housing and other uses within the built up area, where suitable sites exist; ▪ Plan for significant greenfield development, including medium 	<p>This policy direction is strongly positive in the promotion of a sufficient quantity of good housing, a strong and sustainable economy and the provision of employment land. It provides good opportunities to reduce the need to travel and develop</p>

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Growth strategies for specific places	
<p>sized housing sites on the edge of Shrewsbury (Option A) and potentially two sustainable urban extensions linked to addressing employment land and strategic transport infrastructure provision requirements: land to the south, off Oteley Road/Thieves Lane/Hereford Road (Option D), and land to the west, in the Bicton Heath direction (Option B);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adopt a comprehensive Masterplan approach to establish the principles governing the delivery of development of the sustainable urban extensions including the co-ordinated provision of infrastructure. The Masterplan will be subject to community engagement and agreed by Shropshire Council in advance of any planning application(s). ▪ Manage the release of housing and employment land to ensure delivery to meet targets and co-ordination with infrastructure provision. 	<p>sustainable travel options as well as increasing the proportion of energy needed by new developments which is from renewable sources. Prioritising the use of brownfield sites represents an efficient use of land. Care will be needed to avoid adverse impacts on landscape, townscape and other valued environmental features but development around the edges of the town should relieve pressure on the historic core. Growth will put pressure on water resources although implementation of the Code for Sustainable Homes should deliver increased water efficiency in new housing developments.</p>
Shrewsbury's role as a sub-regional centre	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Core Strategy will make provision in line with the emerging West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy - RSS Phase 2 Revision Preferred Option targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50,000 m2 (gross) comparison retail floors-space provision (2006-2021); - 3000m2 (gross) (2021-2026) - 20,000 m2 (gross) office floor-space provision (2006-2026) ▪ Plan for and support Shrewsbury's role as a Settlement of Significant Development, a Strategic Centre and Growth Point, and as a key driver for economic and community prosperity within Shropshire. ▪ Plan for and support Shrewsbury's sustainable and balanced development by focussing on the delivery of a range of high quality town centre facilities; utilising opportunities to improve accessibility and sustainable transport provision; and improving environmental quality, particularly with regard to air quality issues, 	<p>Shropshire's economy should benefit from Shrewsbury's role as a sub-regional centre and this should encourage high quality inward investment for both the town and the county. The planned and hierarchical nature of development should offer good opportunities to develop sustainable transport and services close to where people live. The latter should reduce the need for travel. Prioritising development in the town centre will contribute to the efficient use of land but overall, care will be needed to avoid adverse impacts on valued historic and environmental features. Development will put pressure on water resources but air quality should improve with this policy direction.</p>

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Growth strategies for specific places	
<p>environmental networks and green infrastructure.</p> <p>Spatial / Sequential Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The town centre will be the preferred location for major new retail; office; leisure; entertainment; cultural; education; and, healthcare development; ▪ Encourage sustainable retail-led development in the town centre that supports the regeneration of existing sites and premises, and seek opportunities for appropriate redevelopment of the centre's Riverside and West End areas; ▪ Beyond the town centre, opportunities will be sought to accommodate new retail and office schemes in sustainable edge of centre locations, including Frankwell; Abbey Foregate; Old Potts Way; and Castle Foregate; ▪ Opportunities will be sought to support appropriate development schemes within the Northern Corridor regeneration area. ▪ Outside the town centre and beyond edge of centre locations, meet need / demand through sustainable extensions to Shrewsbury's existing retail parks for retail development, and existing business parks for office development. ▪ Only support new commercial 'hubs' around the edge of Shrewsbury where need / demand cannot be met in sequentially better locations, and as part of planned sustainable urban extensions to the town. ▪ The Site Allocations and Development Management DPD will define the extent of the town centre, and allocate sites for town centre uses. 	
Oswestry: direction for growth	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make best use of previously developed land and buildings for housing and other uses within the built up area, where suitable sites exist. ▪ Plan for a sustainable urban extension to the south east of the town on land between Shrewsbury Road, Middleton Road and the A5/A483 Oswestry bypass. 	<p>By focussing on both smaller sites around the whole town and a new urban extension to the south east, in addition to previously developed sites within the built up area, Option C offers the greatest flexibility for accommodating future development and sits well in terms of encouraging a sustainable pattern of growth.</p>

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<p>Growth strategies for specific places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In doing so, create a new neighbourhood comprising a mix of uses including housing, employment land, open space and green infrastructure, local centre, new link road between Middleton Road and Shrewsbury Road and integrated with new leisure and recreation facilities at Oswald Park. ▪ Adopt a comprehensive masterplan approach to establish the principles governing the delivery of development including the co-ordinated provision of infrastructure. The masterplan will be subject to community engagement and agreed by Shropshire Council in advance of any planning application(s). ▪ As necessary, plan for further greenfield sites to be identified to meet development requirements for housing and employment land through the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD to enable Oswestry to perform the role identified for it in the Spatial Strategy, whilst maintaining its distinctive character and quality as a border market town. 	
<p>Ironbridge Power Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognise the continuing importance of the site to the maintenance of energy supplies in Shropshire, and the wider region; ▪ Support redevelopment of the site for power generation in combination with a range of other uses, including employment, tourism, wildlife and recreation; ▪ Support the adoption of renewable energy technologies on the site; ▪ Redevelopment of the site should recognise the sensitive environment that surrounds the site, and should respond to opportunities to address flood risk and potential land contamination; ▪ Explore the potential for the site to make a positive contribution to the development of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site; ▪ Support production of a development brief to inform any redevelopment of the site. 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>Options A (new power generation and employment uses) and C (new power generation and mixed uses including residential) are likely to provide a positive framework for the economy of the immediate area and beyond;</p> <p>Option B (new power generation and wildlife, recreation and tourism uses) would help to enhance local heritage and landscapes assets, biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and has potential to enhance recreation and tourism activities and reduce flood risk;</p> <p>The proposed Policy Direction, as a combination of Options A and B scores well on a wider range of sustainability objectives.</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<p>Economic development, enterprise and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote Shropshire as a business investment location and a place for a range of business types to start up, invest and grow. ▪ Recognise the economic benefits of Shropshire’s natural and historic environment and quality of life as a unique selling point which needs to be valued, conserved and enhanced. ▪ Plan for and maintain a flexible supply of employment land and premises comprising a range and choice of sites in appropriate locations to meet needs and demands and contribute to the development of sustainable and prosperous communities across Shropshire. ▪ Plan for and support the development of key business growth sectors including, tourism, and knowledge based activities, environmental/low carbon technologies, creative and cultural industries and food and drink production and processing. ▪ Plan for and support home based enterprise, the development of live/work schemes and a network of enterprise centres. ▪ Support and facilitate development related to the provision of higher/further education facilities offering improved education and training opportunities to benefit Shropshire residents and employers. ▪ Support the delivery of sustainable transport and ICT/broadband infrastructure which improves accessibility/connectivity to employment, education and training opportunities and key services and facilities. ▪ Plan for and promote the role of Shrewsbury as the main business, service and visitor centre for the Shropshire sub-region, with a planned level of economic development to balance new housing, co-ordinated with new infrastructure provision. ▪ Plan for and promote the role of market towns as key service centres providing employment, shopping, education, healthcare and other facilities and services accessible to their rural hinterlands. ▪ Support development proposals which add to their vitality and viability 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>The Sustainability Appraisal highlights the generally positive impact of the proposed policy direction when assessed across a number of sustainability objectives, not just those with an economic focus, where, as one would expect, the impacts are most positive. The compatibility of the policy direction with some objectives is uncertain as the impact is dependant on where development is located.</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<p>and contribute to their regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within rural areas, particularly the Rural Regeneration Zone, plan for and support rural enterprise and diversification of the economy with an emphasis on areas of economic activity and job creation with strong links to the rural area (farm diversification, green tourism, leisure, homeworking). Ensure that the countryside is protected and that any development is of an appropriate scale and form and consistent with the character and quality of the location. 	
Employment Land Provision	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the range of 'employment uses' (from the Use Classes (Amendments) Order 2005) that contribute to the preferred Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment policy direction and establish a flexible and responsive basis for allocating and protecting employment land; ▪ Utilise employment development opportunities in Shropshire including Shrewsbury as a Growth Point / Settlement of Significant Development, the Rural Regeneration Zone (RRZ), and the High Technology Corridor (HTC) in east Shropshire; ▪ Contribute to the creation of sustainable communities by making some allowance for the broader development needs of communities which may need to be accommodated on employment land where this can be justified; ▪ Test and review the Indicative Employment Requirement in the RSS Draft Revision (216 hectares to 2026) to determine the hectarage, timeframe and justification for the longer term employment target for Shropshire; ▪ Identify a specific Indicative Employment Requirement for Shrewsbury to meet employment needs and balance housing growth in the town; ▪ Test and review the 5 Year Reservoir in the RSS Draft Revision (72 hectares) to provide readily available employment land and premises and determine local reservoir targets for Shrewsbury and each of the spatial zones identified in the Core Strategy; 	<p>The Core Strategy Issues and Options identified two options with little to distinguish between them in sustainability terms.</p> <p>Option A identified the RSS Draft Revision employment land target for 216 hectares to 2021 which are included in the regional Sustainability Appraisal. Option B proposes a higher but unspecified employment land target to be determined through the Core Strategy.</p> <p>A higher level of employment land provision has more potential to negatively impact on landscape and biodiversity in the longer term. In addition, where landscape and the environment are economic drivers for investment the increasing scale of economic activity may impact negatively on environmental quality.</p>

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<p>Policy Direction by policy theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate the viability and quality of the existing supply of employment land and premises and determine the requirement for additional employment land and premises to accommodate the defined ‘employment’ uses; ▪ Guide the identification of an appropriate range, choice and distribution of good quality, suitable, available, accessible and developable employment sites to meet economic needs and demands; ▪ Protect existing and new employment allocations from alternative uses by establishing appropriate policy tests to ensure that alternative and competing uses are directed to more suitable development locations and to ensure that the significance of employment sites in the development land portfolio is properly evaluated in assessing the broader development needs of communities; ▪ Site Allocations and Development Management DPD will allocate and protect specific sites for employment use to satisfy the Core Strategy employment targets. 	
<p>Centres outside Shrewsbury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Core Strategy will include a hierarchy of non-strategic centres to complement the primary role of Shrewsbury in order promote their vitality and viability, and to increase accessibility to a range of services and facilities. ▪ The Site Allocations and Development Management DPD will define the extent of town centres and allocate sites for town centre uses. <p>Large Market Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The market towns of Oswestry, Ludlow, and Bridgnorth will act as main centres for the North West, South and East spatial zones respectively, whilst Whitchurch and Market Drayton will provide complementary roles as main centres within the North East spatial zone. ▪ These towns will be the focus for a range of services and facilities, including retail, office, entertainment, night-time, educational, healthcare and community uses, taking into account local evidence of 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>This new policy direction will have a number of positive impacts on the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal, including a very strong positive implication for the economy of Shropshire. The policy also makes a positive contribution to areas such as reducing the need to travel and protecting against adverse effects to natural resources. Areas such as promoting community participation and improvements to health are also expected to benefit due to the protection and improvement of local facilities and services.</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<p>demand.</p> <p>Smaller Market Towns and Key Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A network of key centres will provide services and facilities on a smaller scale to serve the day to day needs of local communities and their accessible rural hinterland. <p>Rural Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within a network of rural centres, the focus will be on protecting and strengthening village based facilities and services in order to meet the everyday needs of their local communities, having regard to community aspirations wherever possible. 	
Tourism and culture	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify the role of Shrewsbury, market towns and key service centres as the focus for the development of cultural facilities, making the most of their existing assets and developing opportunities to improve the range of facilities they have to offer; ▪ Encourage the development of new tourism opportunities, and those adding value to the existing tourism offer, that make the most of Shropshire’s distinctive landscape, cultural and historic character, and add value to the local economy, increase spend per head and increase the likelihood of repeat visits, without harming the intrinsic value of the character that makes Shropshire attractive as a tourist destination; ▪ Promote development that supports and enhances the heritage tourism brand and value of market towns, whilst respecting their intrinsic character, cultural and environmental value; ▪ Promote opportunities for the enhancement of, and access to, green corridors, particularly the extensive rights-of-way network, rivers and the canal network of northern Shropshire; Increase opportunities for sustainable tourism, developing a niche reputation market for green tourism, by promoting connections between visitors and Shropshire’s natural, cultural and historic assets, opportunities for walking and cycling, access to heritage trails, and enhancing the value of local food, drink and crafts as part of the tourism offer; 	<p>This proposed policy direction contributes positively to a number of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, in particular those which encourage investment and improvements to the economy within the County. It is also expected that the policy will strongly support the need to preserve areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage. It is predicted that the policy may have negative impacts on reducing the need for people to travel as it will encourage people to travel in and around the County, though this impact may be minimised by making improvements to the public transport system.</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of the development of quality visitor accommodation, that reflects, and contributes to, the tourism offer of the area where needs are not currently met, and contributes to the draw of Shropshire as an overnight visitor destination, within accessible and sustainable locations. ▪ Positive approach to rural diversification for tourism, leisure and cultural uses, ensuring that developments are appropriate for their surroundings in their scale and nature. 	
Overall scale, distribution and phasing of housing development	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make provision to meet the strategic housing requirements for Shropshire for the period 2006-2026 set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy – current RSS Phase 2 Revision Preferred Option: ▪ Shropshire: 25,700 (1,285 p.a.), of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shrewsbury: 6,200 (310 p.a.) ▪ Include local targets for the 5 spatial zones, including housing numbers, affordable housing target, proportion of brownfield/greenfield development, and any links to infrastructure provision. The proportion of development that will be accommodated in each spatial zone in Shropshire will be approximately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31% in central Shropshire (7895 dwellings) - 23% in North West Shropshire (6020 dwellings) - 20% in North East Shropshire (5240 dwellings) - 15% in the South of Shropshire (3745 dwellings) - 11% in the East of Shropshire (2800 dwellings) ▪ (Indicative only – final proposed percentages may need to be amended following consultation on the emerging Spatial Strategy and the outcome of the RSS Phase 2 Revision); ▪ Phase development in 5 year time periods, with regular reviews linked to updates of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and monitoring of the five year land supply. The Core Strategy will include a housing trajectory indicating the 	<p>The proposed approach to the overall scale, distribution and phasing of housing development will have a strong and direct positive impact on the provision of housing appropriate to identified needs in each area. The proposed approach will also benefit the economy by helping to address local housing needs for employees and by protecting brownfield employment land. The identification of local targets for infrastructure provision has a positive impact on a range of objectives for social and environmental infrastructure, although the impact on some aspects of environmental quality is uncertain. Targets for the re-use of brownfield land will help to ensure that land is used efficiently and limit the loss of high quality agricultural soils.</p>

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<p>Policy Direction by policy theme</p> <p>planned delivery of housing over the Plan Period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritise the development of brownfield sites, where available and deliverable. Include an overall target of 60% of development on brownfield land up to 2016, with local variations based on evidence in SHLAA; ▪ Consider the need for protection of brownfield sites such as garden land, sites of ecological value and employment sites which may not be suitable for redevelopment. 	
<p>Type and affordability of housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy to seek the provision of new housing of sizes, types, tenure and affordability to meet local needs and to improve the balance of the housing stock within local communities and Shropshire as a whole. ▪ Set an initial overall target for the provision of affordable housing from all sources of supply to cover the whole plan period – target to be based on the sub-regional target to be set in the RSS. ▪ Set linked targets for provision for each of the Core Strategy’s spatial zones, subject to sufficiently robust information being available. ▪ An approach of reviewing the targets at key milestones in the Plan Period. ▪ Not to set overall targets for provision of social-rented and intermediate affordable housing, but to rely on the policy on housing mix and type. 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>There is little to choose from the various options when all the sustainability objectives are taken into account. The proposed policy direction would therefore also score well on social and community focused sustainability objectives.</p>
<p>Affordable housing policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An approach which sets the provision of affordable housing at the heart of the policies for the location and type of development in Shropshire, with provision from a number of sources. ▪ Set a long term County-wide target for the affordable housing percentage on qualifying open market developments having regard to needs and viability on ‘standard’ developments in ‘normal’ market conditions – 35%. ▪ Set target percentages for qualifying open market developments on a Countywide and, potentially, area basis for the current and 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>All options will deliver the mix of housing required to meet demonstrable need, aimed at producing balanced integrated communities. The proposed policy direction would therefore also score well on social and community focused sustainability objectives</p>

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<p>Policy Direction by policy theme</p> <p>subsequent five year periods of the Plan Period to reflect economic viability. Proposed initial target percentage to 2011: 20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualifying Sites: all sites (1 dwelling and above). ▪ Details of Affordable Housing Policy to be set out in Site Allocations and Development Management DPD and related Supplementary Planning Document. Policy to include provision in association with open market developments, as part of development of community benefit (see Spatial Strategy), on 'Exception' sites, and as self build local needs affordable houses. Criteria for identification of settlements where development of community benefit and self-build local needs affordable houses to be established in preparation of Site Allocations and Development Management DPD. 	
<p>Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment to meeting the housing needs of Shropshire's showpeople, gypsy and traveller communities, recognising their traditional role in Shropshire life. ▪ This commitment primarily to be met by identifying sufficient sites in the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD to meet the identified need and the requirements set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy. This will facilitate additional provision of both Council and private gypsy and traveller sites. ▪ Larger gypsy and traveller sites (5 pitches and over) and all speculative sites (i.e. where the prospective occupiers are not known) to be within walking distance of basic services such as a shop or regular bus service. ▪ Small gypsy and traveller sites (under 5 pitches), where the prospective occupiers have a strong local connection (i.e. work or family connections within a 10km radius), to be considered on the same basis as other local needs affordable housing. ▪ Emphasis on high standards of site design, including the visual appearance of the utility blocks, site layout and landscaping, to ensure sites fit in with their surroundings. 	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p> <p>No significant impact is generated for a number of sustainability objectives due to the small size and lifestyle of the gypsy and traveller community and the limited scale of provision which is required. The proposed policy direction will help to meet their specific housing needs and will contribute positively to delivering safer communities by tackling social exclusion and addressing safety concerns which can arise from unauthorised site use. Planned provision of additional sites and pitches will help to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.</p>
<p>Design and Local Distinctiveness</p>	<p>Sustainability Appraisal summary</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that the design of development takes account of Shropshire’s high quality environmental assets such as landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment, including the Shropshire Hills AONB; ▪ Seek development which addresses the projected impacts of climate change and which meets regional policy requirements for sustainable design; ▪ Encourage development which respects, reflects and is sympathetic with the character of its local environment; ▪ Seek greater resource efficiency and minimise the impact of development on the quality of natural resources such as soil, water and air; ▪ Seek development which contributes to meeting standards concerning the level of provision of open space, sport and recreational facilities (standards to be included in Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD). 	<p>This proposed new policy direction has been developed to acknowledge the fundamental importance of design in new developments and make sure that developments take into account the local distinctiveness of the local area. This policy direction is strongly positive to a large number of Sustainability Objectives, in particular those objectives relating to climate change and the quality of our natural resources.</p> <p>This policy direction can also have a positive effect on other areas such as community safety, attracting economic investment and encouraging healthier lifestyles. It is expected that this policy direction will have a positive impact initially for reducing Shropshire impact on climate change and this is expected to improve in the medium and long term to having a far greater positive impact due to the requirement for new developments to reach progressively higher levels of the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p>
Environmental Networks	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognise, protect and enhance the diversity, quality and local character of Shropshire’s natural and historic environment; ▪ Improve linkages between specific sites of recognised environmental quality and other areas of environmental importance to establish functioning environmental networks; ▪ Seek positive contributions to the extent and quality of environmental networks as an integral part of planning new development and by targeting help towards sites or linkages which are most in need of improvement. 	<p>An approach which targets opportunities for improvements when they arise provides potential wider benefits but will only meet needs identified local to the development. It would have a positive impact on Sustainability Objectives 2,4,5 and 7.</p> <p>Targeting help towards those areas which are most in need will make positive contributions to Shropshire’s landscape and wildlife habitat in line with Sustainability Objectives 11,13 and 14.</p> <p>A combination of both Options would direct enhancement to areas of need whilst also meeting more localised</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
	needs.
Waste management infrastructure	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commit to facilitating the provision of sufficient capacity to manage an equivalent quantity of waste to that generated in Shropshire; ▪ Support the provision of additional commercial waste management services and infrastructure to help reduce the burden of waste costs on the local economy; ▪ Commit to delivering the regional waste apportionment targets set out in the RSS partial review; ▪ Identify a spatial pattern (broad locations) for future waste facilities based on a combination of existing and new locations which are accessible and close to the main urban areas; ▪ Wherever practicable, co-locate and integrate new waste facilities or space in the design of new development. 	<p>Delivering effective waste infrastructure is vital for meeting a number of sustainability objectives. It is likely that a combination of certain elements of Option B and C would provide the most sustainable option for delivering effective waste infrastructure by developing viable existing locations whilst identifying suitable new facilities to be integrated with new development.</p>
Strategic planning for minerals	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Define Mineral Safeguarding Areas to avoid other forms of development resulting in the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources; ▪ Identify 'broad locations' within which sites can be allocated in the 'Site Allocations and Development management Policies DPD for the future working of sand and gravel, at a combination of existing and new mineral sites, and on the basis of proximity to markets, sufficient to provide an appropriate share of our sub-regional apportionment; ▪ Support the continued production of other mineral resources such as crushed rock, clay and building stone to meet local needs and help to address cross boundary requirements; ▪ Address cross boundary issues, particularly with Telford & Wrekin, concerning the location, production and markets for mineral aggregates; secondary & recycled aggregates and brick clay; ▪ Identify and protect rail freight facilities which could contribute to the bulk transport of minerals; 	<p>Option A has potential to encourage longer term negative cumulative impacts by solely concentrating on existing sites, although the negative impact on wider landscapes will be mitigated.</p> <p>Options B and C both offer the potential to develop new sites which provide flexibility to the market.</p> <p>Options C and D offer significant potential to reduce climate change impacts from mineral working by focussing on reducing transport requirement and targeting environmental improvements respectively.</p> <p>It is considered that a mixture of Options C and D will provide the most sustainable option</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give priority to mineral working which can deliver targeted environmental improvements as part of restoration and aftercare. 	
Renewable energy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage and support energy efficiency measures and increase the proportion of Shropshire’s energy demand that is met from decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy sources; ▪ Develop a criteria based approach in the Core Strategy to guide the location of future renewable energy technologies within Shropshire; ▪ Encourage the provision of both on-site and off-site renewable energy technologies and associated infrastructure in line with national and regional standards (e.g. Code for Sustainable Homes), where applicable. 	<p>Improving energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation has a direct and strongly positive relationship with the impacts of climate change. Developing a criterion based approach to guide the location of future renewable energy technologies within Shropshire will have a positive impact across a range of environmental sustainability objectives by helping to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment and will benefit environmental quality, especially in the longer term. The relationship with social and economic objectives is less clear, but developing renewable technologies in Shropshire has the potential to support businesses by encouraging a local and affordable supply of energy. Adopting national and regional standards and developing criteria to guide the location of renewable energy technologies will avoid inequitable impacts on development and help to increase certainty for industries in the development of new technologies.</p>
Transport and Accessibility	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote sustainable communities by facilitating access to jobs, housing, facilities and services, particularly to reduce the need to travel and to address issues of rural isolation and other spatial constraints on economic growth and diversification; ▪ Support the economic growth and competitiveness of Shropshire by promoting the delivery of reliable and efficient transport networks especially improvements to rail, bus, Park & Ride and highway networks and additions to transport networks supported by developer contributions where appropriate (including the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road, other by-passes and the Shrewsbury Parkway Station) and taking account of potential 	<p>This policy generates a strong positive impact on a number of sustainability appraisal objectives including attracting inward investment, promoting public transport and sustainable modes of travel. Although the policy has no significant affect on a number of objectives it will have a positive effect on improvements to community participation and the health and well being of the Shropshire community due to improvements of green infrastructure and to the rights of way network.</p>

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Policy Direction by policy theme	
<p>impacts on Shropshire’s landscape, townscape and valued environmental resources;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and promote opportunities for freight movements within and through Shropshire, particularly to encourage alternative modes of freight transport and to support opportunities for rail freight in relation to the policy directions for Strategic Planning for Minerals and Ironbridge Power Station; ▪ Promote the economic vitality and viability of Shrewsbury and the Market Towns by addressing issues of transport integration, accessibility and parking; ▪ Promote a reduction in transport emissions by reducing the need to travel and promoting the use of public transport, cycling and walking in order to reduce car dependency and by managing development within air quality management areas; ▪ Improve personal health and well being by encouraging cycling and walking, especially through the provision of facilities in new developments or network improvements (assisted by developer contributions) and protecting and extending links with public rights of way and ‘green infrastructure’ as part of the environmental networks approach proposed in this Core Strategy. 	

Infrastructure delivery	
Contributions to Infrastructure and delivery	Sustainability Appraisal summary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Positive approach towards accommodating new infrastructure; ▪ All development will be expected to contribute towards necessary infrastructure provision/improvements, with a policy in the Core Strategy to this effect; ▪ Further detail regarding infrastructure contributions will be contained in specific Core Strategy policies, for example on transport and affordable housing in appropriate policies in the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD, and in Supplementary Planning Documents as required. 	<p>Adopting a positive approach to the provision of infrastructure will benefit a wide range of sustainability objectives and will have a particularly strong positive impact on the provision of good quality housing. The proposed approach will help to adapt to climate change and will benefit many of the components of sustainable communities. Contributions to green infrastructure will have a significant positive impact on our ability to deliver improvements to the extent and quality of environmental networks.</p>

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Rejection of Other Options at the Preferred Options stage.

- 5.6 The Core Strategy Policy Directions document set out the reasons why some of the options proposed at the Issues and Options stage were not carried forward. These reasons combine the outcome of the SA process and public comments and are set out below.

Strategic Approach

- 5.7 Option A (Growth Point Plus) was overwhelmingly deemed to be negative with many people feeling that concentrating all the development in Shrewsbury would be detrimental to the other settlements of Shropshire, socially, environmentally and economically. Furthermore, there were concerns that too much development in Shrewsbury itself may destroy the historical character of the town and its value as a tourism destination. Concerns were also raised over traffic congestion within the town and whether the current infrastructure could cope with the level of development required. Many respondents felt that it would increase car use as people would have to travel to Shrewsbury for services and facilities and detract from the long term sustainability of other settlements.
- 5.8 Option B (Transport Corridors) was considered by many respondents to go against the aims of sustainability as it would promote the use of the transport corridors and car travel. Environmental impacts were also highlighted with this option both from the increased use of transport corridors and potential expansion. The links that could be created to other counties and the advantage of these links were recognised, but this recognition also led to the fear of increased commuting out of the county.
- 5.9 Option C (Market Towns) has to some extent been incorporated in the proposed strategic approach. Respondents generally commented that while a certain amount of development was needed in market towns, there should be limits set. The more concentrated emphasis on market towns proposed in the Issues and Options document was also considered by many to be at the cost of villages. It was rejected as potentially exacerbating the problems of declining access to services and facilities in smaller settlements.
- 5.10 Option D (Continuing Current Trends) achieved a significant degree of support, especially the spread of development across the settlement hierarchy. However, there was a widespread acceptance that a smarter approach is needed to ensure that development contributes to creating more sustainable communities in future. Current trends have seen a century of decline of rural services and a trend towards imbalanced communities.

Shrewsbury Directions for Growth

- 5.11 The Core Strategy Issues and Options put forward different directions for growth as separate options. However, the evidence base showed that no single option can meet the requirements on its own and a combination of options was required. The emerging preferred option was a combination of Options A, B and D, but there may scope for some development to the south west (Option C), the north (Option E), and to the east (alternative option) as part of Option A (medium scale developments spread around the edge of Shrewsbury). However, the main option not pursued is that of a major urban extension to the south west on one or both sides of the A488 Hanwood Road (Option C). This view was taken having regard to the both the relative benefits to be gained

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from development in the directions now indicated, and the relatively poor linkage of the land in the south west in terms of the transport infrastructure (existing and potential), its poorer potential/market attractiveness for employment development, and the lower landscape capacity (particularly the land south of Hanwood Road).

- 5.12 It was considered that there is a case for development beyond the A5/A49 bypasses which could lead to the amalgamation of settlements such as Shrewsbury with Bayston Hill or Hadnall/Astley (alternative options), when sequentially better sites exist within the bypasses.

Shrewsbury's role as a sub-regional centre

- 5.13 Although no single option has been carried forward in full, elements from all the options have been used to develop the preferred approach.

Oswestry: Direction for Growth

- 5.14 The main alternative growth option suggested through the Issues and Options consultation (Choice 5) was for a north-west expansion proposal on registered historic parkland at Brogyntyn. On the evidence of the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment and the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study, this site was not considered capable of accommodating the scale of development associated with a sustainable urban extension without causing significant harm to the landscape and the setting and north western approach to the town. On this basis, this potential alternative direction of growth was rejected.
- 5.15 As part of the consultation, a number of non-strategic smaller sites were also flagged up as sites for consideration. Because of their scale, the potential of these sites is best considered through the preparation of the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD.
- 5.16 The suggestion that the proposed strategic site should be extended to include land on the eastern side of the A5/A483 Oswestry bypass to provide additional employment land was not taken forward at this time, due to uncertainty over operator land requirements for B2 and B8 uses and the development constraints which affect the site.

Ironbridge Power Station

- 5.17 Restricting redevelopment of the site to new power generation only (Option D) would not maximise the benefits from the redevelopment of this major brownfield site and would undermine the potential to facilitate positive outcomes.

Employment Land Provision

- 5.18 There were 8 alternative options identified in the consultation responses as follows:
- Option C1: would increase the RSS employment targets to balance the additional housing growth identified by the Government Office for the West Midlands.
 - Option C: would establish sustainable local carbon economies in each of the spatial zones in the County but this option would unnecessarily restrict employment land provision in south Shropshire.
 - Options C3 and C6: would identify locally distinctive targets to provide a flexible approach that does not necessarily satisfy national or regional policy.

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- Option C4: would focus employment development in locations other than the Market Towns to reduce the impacts of economic development in rural locations would limit employment land provision in Market Towns contrary to the Regional Spatial Strategy (Policy RR3).
- Options C5 and C6: would focus employment development principally in Market Towns and rural settlements to support local industry including home working using ICT opportunities.
- Option C7: would increase employment provision by treating the RSS employment target as a minimum level of provision.
- Option C8: would balance housing development and utilise major regeneration sites along key transport corridors but neglects smaller scale / rural development.

5.19 These alternative options do not in themselves provide sound strategies for longer term employment land provision in Shropshire. However, some of these alternative options provided key objectives which could be incorporated into Option B. These objectives supported an adjustment to the employment target in Shropshire to reflect alternative housing proposals if these were approved by the Secretary of State as part of the review of the Regional Spatial Strategy. These objectives also supported an economic development focus on Market Towns and other rural locations (Options C5 and C6), the sub-regional role of Shrewsbury (Option C7) and utilising major regeneration sites along key transport corridors (Option C8) to identify locally distinctive, evidenced based employment targets for Shropshire

Overall Scale, Distribution and Phasing of Housing Development

5.20 The proposed approach combined elements of the various options put forward under Choice 7, but proposed to reflect the targets for housing development and brownfield development in line with those being required by the RSS rather than the higher levels suggested by Options D and E. This is based on the local evidence of land availability and to ensure conformity with the RSS. However, some of the flexibility offered by other options is built into the approach put forward and can be further developed in the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD and through the regular housing development review processes inherent in the 'plan, monitor and manage' approach.

Type and Affordability of Housing

- 5.21 Option B (higher than RSS target) was not considered to be a viable option given evidence of economic viability of sites and experience of delivery of affordable housing.
- 5.22 Option D (likely yield from separate targets from exceptions sites and open market sites) represented a further level of detail of the proposed Policy Direction, with expected yield from these sources being a useful calculation to demonstrate how the proposed Policy Direction is expected to be delivered. However, yield will be highly dependent on the availability of public funding for the provision of affordable housing and, in relation to yield from open market sites, economic viability. Therefore, longer term targets set out in the Core Strategy would not be robust, and it would be better to set out milestones for the shorter term as part of the monitoring of delivery.

Affordable Housing Policy

5.23 Under Choice 9 of the Issues and Options document, Option A (50% provision on all sites) was not considered a viable option having regard to the results of the Fordham Research Affordable Housing Site Viability Study.

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5.24 Options B, C and D were variations on a theme, with different thresholds and percentages applying. Again, the higher percentages of affordable housing suggested were not considered viable, particularly at that period in time, whilst setting a threshold means that developments below that threshold do not contribute to affordable housing provision. The Viability Study did not show that smaller sites were less able to contribute and so, in the interests of fairness and consistency and given that the scale of housing need demonstrates a need to exist in both urban and rural areas of the County, including all sites was considered the best approach.

5.25 Option E was for a sliding scale approach, increasing the level of provision as the size of the site increased. However, viability is not simply a product of the size of the site, with every site being different. It was considered that, provided that the target percentage of affordable housing provision is realistic, informed by an up to date economic viability assessment, and that there is scope for a developer to demonstrate that a lower percentage should apply, a complex, sliding scale approach was not needed.

Design and Local Distinctiveness

5.26 A specific policy regarding sustainable development and design principles was not pursued as it was considered that certain aspects could be covered in other policy options. Instead, the policy option of Design and Local Distinctiveness was developed in response to comments received, to encompass specific design considerations as well as drawing attention to the local character evident throughout Shropshire.

Environmental Networks

5.27 The separate progression of Option A or Option B was not pursued. It was considered that an approach which combined both these options would help to deliver the most successful environmental networks throughout the County.

Waste Management Infrastructure

5.28 Concentrating solely on existing sites risks cumulative negative impacts on a range of environmental considerations in the longer term and is unlikely to deliver against future economic and social needs;

Strategic Planning for Minerals

5.29 Relying only on the expansion of existing mineral sites (Option A) was not supported in consultation responses and would risk negative cumulative impacts in areas already subject to mineral working.

5.30 Developing only new mineral sites (Option B) would provide flexibility but risks increasing overall environmental impact;

Renewable Energy

5.31 The policy direction combined elements of Choice 15, Options B, C and D (supportive for some locations or types of renewable energy, positive towards local/small schemes and protection of Shropshire's landscape/ environmental assets).

5.32 A stronger protection of Shropshire’s landscape with tougher policies (part of Option C) was thought likely to prevent most renewable developments in the county and conflict with the Government requirement to promote and encourage renewable technologies.

6. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Final Plan Publication and the Submission Plan Policies

Consideration of social, environmental and economic problems in Final Plan Publication policies and their social, environmental and economic effects

6.1 This section presents the findings of the SA of the Core Strategy Final Plan Publication policies. These policies have been developed from the public consultation and sustainability appraisal for the Core Strategy Policy Directions document. The table below sets out the SA summaries for the Final Plan policies with any significant effects shown in bold. The SA matrices are available in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal document.

Table 6.1: Summary of SA Appraisal of Final Plan Policies

Creating Sustainable Places	
Final Plan policy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
CS1 Strategic Approach	This policy is widely positive in terms of social, economic and environmental impacts. There are stronger positive impacts with regard to the provision of affordable housing and the promotion of a strong economy . The accompanying infrastructure required by this policy will ensure provision for elements such as facilities, services, open space and sport will be included. The policy has an indirect but positive impact to transport. There are a small number of objectives where Policy CS1 does not have a significant impact
CS2 Shrewsbury Development Strategy	Overall this is a positive policy. Affordable housing, new infrastructure and investment and employment opportunities are all sought through policy criteria. On the whole, benefits from this policy will be direct to Shrewsbury itself although there may be knock on indirect positive benefits from this policy such as the wider improvements to infrastructure. This policy currently only reaches a ‘minor positive’ score rather than a ‘major positive’ due to the direct impact its has to Shrewsbury rather than the county as a whole
CS3 Market Towns and Other Key Centres	This policy has strong indirect impact to meeting objectives regarding community safety and helping to reduce the impact on climate change . It has a direct positive impact on securing the viability of the market towns and centres, and a positive social impact on aspects such as maintaining local services and facilities. There are a small number of objectives where the policy does not have a significant impact but there are no negative impacts from this policy.
CS4 Community Hubs and Community Clusters	This policy has strong positive direct impacts on the provision of affordable housing, the provision of facilities and services and on the local economy . This policy helps to

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Creating Sustainable Places	
Final Plan policy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
	ensure that local community aspirations are met through paying regard to Parish Plans and Village Design Statements. As the policy restricts development to existing settlements, impacts on landscape will be minimised. The policy also seeks to improve environmental networks as part of new developments.
CS5 Countryside and Green Belt	This policy has a number of positive impacts on the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal. It has particularly strong positive environmental impacts due to the support given for renewable energy proposals, which if achieved would help to reduce the impact Shropshire has on climate change . The policy also seeks to protect the countryside from inappropriate development and requires proposals to demonstrate that no adverse environmental impacts would occur if development were to take place.
CS6 Sustainable Design and Development Principles	The requirement of this policy to achieve standards set out in a Sustainability Checklist makes this policy strongly positive in each category area . The checklist ensures that developments are designed to be energy efficient and also to maximise resource efficiency, thus being strongly positive in terms of climate change, resource management and water efficiency . The policy also requires open space sport and recreation targets to be met and thus creates positive opportunities to improve health and well being of communities. Although there are three objectives where the policy has no significant impact, there are no negative impacts from this policy.
CS7 Communication and Transport	This policy does not have a direct impact on many of the Sustainability Objectives. For those where there is an impact they are generally positive impacts. This policy positively encourages inward investment and a stable economy by making improvements to the transport network of the County. Positive impacts can also be made on the health and well being of communities by improvements to the network of cycle-paths and footpaths.
CS8 Facilities, Services and Infrastructure Provision	This policy has a number of positive impacts on the objectives of the Sustainability Appraisal. It has particularly strong positive environmental impacts due to the support given for renewable energy proposals, which if achieved would help to reduce the impact Shropshire has on climate change . CS8 also seeks the provision of new infrastructure as part of new developments and as such has strong and direct positive impacts towards all areas of the Sustainability Appraisal .
CS9 Infrastructure Contributions	Improvements to infrastructure through new development as required by this policy will have a positive impact on a number of objectives in the Sustainability Appraisal. Identifying water management as critical infrastructure will help to minimise risk from flooding and also improve the quality of water throughout

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Creating Sustainable Places	
Final Plan policy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
	Shropshire and therefore has a direct positive score on the protection of water quality. CS9 also has strong positive impacts on the provision of affordable housing across the county.
Meeting Housing Needs	
CS10 Managed Release of Housing Land	The proposed approach to the overall scale, distribution and phasing of housing development will have a strong and direct positive impact on the provision of housing appropriate to identified needs in each area. The proposed approach will also benefit the economy by helping to address local housing needs for employees and by protecting brownfield employment land. The identification of local targets for infrastructure provision has a positive impact on a range of objectives for social and environmental infrastructure, although the impacts on some aspects of environmental quality is uncertain. Targets for the re-use of brownfield land will help to ensure that land is used efficiently and limit the loss of high quality agricultural soils
CS11 Type and Affordability of Housing	Unsurprisingly this policy has a strong and direct positive impact with regard to the provision of affordable housing, and specialist housing such as Care Homes, across Shropshire. CS11 also has indirect positive impacts to minimising the impact of climate change, and supporting the economic viability of Shropshire. There are a number of objectives which Policy CS11 does not impact significantly upon such as landscape, air quality and risk from flooding, which are elements which are dealt with more specifically in other policy areas.
CS12 Gypsies and Traveller Provision	No significant impact is generated for a number of sustainability objectives due to the small size and lifestyle of the gypsy and traveller community and the limited scale of provision which is required. The policy will help to meet their specific housing needs and will contribute positively to delivering safer communities by tackling social exclusion and addressing safety concerns which can arise from unauthorised site use. Planned provision of additional sites and pitches will help to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.
A Prosperous Economy	
CS13 Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment	The Sustainability Appraisal highlights the generally positive impact of the proposed policy when assessed across a number of sustainability objectives , not just those with an economic focus , where, as one would expect, the impacts are strongly positive . The compatibility of the policy direction with some objectives is uncertain as the impact is dependent on where development is located
CS14 Managed Release of Employment Land	Unsurprisingly this policy has strong positive impacts on the economic objectives of the sustainability appraisal . The release of land for employment will help to promote a strong

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Creating Sustainable Places	
Final Plan policy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
	economy in Shropshire and will also help to encourage inward investment. There are a number of objectives where this policy does not have a significant impact, though these areas will be dealt with more specifically under other policies.
CS15 Town and Rural Centres	It has been assessed that this policy does not have a direct impact on a number of sustainability objectives. However, where an impact is generated they are largely viewed as being positive, particularly regarding securing a strong economy and attracting inward investment. This policy seeks improvements to be made regarding the provision of facilities and services and as such will generate positive social and environmental benefits.
CS16 Tourism, Culture and Leisure	This policy contributes positively to a number of the Sustainability Appraisal objectives, in particular those which encourage investment and improvements to the economy within the County. It is also expected that the policy will strongly support the need to preserve areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage . It is predicted that the policy may have negative impacts on reducing the need for people to travel as it will encourage people to travel in and around the County, though this impact may be minimised by making improvements to the public transport system.
Environment	
CS17 Environmental Networks	This policy contributes positively to the majority of Sustainability Appraisal objectives. There are particularly strong positive impacts relating to nature conservation and climate change . This policy is expected to make positive contributions in the opportunities for sport and leisure activities which will help to improve the health and well being of our communities. Furthermore, positive contributions will be made to the protection and enhancement of habitats, species and Shropshire's geological heritage. There are no negative impacts which are created by this policy.
CS18 Sustainable Water Management	Overall this policy is strongly positive, particularly with regard to reducing the risk of flooding, water efficiency and safeguarding water quality, where there is a strong and direct impact. The Sustainability Appraisal shows that this policy provides wider social, economic and environmental benefits, including providing opportunities for improvements to biodiversity.
CS19 Waste Management Infrastructure	There are a number of areas where this policy makes no direct impact to the Sustainability Objective and there are also a number of areas where the impact of the policy can not yet be determined. This policy is strongly positive however, when seeking to reduce the contribution which Shropshire makes to climate change , as carbon emissions should be reduced by minimising waste associated with the production of goods and cutting down on the demand for these by increased

Creating Sustainable Places	
Final Plan policy	Sustainability Appraisal summary
	re-use and re-cycling
CS20 Strategic Planning for Minerals	This policy has positive impacts in a number of areas, though it has been assessed that there may be a longer term negative cumulative effect on climate change. There are some mitigation measures which may help to reduce this impact such as promoting the sustainable transport of minerals. This policy has positive impacts on biodiversity as planning of sites will include restoration plans which can lead to wider environmental improvements

Submission Plan

6.2 The proposed minor changes to the Final Plan Publication policies are summarised below, along with an assessment of whether such changes require a new sustainability appraisal. The reasoning for each decision is also set out.

Table 6.2: Proposed Changes to Final Plan on Submission

Policy	Proposed change	New SA?	Reasoning
CS1	Amend “around 27,500 new homes” to “ <i>up to 27,500 new homes if required</i> ”.	No	The main negative impact of this change is likely to be on objectives 2, 3 and 4. However, any reduction in the figures will be as a result of changing local need in the first place.
CS1	Replace “9,000” with “33%” in relation to affordable housing in the first sentence	No	9,000 is approximately 33% of 27,500 so this change is not significant.
CS1	Amend “up to 25%” with “approximately 25%”	No	It is still likely that around 25% of residential development will take place in Shrewsbury
CS2 1 st bullet point	Amend wording to ‘ <i>approximately 25% (up to 6,500 dwellings – 325 dwellings per annum.....)</i> ’	No	This does not significantly change the numbers of new houses to be built in Shrewsbury.
CS2 6 th bullet point	In Shrewsbury South section, amend the reference to A5 junction improvements to ‘ <i>A5 junction improvements, if needed, and sustainable transport measures,...</i> ’	No	This policy was already broadly positive. The proposed change is likely to increase this effect rather than decrease it.
CS2 6 th bullet point	In Shrewsbury South and Shrewsbury West sections of Policy and the relevant paragraph of the Explanation, include specific housing and employment land provision figures drawn from the indicative	No	The policy was originally evaluated on the basis of 25% residential and 50% employment land in these areas and putting indicative numbers in will not make a difference.

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Policy	Proposed change	New SA?	Reasoning
	masterplans/Delivery Plans		
CS6, 4 th bullet point	Add reference to urban characterisation in explanatory text	No	This will have no practical implications for the implementation of the policy.
CS8 Bullet point 3	Include a cross reference to the Implementation Plan, highlighting that the Plan outlines the timing of infrastructure provision to ensure that it accords with the phasing of development.	No	This will have no practical implications for the implementation of the policy.
CS8 Bullet point 4	Change bullet point 4 to read 'significant adverse impact'.	No	The original policy had a positive effect on sustainability. This change is likely increase the positive environmental effects.
CS10	Delete the words "...or employment premises" from the first sentence of the policy	No	This makes no appreciable difference to the overall sustainability of the policy
CS11 6 th bullet point	Delete the 2 nd sentence. Insert after "...affordable housing" "and make the appropriate infrastructure contribution in accordance with Policy CS9 (subject to economic viability)".	No	This policy was positive for sustainability originally. Requiring residential conversions to make contributions to infrastructure is only likely to increase this effect.
CS17 Bullet Point 1	Amend to read: "Further guidance will be provided in SPDs concerning the natural, built and historic environment." Amend to read: "and does not adversely affect the visual, ecological, geological , heritage or recreational values and functions of these assets....."	No	The first change makes no significant difference to the implementation of the policy. The second change is only likely to enhance the already positive effects of the policy.
CS18 Bullet point 3	Change bullet point 3 from 'proposal should be supported' to proposals will be supported'	No	This makes no appreciable difference to the overall sustainability of the policy
CS18 Bullet point 6	Change so that it does not just make reference to 'adequate wastewater infrastructure' but 'adequate water infrastructure' as a whole.	No	The change is only likely to enhance the already positive effects of the policy.
CS20 Bullet point 6	Extend to include reference to CS18.	No	This makes no appreciable difference to the overall sustainability of the policy

Mitigation measures

- 6.3 Adverse effects requiring mitigation have been identified for two policies:
- CS16 may have negative impacts on reducing the need for people to travel. Mitigation measures should include improvements to the public transport system
 - CS20 may also have a negative cumulative effect on climate change. This could be reduced by promoting the sustainable transport of minerals.

7. Implementation

Links to Other Plans and Programmes

- 7.1 It is a requirement that the Core Strategy is in general conformity with higher level policies and plans. Therefore, it is essential that the Core Strategy does not conflict with any principles established through the national Planning Policy Statement and Planning Policy Guidance Notes set out by DCLG. Until recently, it was also a requirement that the Core Strategy be in conformity with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. Following a ministerial statement this situation is likely to remain unclear until September 2010.
- 7.2 This Sustainability Appraisal will be relevant when carrying out the Sustainability Appraisal of any future Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents which implement or expand on the policies of the Core Strategy. The Sustainability Appraisal of such documents will focus on the effects of the more detailed policies which implement the Core Strategy. Additionally, the Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy will be relevant when undertaking any Environmental Impact Assessments required for specific projects which are proposed in the plan.

Monitoring

- 7.3 The SEA Directive requires monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementing the plan. SA monitoring will cover the significant sustainability effects as well as the environmental effects.
- 7.4 The SA Framework incorporates 52 indicators against which it is intended that data will be collected. Many of these are already collected by the Council and other agencies under separate monitoring arrangements. These indicators should be collated as they are updated, to inform the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for the Local Development Framework. In preparing the AMR, the sustainability effects of implementing the Core Strategy DPD should be documented as far as practicable. The table below sets out the suggested indicators for each SA Objective.

Table 7.1: SA Indicators:

	SA Objective	SA Indicators
1	Promote safer communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incidence of anti social behaviour in different parts of Shropshire; • Percentage of people feeling safe after dark in each area of Shropshire; • Number of recorded incidents and distribution of burglary, car crime and vandalism; • Number of new developments incorporating 'secure by design' principles

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	SA Objective	SA Indicators
2	Provide a sufficient quantity of good quality housing, which meets the needs of all sections of society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenure and mix of housing; • % of households considered to be in overcrowded conditions; • Number of households considered in priority need; • % of housing meeting Code for Sustainable Homes standards; • Number of households in fuel poverty
3	Promote a strong and sustainable economy throughout Shropshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity rates per head; • % employed in different sectors of the economy; • Employment rates; • Balance of jobs and workforce; • Percentage of workforce working at home; • Consumer spend on comparison goods in Shropshire's retail centres
4	Encourage high quality inward investment, and support existing businesses to expand and diversify.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new VAT registered businesses against closures; • Number of new rural and farm diversification schemes; • Percentage of people with NVQ levels 1-4
5	Encourage a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modal split in transport use; • % of people travelling to work by public transport or other alternatives to the private car; • Length of new cycle tracks in the county
6	Reduce the need of people and businesses to travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people considered to have 'good' access to key services and facilities, particularly hospitals, schools and service centres; • Average distance of people travelling to work
7	Promote community participation in a diverse range of sporting, recreational and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of people participating in organised sport; • Percentage of people engaged in recreational cycling and walking • Area of accessible open green space; • Access to Natural Green Space Standards; • Importance of cultural services on people's lives
8	Create active and healthier communities for all and reduce inequalities in health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people in 'not good' health in different areas of Shropshire; • Physical activity rates; • % of people within 30 mins of health facilities by public transport
9	Reduce Shropshire's contribution to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of energy production from renewable or low carbon technologies; • Greenhouse gas emissions per sector; • % of new housing development meeting Code for Sustainable Homes standards
10	Adapt to the impacts of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new housing and commercial development incorporating sustainable drainage systems

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	SA Objective	SA Indicators
11	Protect, enhance and manage Shropshire's landscapes and townscapes	
12	Preserve and enhance features and areas of archaeological, historical and cultural heritage importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percentage of listed buildings (Grade 1 and 2*) registered 'at risk' in Shropshire • Number of Scheduled Monuments at risk;
13	Protect and enhance the range and populations of species, the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and Shropshire's geological heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the extent/populations of Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species; • Progress towards Geodiversity Action Plan targets; • Number and condition of SSSIs
14	Protect and enhance Shropshire's water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Quality (biological and chemistry); • Number of developments incorporating water efficiency measures to Code for Sustainable Homes standards
15	Improve local air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and location of AQMAs
16	Reduce the risk of flooding to people, property and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments in Flood Zones 2 and 3 throughout Shropshire; • Number of developments considered 'at risk' of flooding
17	Protect and improve soil quality and soil retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of best and most versatile land lost to land use change or development
18	Ensure the efficient use of land and material resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of new development on previously developed land; • Average densities of new residential development; • Amount of waste generated per year; • Landfill diversion rates; • Percentage of waste being recycled; • Amount and percentage of alternative aggregate used in construction

Appendix A: Glossary

Abbreviation	Full Term
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Monitoring Area
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
EEC	European Economic Community
GVA	Gross Value Added
IT	Information Technology
LATS	Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme
LDF	Local Development Framework
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NGO's	Non Governmental Organisation
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance note
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
PSA	Public Sector Agreement
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Site
RRZ	Rural Regeneration Zone
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

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Term	Explanation
Affordable housing	<p>The Council has adopted the definition of Affordable Housing as set out in national planning policy; Planning Policy Statement 3, Annex B as follows:</p> <p><i>'Affordable Housing includes social rented and intermediate housing, provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Affordable Housing should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices.</i>▪ <i>Include provision for the home to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or, if these restrictions are lifted, for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision.'</i>
Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)	Areas designated by Shropshire Council where the level of pollutant concentrations in the atmosphere results in the air quality not meeting the objectives set out by central Government in 2005
Allocation	An area of land identified in a development plan. The allocation will indicate the Council's preferred use for the land.
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	An annually produced document which sets out the progress made in achieving the timetable set out within the Local Development Scheme as well as measuring the effectiveness of the development plan policies
Biodiversity	A measure of the number and range of species and their relative abundance in a community
Brownfield Land/Previously Developed Land	Land which has previously been developed. The term may encompass vacant or derelict land, infill sites, land occupied by redundant or unused buildings, and developed land within the settlement boundary where further intensification of use is considered acceptable.
Climate change	Long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind and all other aspects of the Earth's climate. Often regarded as a result of human activity and fossil fuel consumption.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	A new charge which local authorities in England and Wales will be empowered (but not required) to levy on most types of new development in their areas. The proceeds of the levy will provide new infrastructure to support the development of an area in line with a local authorities' development plans. Whilst the CIL was a Labour government initiative it is likely that the new government will introduce a similar system for community infrastructure provision. Shropshire Council is therefore working on a community infrastructure charging schedule based on local communities needs.

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Term	Explanation
Community Strategy	<p>The Community Strategy is prepared by the Shropshire Partnership. It brings together the concerns of Shropshire communities under three priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enterprise and growth, with strong market towns and rebalanced rural settlements▪ Responding to climate change and enhancing our natural and built environment▪ Healthy, safe and confident people and communities <p>These priorities are addressed through the Core Strategy.</p>
Conservation Area	<p>Area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.</p>
Core Strategy	<p>One of the development plan documents. It sets out the long-term vision for the council area and the policies and proposals to deliver that vision. It contains broad locations for development, not individual site boundaries.</p>
Developer contributions	<p>Financial contributions (or the provision of facilities) are often required for major developments to ensure sufficient provision is made for infrastructure and services such as roads, schools, healthcare and drainage facilities. Contributions are usually secured through the Community Infrastructure Levy, planning conditions or legal agreements (often referred to as planning obligations or Section 106 agreements).</p>
Development plan	<p>From September 2004, development plans have consisted of regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks. Pending further government guidance, it is unclear at present what role, if any, regional spatial strategies will play in development plans in the future.</p>
Development Plan Document (DPD)	<p>The collective term given to all statutory documents which form the Local Development Framework for the District. These comprise of the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Policies, Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan and a Proposals Map.</p>
English Heritage	<p>English Heritage exists to protect and promote England's historic environment and ensure that its past is researched and understood.</p>
Environment Agency	<p>An independent public body that works closely with the government protecting and improving the environment in England and Wales</p>
Evidence base	<p>The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the 'soundness' of the policy approach set out in Local development Documents, including the physical, economic and social characteristics of the area.</p>

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Term	Explanation
Green Belt	Land which is situated between urban areas on which development is restricted so as to ensure urban sprawl – the uncontrolled, unplanned growth of urban areas – does not occur.
Greenfield land	Land which has never been developed, this includes greenbelt land and areas of open countryside, as well as undeveloped land within urban areas.
Listed building	A building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II* or II, with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building and any buildings or permanent structures within its curtilage.
Local Development Document (LDD)	Development plan documents (DPD), supplementary planning documents (SPD), and statement of community involvement (SCI) together form the local development document.
Local Development Framework (LDF)	This will provide the framework for delivering the planning strategy and policies for Shropshire Council
Natural England	Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas.
Planning Policy Guidance note (PPG)	A series of notes setting out the government's policies on various topics, e.g. housing, transport, etc. The government's intention is to replace PPGs with PPSs in due course.
Planning Policy Statement (PPS)	Replace the previously produced PPGs. They are documents provided by the Department for Communities and Local Government setting out government policy and advice on planning issues such as housing, transport and conservation. Local authorities must take their contents into account in preparing their development plans.
Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)	Provide a regional level planning framework for the regions of England, i.e. the West Midlands. They are expected to <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ identify in general terms areas for development or regeneration for a period of about 20 years ahead▪ establish regionally specific policies, which are expected to add to rather than replicate national ones▪ address regional or sub-regional issues that may cross county, unitary authority or district boundaries▪ outline housing figures for local authorities to take forward in their Local Development Frameworks▪ establish priorities for environmental protection and enhancement, and define the 'general extent' of areas of green belt▪ outline key priorities for investment, particularly in infrastructure,

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Term	Explanation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ identify how the region's waste should be dealt with. <p>A recent ministerial announcement abolished the role of RSS in setting housing figures and pending further government guidance, the role and scope of RSS's is presently unclear.</p>
Scoping Report	A scoping report sets out a framework for appraising the sustainability of all the documents within the Local Development Framework.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A specifically defined area within which protection is afforded to ecological or geological features. Sites are officially notified by Natural England.
Shropshire Partnership	This is Shropshire's Local Strategic Partnership. It involves regional, public and local agencies and the voluntary and community sector. Partners work together to meet local needs and improve the quality of life in Shropshire. There is a membership of key partners including councils, government agencies, police, fire and health services, local area partnerships and other organisations together with a wider membership of over 50 other community bodies. The Partnership is responsible for the Community Strategy.
Sustainability Appraisal	The purpose of SA is to ensure that all Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) conform to the government principles of Sustainable Development, which are; <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Living within environmental limits▪ Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society▪ Achieving a sustainable economy▪ Promoting good governance▪ Using sound science responsibly▪
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	An assessment of the impact on the environment that policies, plans and programmes might have as required under European Union legislation.
Super Output Area	A unit of geography used in the UK for statistical analysis. They give an improved basis for comparison throughout the country because the units are more similar in size of population than, for example, electoral wards.
Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)	Supplementary planning documents provide policy guidance to supplement the policies and proposals in development plan documents. Although they are in the local development framework they are not development plan documents and not subject to independent inspection. SPDs replace supplementary planning guidance (SPG) prepared under the old planning system.

Appendix B: Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies

INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN		
Convention on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (1992)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The key aims emerging from the Convention are to ensure that people, now and in the future have a right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, therefore development should meet the needs of both present and future generations. Environmental protection should be integral to this.	<p>All parties should work together to decrease the economic disparities amongst people and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.</p> <p>The convention identifies the need for national strategies to be produced that ensure the conservation of biological diversity and its sustainable use.</p> <p>The SA will have objectives relating to delivery of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The LDF will consider sustainable development throughout. Environmental considerations will be given to the formation of new policy and will constitute a key theme of the LDF process.</p> <p>Energy and resource consumption will feature throughout the plans and will bear heavily on the plan policies.</p>
EC Directive on Ambient Air Quality 96/62/EC (Air Quality Framework Directive)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Directive aims to avoid, prevent or reduce concentrations of harmful air pollutants and limit the values and/or alert thresholds set for ambient air pollution levels	<p>This Directive covers the revision of previously existing legislation and the introduction of new air quality standards for previously unregulated air pollutants, setting the timetable for the development of daughter directives on a range of pollutants. The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone – pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives- and benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury.</p> <p>The SA will incorporate issues and objectives relating to the protection of air quality.</p>	The LDF should support the aims of the Directive and consider the importance of air quality to human health and the wider environment.
EC Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
Requires member states to introduce measures in order to protect species and undertake surveillance of habitats and species.	<p>Requires that development can only be allowed where it does not impact on important sites that protect habitats otherwise compensation measures must be put in place.</p> <p>The SA will include indicators relating to natural habitat conservation.</p>	The LDF will consider the overall protection of the environment, including designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), SAC's, and other environmentally sensitive areas, as well as preserving the character of the landscape.

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EC Directive on Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (The Birds Directive)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Directive seeks to protect wild species of birds and protect their habitats as well as identifying special protection areas for rare and endangered species.	<p>The Directive covers the protection, management and control of these species and lays down rules for their exploitation. It applies to birds, their eggs and nests. The Directive requires that measures are taken to preserve, maintain or re-establish a diversity of habitats for all the birds listed in Article I.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives relating to habitat and species protection.</p>	The LDF must consider the impact of development for habitat and species protection.
EC Directive on Landfilling Waste (1999/31/EEC)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Directive sets out the intention to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By 2010, to reduce bio-degradable municipal waste landfilled to 75% of that produced in 1995; by 2013, to reduce the proportion to 50%; and by 2020 to reduce to 35% of that produced in 1995; - Banning co-disposal of non hazardous and hazardous wastes, and requiring separate landfills for hazardous, non-hazardous and inert wastes; - Banning landfilling of tyres; - Banning landfilling of liquid wastes, infectious clinical wastes and certain types of hazardous wastes; by 2001. 	The LDF should include policies to reflect the Directives aim to reduce the level of waste produced and sent to landfill.
European Landscape Convention (2000)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The convention encourages public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, regional national and international level for the protection, management and planning of landscapes. Landscape is defined as ' <i>an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors</i> '.	<p>The Convention applies to natural, urban and suburban areas, whether on land, water or sea. It therefore concerns not just remarkable landscapes but also ordinary everyday landscapes and blighted areas.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives relating the protection and enhancement of the landscapes of Shropshire.</p>	Shropshire has a diverse landscape typology. The LDF should ensure that landscapes are appropriately protected and managed in accordance with the Convention.
Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development (2002)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Declaration promotes integration of the three components of sustainable development: social and economic development, and environmental protection.	<p>The key objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing by half people living in poverty by 2015; - Changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption to increase employment; - Diversification of economies and improved access to markets; 	The LDF will address the need to provide a holistic policy approach to sustainability for both the urban and rural areas of Shropshire, thereby ensuring that no area stands alone in policy production.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved land and natural resource management and ecosystem conservation. - Greater resource efficiency. 	
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Kyoto Protocol set out to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at safe levels.</p> <p>The aim is to prevent interference with the climate system and allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.</p>	<p>A key objective set out in the Protocol is to reduce emissions of CO₂ by 5% (12.5% in the UK) of the CO₂ levels in 1990 by 2008-2012. This is in order to stabilize and reduce the impact on the climate system by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.</p> <p>The SA will include environmental objectives that are linked closely to climate change and will look at the impact on local biodiversity should no such related objective be included.</p> <p>The SA will consider environmental objectives that have a direct correlation to climate change, and will consider the potential impact of climate change on the local biodiversity if no environmental objectives are implemented.</p>	<p>The LDF should support the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol and will aim to include policies that will result in the overall reduction of CO₂ emissions.</p>
Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This document sets out a single, coherent strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development. It recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy-making.</p>	<p>The strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges until 2010, many of which are predominantly environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change and clean energy - Sustainable transport - Sustainable production and consumption - Public health threats - Better management of natural resources - Social inclusion, demography and migration - Fighting global poverty 	<p>The LDF should take into account the objectives of the Strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.</p>
The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Ramsar Convention seeks to conserve wetlands and wetland interests of international importance.</p>	<p>The Ramsar sites should be recognised in the SA Framework through objectives that highlight the protection and enhancement of protected / designated sites for biodiversity. It should also be included in the baseline information.</p>	<p>The LDF will aim to protect all local landscape designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Ramsar sites.</p>

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Waste Framework Directive ((91/156/EEC)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Directive requires an integrated and adequate network of waste disposal installations, promoting self-sufficiency.</p> <p>The vision is to move away from landfill toward recycling; and promote sustainable development and a high degree of environmental protection without distorting the internal market.</p>	<p>Member States should take the necessary measures to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human life or harming the environment, and in particular without:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - risk to water, air, soil and plants and animals; - causing a nuisance through noise or odours; and - adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest. <p>The SA will incorporate issues and objectives relating to the efficient use of materials including more use of recycling of waste.</p>	<p>The LDF should ensure the sustainable management of waste. Policies should encourage the minimal production of waste and increase the potential for recycling.</p>
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This is a non prescriptive framework Directive requiring all Member States to achieve 'good ecological status' of inland water bodies by 2015.</p>	<p>Its aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands - Promote the sustainable use of water - Reduce pollution of water - Introduce a co-ordinated approach to water management based on the concept of river basin planning 	<p>The LDF will have a significant role to play in protecting and managing ground and surface water quality. It is important that water resources within Shropshire are not harmed by development.</p>

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS AND STRATEGIES

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)		
Main Elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>PPS1 sets out the Government's vision for planning and the key policies and principles that should underpin the planning system. It sets a framework for specific policies, which are set out in the thematic Planning Policy Statements. PPS1 complements those documents but is not a substitute for the detailed guidance in those PPSs. In particular, the way in which sustainable development objectives should be approached in detail in specific policy areas will be covered as appropriate in the relevant thematic PPS.</p>	<p>PPS 1 emphasises the need for planning authorities to take an approach based on integrating the four aims of sustainable development: economic development; social inclusion; environmental protection; and prudent use of resources.</p> <p>It also emphasises the importance of facilitating development that makes best use of resources, good appropriate design for new developments, protection and enhancement of the historic environment, landscape and townscape character as well as conservation of open spaces and provision of sport and recreation facilities in the context of sustainable development.</p>	<p>The LDF will ensure the principles of PPS 1 are manifest within its policies.</p> <p>The LDF should integrate policies for the sustainable development, and use, of land with other policies and programmes that influence the nature of places and how they function.</p>

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Planning Policy Statement: Planning and Climate Change – Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This supplement to PPS1 sets out how spatial planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change (mitigation) and take into account the unavoidable consequences (adaptation).</p>	<p>Inclusion of Climate Change Bill headline target for a reduction of CO₂ emissions: 26-32% below 1990 levels by 2020; at least 60% by 2050.</p> <p>As well as providing criteria based policy, LPAs should consider identifying <i>suitable areas</i> for renewable and low-carbon energy sources and supporting infrastructure.</p> <p>LPAs should expect a proportion of the energy supply of new development to come from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy sources.</p> <p>LPAs should consider using Local Development Orders on a development area or sites specific basis to encourage renewable and low carbon energy supply systems.</p>	<p>The LDF should promote and encourage renewable and low carbon energy generation. Energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions should be carefully considered and implemented at a local level.</p>
Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (2001, amended)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This PPG outlines a range of issues relating to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the most important attribute of Green Belts is their openness.</p>	<p>The use of land in the Green Belt has a positive role to play in fulfilling the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population; - Provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation near urban areas; - Retain attractive landscapes and enhance townscapes near where people live; - To improve damaged and derelict land around towns; - To secure nature conservation interest; and - To retain land in agricultural, forestry and related uses. <p>SA sub-objectives include measures to protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, promote healthy lifestyles and provide access to good quality greenspace. By keeping land permanently open, Green Belt policies may help in reaching these objectives.</p>	<p>The majority of the greenfield land to the east of the River Severn falls within the West Midlands conurbation Green Belt. Green Belt protection and control only allows 'appropriate development'.</p>

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Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This PPS outlines a range of issues relating to the provision of housing. It provides guidance on planning the provision of new housing on a regional basis and on the allocation of land for housing by local authorities. A principal aim of PPS 3 is to underpin the Government's response to the <i>Barker Review of Housing Supply</i> and the necessary <i>step change</i> in housing delivery, through a new, more responsive approach to land supply at the local level.</p>	<p>The Government's key housing policy goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they can afford, in a community where they want to live. To achieve this, the Government is seeking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, both affordable and market housing, to address the requirements of the community. - To widen opportunities for home ownership and ensure high quality housing for those who cannot afford market housing, in particular those who are vulnerable or in need. - To improve affordability across the housing market, including by increasing the supply of housing. - To create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas, both urban and rural. <p>The SA will include objectives that will aim to deal with the feasibility and sustainability of new housing provision.</p>	<p>The LDF will consider a variety of options for the provision of housing to be included in policy. Size, mix, tenure type and location would each be assessed in the development of the plan.</p> <p>Design and adaptability will be considered in the LDF and sustainable patterns of housing/living will also be addressed.</p> <p>Objectives will also consider issues of housing and health and, housing and environmental impact.</p>
Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial and Commercial Development and Small Firms (1992)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Economic development is encouraged providing it is compatible with the government's environmental objectives.</p>	<p>The key aims guidance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising the length and number of trips made by motor vehicles in connection to new development - Encouraging development in locations that can be served by energy efficient modes of transport - Discouraging development that would add to congestion - Integrate areas of industry and commerce with residential development but avoid incompatibility - Considering new development alongside countryside protection in rural areas. <p>The SA will consider the sustainability impact of the siting of business land in any particular location. It will consider the environmental impact with regards to transport and will prevent any development that is likely to have a significant effect on the degradation of the environment within the County.</p>	<p>The LDF will consider provision for 'accessibility to services' and will provide for development to be situated in sustainable locations.</p>
Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development – Consultation Draft (2007)		

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Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>PPS 4 sets out the Government aims for delivering sustainable economic development. The PPS sets out a positive and flexible approach to economic development and the supply of suitable land.</p>	<p>In promoting economic growth planning should seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A good range of sites identified for economic development and mixed use; - A good supply of land and buildings which offers a range of opportunities for creating new jobs in large and small businesses as well as start of firms which is responsive to changing needs and demands; - High quality development and inclusive design for all forms of economic development; - To avoid adverse impacts on the environment, but where these are unavoidable, providing mitigation; and - To shape travel demand by promoting sustainable travel choices wherever possible. 	<p>The LDF will set out a vision for the delivery of employment land of the right type and quality whilst having regard for the social, environmental and economic characteristics of both the urban and rural areas of the County.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning in Town Centres (2005)</p>		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>PPS6 sets out the Government's national policies and principles on issues relating to planning for the future of town centres and the main uses that relate to them. These policies are firmly based on the principle of sustainable development and the need to sustain and enhance the role of town centres for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>The Government's key objective for town centres is to promote vital and viable city, town and other centres by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for growth of existing town centres; - Promoting and enhancing existing centres by focussing development in such centres; and - Encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all. <p>The SA needs to take into account the overall approach to future retail development and the need to promote viability of town centres and smaller centres.</p> <p>The SA will consider the implications for sustainability in the development of land both within and outside town centres.</p>	<p>The LDF process will set out a spatial vision and hierarchy for economic development as well as an assessment of the need and scale of development and impact on existing centres. It is important that, where possible, locations are accessible by a number of means of transport to encourage sustainable transport choices and reduce the need to travel.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)</p>		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>PPS7 Identifies how rural authorities should focus new development close to the main service centres whilst allowing for small new developments in the rural areas to meet community needs. Planning authorities should support diverse economic</p>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas and to highlight landscape quality; - Promote more sustainable patterns of development; - Promote the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance so that all are able to 	<p>Shropshire is a predominantly rural county and therefore ensuring the sustainable prosperity of rural areas is a key objective for the LDF.</p> <p>The LDF will consider the social, economic and environmental impact of policy development on the</p>

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<p>development in rural areas, ensure reasonable access to services for those who live and work in rural areas, ensure housing numbers meet local needs and strictly control those housing developments away from established settlements as well as ensuring that development respects, and where possible enhances, the historic and architectural significance of many towns and villages.</p>	<p>reach their full potential; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors; and - To highlight importance of Landscape Character Assessment and the protection of all countryside. <p>LDDs should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess local housing needs - Encourage good quality, sustainable design - Protect the character of the wider countryside - Consider designated landscapes - Support re-use of existing rural buildings - Contain policies that support agricultural development, equine (horses) activities, tourism and leisure - Contain criteria for assessing planning applications for farm diversification. <p>The SA will consider baseline data across of a range of sustainability objectives including the need to enhance existing and new business ventures in rural areas.</p> </p></p>	<p>whole of the County insuring that Shropshire's rural areas are planned for effectively.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Guidance Note 8: Telecommunications (2001)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>PPG 8 outlines Government aims to facilitate the growth of new and existing telecommunications systems whilst keeping the environmental impact to a minimum and protecting public health.</p>	<p>The overall objective of the telecommunications policy is to ensure that people have a choice as to who provides their telecommunications service, a wider range of services from which to choose and equitable access to the latest technologies as they become available.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives that seek to protect the environment whilst also seeking to balance economic development with environmental protection.</p>	<p>The LDF will consider the requirement for appropriate infrastructure to support and promote the development of business. However, the environmental and social impact of telecommunications equipment must also be taken into account.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>PPS 9 states that plan policies should be based upon up to date information about the characteristics of the area including sites of biodiversity and conservation value and the protection of species.</p>	<p>The PPS aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote sustainable development by ensuring biodiversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of economic, social and environmental development; - Conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's Wildlife and Geology; and </p>	<p>Up to date information on the County's environmental characteristics is required in order to protect and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The LDF will seek to include policies that protect and enhance local bio-diversity and will aim to support the</p>

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	- Contribute to an urban renaissance and rural renewal. SA objectives will need to be included in order to protect biodiversity and geological conservation.	Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan.
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
To achieve sustainable waste management objectives include: - Viewing waste as a resource with disposal the last option; - Community responsibility for waste, ensuring sufficient waste management facilities are provided; - Safe disposal of waste without endangering humans or the environment; - Help implement the national waste strategy; and - Ensure design and layout of new development supports sustainable waste management.	The SA will provide objectives that seek to eliminate the over-production of waste and its poor management.	The LDF will consider and support County wide initiatives in the management of waste and will seek to maximise the efficient use of resources.
Planning Policy Statement 11: Regional Spatial Strategies (2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
PPS11 sets out procedural policy on the nature of the RSS and as such, has no direct implications for local authority Plan making. However, the RSS for the West Midlands will provide the statutory regional development plan for the region and is considered in the Regional section of the review.		
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (2008)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
PPS12 sets out procedural policy for the preparation of LDFs. As such, no direct implications for the LDF are listed here.		
Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (2001)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The key objectives are to: - Promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight; - Promote accessibility to jobs, shopping leisure facilities and services by public transport, walking and cycling; - Reduce the need to travel, especially by car.	SA objectives will include the issues of accessibility, air pollution, health and reducing the need to travel by private car. Factors to consider include: - Air Pollution - Accessibility - Health - Landscape Impact	Planning and transport should be integrated, in order to promote sustainability, public transport and accessibility.
Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF

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PPG 14 sets out the national policy guidance for development on unstable land.	PPG 14 advises that land should be suitable for development, and physical constraints have to be taken into account at all stages of the plan process. Any scope for remedial, preventive or precautionary measures must also be fully explored so that land is not sterilised unnecessarily.	The LDF will aim to identify suitable sites for development and will seek to avoid new development that does not adhere to PPG 14. There is an opportunity to bring back unstable land into productive use where possible. It is the developer's responsibility and liability to determine if land is potentially unstable.
Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
PPG 15 sets out the role of planning in conservation and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas and other areas of the historic environment.	PPG 15's aims include: - Effective protection of all aspects of the historic environment; - The physical survivals of our past are to be valued and protected as part of our cultural heritage; and - The need for economic growth is reconciled with the need to protect the historic environment. The SA will seek to promote the preservation of historically important areas through objectives that aim to achieve a balance between innovation and growth, and conservation.	The LDF will seek to retain and enhance cultural and historic characteristics within Shropshire's locally distinctive environment including buildings, landscape features and sites of historical importance.
Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
This guidance compliments PPG15 and sets out government policy on planning in areas of archaeological importance providing criteria for Scheduled Ancient Monument inclusion, listing key organisations and legislative arrangements.	SA objectives will seek to preserve historically important areas whilst attempting to achieve a balance between growth and conservation.	The LDF process should identify, preserve and enhance areas of archaeological interest and their settings.
Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
PPG 17 states that open spaces, sport and recreation underpin people's quality of life. Well-designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives.	The guidance identifies the importance of the assessment of local needs in order to inform the development of open space, sport and recreation and ensure an adequate supply is maintained. The SA will consider the importance of open space provision.	The LDF will support open space strategies and seek to protect and enhance existing open space in the light of new development.
Planning for Tourism: A Good Practice Guide (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF

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<p>The Guide sets out how effective planning for tourism can be. The guide ensures planners understand the importance of tourism and identifies the need for planning and the tourism industry to work together effectively.</p>	<p>Those preparing LDFs need to decide how to deal with tourism issues within the framework. This approach should seek to produce a plan which is integrated with other strategies that have been prepared for the area, including any that relate to the future of tourism.</p> <p>In locations where the future development of tourism is a key issue for the local authority, it will be appropriate for the LDF to cover tourism issues together with any objectives relevant to tourism. In other local authorities it may be that the plan's broad approach to economic growth and regeneration sets the framework for the future development of tourism. In these cases this relationship should be acknowledged and taken into account in the development of the LDF.</p>	<p>The LDF should take account of the general principles within the good practice guide, which include how to devise good tourism policies.</p> <p>There are a number of assets (such as historic markets towns, conservation areas and the AONB) within Shropshire which have potential for promoting tourism. However, measures will need to be identified to protect these key assets from over-exploitation e.g. promoting alternative areas, and assess the wider economic and social consequences of tourism growth.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2004)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>PPS 22 sets out the Government policy objectives on the use of renewable energy. The statement looks to positive planning which facilitates renewable energy developments to contribute to all four elements of the Government's sustainable development strategy. The PPS contains a number of key principles that should be adhered to by Local Authorities in their approach to planning for renewable energy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LDDs should contain policies that promote and encourage and not restrict renewable energy development; - Criteria should be set out and applied in assessing planning permission for renewable energy projects; - Wider environmental and economic benefits should be given significant weight in decision making and are material considerations; - LPAs should not make assumptions on the feasibility of projects due to potential technological advances; - Small-scale projects should be considered; - Community involvement to be fostered to promote knowledge and acceptance; - Developments should demonstrate the environmental, social and economic pros and cons; and - Developments should be located where technology is viable and environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed. <p>The SA will consider the potential benefits of renewable energy production as well as the impact of development proposals on the local landscape.</p>	<p>The LDF process will seek to ensure development of renewable energy use in the area. It will include policies that require a percentage of the energy to be used in new residential, commercial or industrial developments to come from on-site renewable energy developments.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (2004)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>PPS 23 sets out Government guidance on</p>	<p>Planning should account for:</p>	<p>The LDF should include strategic land use policies on</p>

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mitigating pollution from new development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The principles of sustainable development; - The precautionary principle; - National and International obligations such as Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999, Air Quality Strategy 2000, the UK Climate Change Programme and the EC Water Framework Directive; and - Government policies on Planning and Pollution Control. 	the location of potentially polluting developments and on the location of sensitive developments (such as housing, schools, hospitals etc.) in proximity to existing sources of pollution.
Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (1994)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
PPG 24 provides advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens of business.	PPG 24 is concerned with providing guidance on considerations to be taken into account in determining planning applications both for noise-sensitive developments and for those activities that will generate noise, it introduces the concept of noise exposure categories for residential developments, and advises on the use of conditions to minimise the impact of noise.	Development resulting from the LDF will generate noise. It is important that this noise does not exceed unacceptable levels. The LDF has a role to play in ensuring that noise generating activities are, where possible, located away from sensitive receptors.
Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
This PPS sets out the elements of the risk based approach to planning development areas of flood risk, and also the responsibilities of different actors. Although flooding cannot be wholly prevented, its impacts can be avoided and reduced through good planning and management.	<p>Regional planning bodies and LPAs should prepare and implement planning strategies that help to deliver sustainable development by:</p> <p>Appraising risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifying land at risk and the degree of risk of flooding from river, sea and other sources in their areas; and - preparing Regional Flood Risk Appraisals (RFRAs) or Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) as appropriate, as freestanding assessments that contribute to the Sustainability Appraisal of their plans. <p>Managing risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - framing policies for the location of development which avoid flood risk to people and property where possible, and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change; and - only permitting development in areas of flood risk when there are no reasonably available sites in areas of lower flood risk and development benefits outweigh the risks. <p>Reducing risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management; 	<p>Shropshire has a number of areas which are liable to flooding, including the towns of Shrewsbury and Ludlow. The LDF should take into account the PPS to reduce the flood risk on development; this should include the guidance provided under the four headings: appraising risk, managing risk; reducing risk; and a partnership approach.</p> <p>A sequential approach to development based on flood risk is an important aspect of the LDF.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reducing flood risk to and from new development through location, layout and design, incorporating sustainable drainage systems (SUDS); and - using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding. <p>Partnership approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working effectively with the Environment Agency, other operating authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that best use is made of their expertise and information so that plans are effective and decisions on planning applications can be delivered quickly; and - ensuring spatial planning supports flood risk management policies and plans, River Basin Management Plans and emergency planning. 	
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Mineral Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>MPS1 is the overarching planning policy document for all minerals in England. It provides advice and guidance to planning authorities and the minerals industry and it will ensure that the need by society and the economy for minerals is managed in an integrated way against its impact on the environment and communities.</p>	<p>The objectives for minerals planning reflect the requirement to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction; - Conserve mineral resources through appropriate domestic provision and timing of supply; - Safeguard mineral resources as far as possible; - Prevent or minimise production of mineral waste; - Secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health; - Protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape and nature from minerals development, other than in exceptional circumstances; - Secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment, assessed through sustainability appraisal, without irreversible damage; - Maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle; - Promote the sustainable transport of minerals; 	<p>Shropshire is a major contributor to the excavation of minerals in the region. The LDF will reflect the guidance of MPS1 and will ensure that mineral extraction developments have regard for the wider environmental impacts and consideration for the efficient use of minerals whilst ensuring the production of an adequate supply.</p>

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Mineral Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased; - Secure closer integration of minerals planning policy with national policy on sustainable construction and waste management and other applicable management; and - Encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable. 	
<p>MPS1 is the overarching planning policy document for all minerals in England. It provides advice and guidance to planning authorities and the minerals industry and it will ensure that the need by society and the economy for minerals is managed in an integrated way against its impact on the environment and communities.</p>	<p>The objectives for minerals planning reflect the requirement to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction; - Conserve mineral resources through appropriate domestic provision and timing of supply; - Safeguard mineral resources as far as possible; - Prevent or minimise production of mineral waste; - Secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health; - Protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape and nature from minerals development, other than in exceptional circumstances; - Secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment, assessed through sustainability appraisal, without irreversible damage; - Maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle; - Promote the sustainable transport of minerals; - Protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased; - Secure closer integration of minerals planning policy with national policy on sustainable construction and waste management and other applicable management; and - Encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable. 	<p>Shropshire is a major contributor to the excavation of minerals in the region. The LDF will reflect the guidance of MPS1 and will ensure that mineral extraction developments have regard for the wider environmental impacts and consideration for the efficient use of minerals whilst ensuring the production of an adequate supply.</p>

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Mineral Planning Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England (2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The MPS sets out how Mineral Planning Authorities should minimise any significant adverse environmental effects that may arise from minerals extraction.	<p>Policies regarding mineral extraction should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the impacts of mineral working, such as visual intrusion, dewatering, water pollution, noise, dust and fine particulates, blasting and traffic; - the impacts on landscape, agricultural land, soil resources, ecology and wildlife, including habitat loss, and impacts on sites of nature conservation, archaeological and cultural heritage value; - the benefits such as providing an adequate supply of minerals to the economy and hence for society, creating job opportunities, and the scope for landscape, biodiversity and amenity improvements through mineral working and subsequent restoration; and - the methods of control through planning conditions or agreements to ensure that impacts are kept to an acceptable minimum. 	The LDF should have regard to the wider impacts (both positive and negative) of mineral extraction within Shropshire.
Mineral Planning Guidance 6: Guidelines for aggregates provision in England		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>MPG 6 aims to provide guidance on providing an adequate and steady supply of material to the construction industry. Emphasis is placed on the need to plan not just for your authority, but to adjoining areas likely to require aggregate gained elsewhere.</p> <p>Development plans must ensure that the areas identified can be translated into workable reserves (Land bank).</p>	<p>The SA will take account of environmental issues concerning minerals development.</p> <p>The supply of aggregate is essential for continued economic prosperity, but has the potential to adversely effect the environment.</p> <p>The SA will provide a Sustainability Framework including environmental, economic and social objectives. This will be used to measure the policies concerning supply of aggregate.</p>	The LDF will need to provide a set of policies to adequately provide enough aggregate for the construction industry. Policies will be developed detailing the environmental requirements for mineral developers to meet.
Building a Greener Future: policy statement (CLG, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF

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<p>This policy statement sets out the Government's intention for all new homes to be 'zero carbon' by 2016.</p>	<p>Key objectives include meeting the zero carbon standard for all new homes by 2016 (net emissions from homes of zero) with a progressive tightening of energy efficiency building regulations by 25% by 2010 and by 44% by 2013.</p> <p>The SA will ensure the reduction in carbon emissions is one of its key objectives.</p>	<p>The LDF should seek to encourage development that reduces overall carbon emissions. Developers of new homes should meet the targets of the policy statement.</p>
<p>Climate Change Bill (Defra, 2007)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>The Bill aims to create a long term legal framework for the reduction of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions to between 26 - 32% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 60% by 2050.</p>	<p>As well as the key objective of carbon emissions reduction the Bill introduces a system of five-year carbon budgets, which set binding limits on CO₂ emissions and ensure that every year's emissions count. Three successive budgets (set 15 years ahead) will always be in law. The Bill also introduces a Committee on Climate Change in an advisory role to the Government.</p> <p>Amendments to the Bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing strength of UK's carbon management framework by asking the Committee on Climate Change to report on whether target of 60% should be more robust (and possibly set at 80%); - Increasing the transparency and accountability of the UK's climate programme, by requiring the Committee to publish analysis and advice to Government on setting five-yearly carbon budget targets; and - Enhancing role and independence of Committee on Climate Change by requiring Government to seek Committee's advice before amending 2020-2050 emissions targets. 	<p>The LDF should directly contribute to the UK's carbon emissions targets by including policies that help reduce the carbon emissions of Shropshire.</p>
<p>Climate Change: The UK Programme (Defra, 2006)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>

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<p>This programme builds on the initial climate change programme published in 2000. It sets out the UK's policies and priorities for tackling climate change focusing both internationally and domestically.</p>	<p>The UK Programme reiterates and goes beyond the UK's commitment to the Kyoto agreement, aiming to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010. A number of SA objectives support the aim of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.</p>	<p>The LDF should include policies that help to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.</p>
<p>Code for Sustainable Homes: A Step Change in Sustainable Home Building Practice (CLG, 2006)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>The Code for Sustainable Homes is a national standard for sustainable design and construction of new homes. It builds upon the previous Eco Homes standards as developed by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).</p> <p>By integrating elements of this voluntary Code into new homes and obtaining assessments against the Code, developers will be able to obtain a 'star rating' for any new home which will demonstrate its environmental performance.</p>	<p>The Code has been introduced to drive a <i>step change</i> in sustainable home building practice. It is a standard for key elements of design and construction which affect the sustainability of a new home. The aim is for the Code to become the single national standard for sustainable homes, used by home designers and builders as a guide to development, and by home-buyers to assist in their choice of home. Seven areas are considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy efficiency /CO₂ emissions - Water efficiency - Surface water management - Site Waste Management - Household Waste Management - Use of Materials - Lifetime homes <p>The Code is now mandatory for publicly funded development and will be enforced at Code level 3 through the Building Regulations from 2010. All new homes must be rated against the Code from 1st May 2008.</p>	<p>The LDF should encourage all developers to meet with best practice as set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes.</p>
<p>Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW) (2000)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>The Act aims for increased public access to the countryside and strengthens protection for wildlife.</p>	<p>The act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers; - Creates new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land; 	<p>Shropshire has around 5,500kms of rights of way. Development should be planned to enhance access to the countryside and to protect sites designated for nature conservation. The LDF will consider access to the countryside and will ensure that in doing so, there should</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modernises Right of Way system; - Gives greater protection to SSSIs; - Provides better management arrangements for AONBs; and - Strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation. <p>The SA will provide indicators to monitor the preservation of the local landscape and objectives will be developed in that respect.</p>	<p>be no adverse impact on the local landscape.</p>
Energy White Paper – Meeting the Challenge (DTI, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This White Paper sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to respond to long-term energy challenges: tackling climate change and energy security.</p>	<p>It's key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish an international framework to tackle climate; - Provide legally binding carbon targets for the whole reducing emissions; - Make further progress in achieving fully competitive international markets; - Encourage more energy saving through better information, regulation; - Provide more support for low carbon technologies; and - Ensure the right conditions for investment. <p>Both energy efficiency and the generation of energy from renewable sources will be addressed in the SA's objectives.</p>	<p>The LDF should seek to reduce the County's energy usage wherever possible, through locating development sustainably and ensuring that energy efficient measures are employed. In addition, the LDF should consider opportunities for incorporating renewable energy schemes. Policies should positively encourage the use of renewable energy technologies.</p>
Environmental Quality in Spatial Planning (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature, Environment Agency, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The aim is to encourage more ambitious strategies to combat environmental degradation including making use of planning obligations to implement spatial policies. It highlights a commitment to addressing the social, economic, and environmental issues together; ensuring sustainable development; and promoting local distinctiveness.</p>	<p>The document seeks to promote a plan making system that encourages development that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is more sustainable, both in built form and location; - respects the ability of the environment to accommodate change (including climate change); - avoids damage to and increases or enhances the environmental resource; - reduces risks to, and potentially arising from, the environment; - respects local distinctiveness and sense of place and is of high design quality, so that it is valued by communities; and - reflects local needs and provides local benefits. <p>The SA objectives will consider fully the three objectives of</p>	<p>The LDF will aim to protect the distinctiveness and character of the local landscape and will aim to prevent any development that is likely to cause irreversible damage to the natural environment.</p> <p>Full use of the guidance will be made in the production of the LDF.</p>

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	sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.	
Game Plan (2020): A Strategy for Delivering Government's Sport and Physical Activity objectives (DCMS, 2002)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Game Plan sets out the Government's vision for mass participation, and improved performance, in sport.</p> <p>(Game Plan was published before the award of the 2012 Olympic Games)</p>	<p>Game Plan includes two overarching objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a major increase in participation in sport and physical activity, primarily because of the significant health benefits and reduce the costs of inactivity; and - a sustainable improvement in success in international competition, particularly in the sports which matter most to the public, primarily because of the "feel good factor" associated with winning. <p>The Strategy has a long term target of achieving 70% mass participation by 2020. This will be achieved through tackling barriers to participation such as cost, information, motivation and improving provision.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives relating to active lifestyles.</p>	<p>The LDF should encourage Shropshire's residents to make healthy lifestyle choices, and ensure the protection and provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.</p>
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century: Heritage White Paper (DCMS, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Heritage White Paper sets out the need to develop a unified approach to the historic environment; maximise opportunities for inclusion and involvement; and support sustainable communities by putting the historic environment at the heart of an effective planning system.</p>	<p>Objectives for wider planning areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - merging listed building and scheduled ancient building regimes; - removing conservation area consent; - making demolition and part demolition works in conservation areas subject to a requirement for planning permission; and - cultural asset management in the marine environment. 	<p>The LDF should have regard for the White Paper's objectives and ensure that the protection of Shropshire's rich built and historic environment is covered within its policies.</p>
Housing and Regeneration Bill (CLG, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Bill supports the Housing Green Paper delivery targets of three million new homes by 2020.</p>	<p>The Bill aims to give councils more freedom and incentives to build new homes, and makes rating against the Code for Sustainable Homes mandatory for new homes.</p> <p>The Bill aims to support the delivery of housing supply (and specifically affordable housing) through the creation of the</p>	<p>The LDF should have regard for the key elements of the Bill. Encouraging the development of the appropriate number of houses, with a mixture of the tenure and type of housing, should be a fundamental part of the LDF.</p>

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	Homes and Communities Agency, and reforms social housing and social housing regulation to promote better services for tenants. The SA will include objectives relating the delivery of housing.	
Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) (2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The NERC Act established Natural England and the Commission for Rural Communities and sets out a new duty that all public bodies have due regard to the conservation of biodiversity.	Section 40 of the Act states that <i>“every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”</i> . The Act stresses that biodiversity conservation should not be viewed solely as an environmental issue, but a core component of sustainable development, which underpins economic development and prosperity and offers a range of quality of life benefits across a range of local authority service areas.	The new biodiversity duty requires local authorities to take their impact on biodiversity into account in all decision-making. It also requires local authorities to not only protect biodiversity but also restore and enhance biodiversity. The LDF should ensure that the Act’s key requirements are reflected in its policies.
Planning for a Sustainable Future: White Paper (CLG, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The White Paper sets out the Government’s proposals for reform of the planning system, building on the Barker Review’s recommendations for improving the speed, responsiveness and efficiency in land use planning, and taking forward proposals for reform of major infrastructure planning.	The White Paper proposes reforms on how decisions are taken on nationally significant infrastructure projects - including energy, waste, waste-water and transport - responding to the challenges of economic globalisation and climate change. It also proposes further reforms to the Town and Country Planning system. Five core principles underpin the Government’s proposals: - planning must be responsive, particularly to longer term challenges such as increasing globalisation and climate change, and properly integrate our economic, social and environmental objectives to deliver sustainable development; - the planning system should be streamlined, efficient and predictable; - there must be full and fair opportunities for public consultation and community engagement; - the planning system should be transparent and	The aims and objectives of the White Paper, and wider issues of sustainability, will be taken into account whilst producing the LDF.

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	<p>accountable; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - planning should be undertaken at the right level of government – national, regional and local. <p>Sustainability is inherent in the SA process as a whole, which integrates economic, social and environmental objectives.</p>	
Rural Strategy (Defra, 2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Strategy sets out the specific action that will be taken to implement the Government's three priorities for rural policy: economic and social regeneration; social justice for all; and enhancing the value.</p>	<p>The economic objective for rural areas has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building on the economic success of the majority of rural areas to ensure they contribute fully to national, regional and local economic prosperity; and - Tackling the structural economic weaknesses and accompanying poor social conditions that exist in a minority of rural areas. <p>The social justice policy has two strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the majority of rural England which is fundamentally prosperous our social priorities are to ensure fair access to public services and affordable housing; and - In both more and less prosperous areas, to tackle social exclusion wherever it occurs. <p>The value of the environment should be enhanced through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to take action to protect and enhance the rural and urban environments; and - Enhancing the value and natural beauty of the countryside for real communities and for the benefit of society in general. 	<p>The majority of Shropshire is rural. The LDF should seek to address issues of deprivation and social injustice, including limitations on access to services, where this is considered a problem.</p> <p>It is also important that the protection and enhancement of the environmental value of Shropshire contributes to sustainable rural communities.</p>
Soil Strategy for England (Draft) (Defra, 2008)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Soil Strategy sets out the Government's aim to maximise the economic and environmental benefit of soils for current and future generations. The strategy identifies pressures on the soil and a number of priority areas to address.</p>	<p>The strategy includes these key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure measures for the protection of soil functions for agriculture and forestry soils are effective and take account of future pressures; - reduce rate of soil organic matter decline and protect habitats based on organic soils, such as peat bogs, to 	<p>The LDF must have regard to the objectives of the Soil Strategy and ensure that policies do not lead to a degradation of the qualities and functions of the soils in the County.</p>

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	<p>maintain carbon stores and soil quality;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish risk of putting organic material on soils and wider consequences of doing, and seek to keep risks at the minimal level; and - Ensure that construction industry and planning authorities take account of the need to protect soil resources and ensure they can fulfil functions, especially storing, transporting and filtering water. 	
UK Sustainable Development Strategy: Securing the Future (Defra, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Strategy contains a set of shared UK principles that will be used to achieve sustainable development. These principles were agreed by the UK Government, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Northern Ireland Administration.</p>	<p>The guiding principles bring together and build on the various previously existing UK principles to set out an overarching approach that the four separate strategies of the Government and devolved administrations can share. These are:</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 SA will provide objectives that will seek to focus on sustainable patterns of consumption and production and will reflect the requirements to tackle climate change. Objectives will reflect the need to create sustainable communities and involve those communities in the decisions that affect them.</p>	<p>The LDF should provide the spatial expression of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy for the County and will therefore have a strong regard for its principles.</p>
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK Biodiversity Action Group, 1994)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The plan sets out the aim to '<i>conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK and to contribute to the conservation of global biodiversity through all appropriate mechanisms and to conserve and enhance native species, and their habitats and ecosystems, and internationally important habitats and endangered species</i>'.</p>	<p>The aims of the strategy are to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction, planning, development and regeneration have minimal adverse impacts on biodiversity and enhance it where possible; - Biodiversity conservation is integral to sustainable urban communities, both on the built environment, and in parks and green spaces; and - Biodiversity conservation is integral to measures to improve the quality of people's lives. <p>The SA will identify the need to protect local biodiversity. The Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan (reviewed in the</p>	<p>The LDF should seek to protect and enhance biodiversity by protecting habitats and species as well as promoting broader biodiversity values through the promotion of wildlife friendly developments which have the potential to enhance biodiversity values.</p>

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	Countywide section) aims to monitor the changing biodiversity across the County.	
The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future (DCMS, 2001)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
This statement sets out the intention of the Government to protect the historic environment, recognising its major contribution to the economy in rural and deprived communities as well as in traditional economic centres. It also states the need for the future development of new policies to further realise economic and educational potential.	<p>The government looks to a future in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public interest in the historic environment is matched by firm leadership, effective partnerships, and the development of a sound knowledge base from which to develop policies; - The full potential of the historic environment as a learning resource is realised; - The historic environment is accessible to everybody and is seen as something with which the whole of society can identify and engage; - The historic environment is protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations; and - The historic environment's importance as an economic asset is skilfully harnessed. <p>SA objectives will seek to preserve historically important areas whilst attempting to achieve a balance between growth and conservation.</p>	Shropshire's historic environment is rich and varied. The LDF will need to ensure the historic environment is protected, enhanced and promoted where possible.
Waste Strategy for England (Defra, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Waste Strategy, together with Planning Policy Statement 10 Planning for Sustainable Waste Management is part of the implementation for England of the requirements within the Framework Directive on Waste, and associated Directives, to produce waste management plans.	<p>The Strategy sets out an overall objective for England to achieve less waste, more material recovery, energy from waste and much less landfill. To achieve this, the Strategy sets objectives for different sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business: Build resource efficiency into business model; produce less waste; design less wasteful products; and use recycled inputs. - Retailers: Reduce packaging and usage of single use carrier bags; use influence on consumers and supply chain. - Consumers: Produce less waste; purchase responsibly; and separate their waste into recyclables. - Local authorities: Provide convenient recycling service for household and commercial users; provide local leadership to plan and invest in new infrastructure. - Waste management industry: Provide flexible sustainable waste services to customers; invest in recycling and recovery facilities; and observe high environmental 	<p>The LDF should have regard for the importance of good waste management within the County.</p> <p>The LDF should encourage the development of recycling and composting facilities which are accessible to communities, preferably by sustainable transport modes.</p>

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	standards The Waste Strategy sets targets of: - Annual greenhouse gas emissions: 2020: reduction of 10 million tonnes of CO2 equivalents - Household waste recycling: 2010: 40%; 2015: 45%; 2020: 50% - Household residual waste: 2010: 29% reduction; 2015: 35% reduction; 2020: 45% reduction from 2000 levels - Municipal waste recovery: 2010: 53%; 2015: 67%; 2020: 75%	
Water Strategy – Future Water (Defra, 2008)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
Future Water sets out the Government's long-term vision for a strategic and integrated approach to water and a framework for water management in England.	The Strategy's proposals include an aim to reduce water usage to 120 litres per person per day by 2030 (from the current level of roughly 150 litres per person per day). Other aims include new proposals to tackle surface water drainage and water pollution by encouraging the development of more adaptable drainage systems and promoting more proactive engagement between water authorities and the planning process. An understanding of the future risks of river and coastal flooding should be fully embedded into the spatial planning system, and public awareness of the causes and consequences of surface water runoff, and actions that can be taken to reduce it, should be improved.	The LDF should reflect Future Water's key aims and ensure that policies contribute to good ground and surface water management practice. Its policies should also lead to development that does not negatively affect flood risk.
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain. It is the means by which European Directives on Conservation of Wild Birds, and Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora, are implemented.	The Act makes it an offence (with exception to species listed in Schedule 2) to intentionally kill, injure, or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests. The Act provides for the notification of SSSIs by country agencies. The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to pick, uproot, trade in, or possess (for the purposes of trade) any wild plant listed in Schedule 8, and prohibits the unauthorised intentional uprooting of such plants. SA objectives should reflect the principles of the Act.	The LDF should have regard for the Act and ensure that Shropshire's wildlife is protected. The LDF should particularly have regard for sites designated for their biodiversity although all areas are covered within the Act.

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Working with the Grain of Nature - England Bio-diversity Strategy (Defra, 2002)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Biodiversity Strategy ensures that Biodiversity considerations become embedded in all the main sectors of economic activity (both public and private). The Strategy sets a programme for the next 5 years for the main policy sectors, to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.</p>	<p>The Strategy sets out a series of objectives to ensure that biodiversity is a consideration in:</p> <p>Agriculture: Encourage the management of farming and agricultural land; Water: The sustainable use of water; Woodland: The management and extension of woodland to increase bio-diversity; Urban areas: Mixing bio-diversity in sustainable communities i.e urban green parks.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives that seek to protect and encourage bio-diversity.</p>	<p>Sustainability and bio-diversity will be key issues considered during the production of the LDF. The LDF should have regard to the objective of protecting and enhancing the rich biodiversity within Shropshire.</p>

REGIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES		
Cultural Life in the West Midlands 2001 - 2006: The West Midlands Cultural Strategy (West Midlands Life, 2001) – updated by Valuing People and Places		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Regional Cultural Strategy set out a vision for cultural excellence and development in the West Midlands up to 2006. Valuing People and Places updated this vision from 2006-2008.</p>	<p>Valuing People and Places has a vision for three key areas:</p> <p>Active people: - To widen access and ensure relevance and targeting; involve schools, children’s services, the voluntary and community sector and families; widen enjoyment of cultural diversity; and promote more opportunities for people to take part in informal recreation and sport.</p> <p>Vibrant places: - To improve awareness of opportunities; improve the understanding, quality and enjoyment of our natural, built and historic environment to meet heritage and cultural needs; and focus on priority areas currently under-served.</p>	<p>The LDF should aim to encourage the provision of cultural facilities, including sport and recreational facilities, in accessible locations and aim to ensure existing cultural infrastructure and priority areas are protected from potential adverse effects of development.</p>

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	<p>Lasting prosperity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To achieve a closer alignment of planning processes and investment allocations; focus more support on creative business start-ups, innovation and new enterprise; develop the management, leadership and entrepreneurial skills of the cultural sectors themselves; and develop cultural and creative models as 'ladders of opportunity'. <p>These aims should be reflected in SA objectives.</p>	
Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004- 2010 (Advantage West Midlands, 2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The West Midlands Economic Strategy for 2004–2010, sets out a vision for transforming the West Midlands into a world-class region by 2010.</p>	<p>The strategy has 3 key principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A commitment to sustainable development; - A commitment to equality, diversity and economic inclusion; and - A commitment to ensure that this strategy links with other strategies across the region. <p>The West Midlands Region must overcome challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing a diverse and dynamic business base; - promoting a learning and skilful region; - creating the conditions for growth; - regeneration of communities; and - providing a powerful voice for the region. 	<p>The LDF should reflect the Strategy's vision by providing sufficient employment land and opportunities for individual skill development and business growth, whilst ensuring the sustainable use of resources. The rural nature of the County should also be taken into account in meeting the principles of the Strategy.</p>
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The refreshed Regional Sustainable Development Framework sets out sustainable development objectives for the region and a process for incorporating these objectives into policies, strategies and plans in the West Midlands. The Framework is intended to assist in ensuring all policies, strategies and plans play their part in contributing to a sustainable future for the region, and that different policy areas are developed in a way that is complementary and mutually supportive.</p>	<p>There are four key objectives:</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 SA must ensure these objectives are covered within its objectives to ensure options and spatial objectives are considered against the broad themes outlined in the framework.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to ensure these four overarching objectives are considered within the options and spatial objectives.</p> <p>The LDF should aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. It should also aim to protect the natural environment from the potential adverse effects of development.</p>

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Regional Rural Delivery Framework (Rural Accord West Midlands, 2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Framework focuses on the development of regional Rural Delivery Frameworks as the primary means by which decision-making and prioritisation will be devolved to regional and local levels. The purpose of the Framework is to influence regional policy and action, on the basis of agreed regional and local strategies.</p>	<p>There are six strategic priorities within the framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the value of the countryside - Developing a diverse and dynamic business base - Learning and skills improved - Creating the conditions for growth - Achieving fair access to services for all - Securing vibrant, active, inclusive and sustainable communities <p>The SA Framework should cover the aims and objectives set out in the Rural Delivery Framework.</p>	<p>The LDF should aim to protect the value of the countryside whilst contributing to the delivery of sustainable communities. The rural economy should be supported and infrastructure to support learning and skills in rural areas of the County should be encouraged. The LDF should also aim to protect and enhance the environment.</p>
Restoring the Region's Wildlife: The Regional Biodiversity Strategy (West Midlands Biodiversity Strategy Partnership, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Strategy sets out the main challenges facing the region's biodiversity and aims to focus attention on priority areas.</p>	<p>The Strategy has a number of key challenges to meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; - Developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife; - Monitoring the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; - Re-connecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity; and - Coping with the impacts of climate change. <p>The SA objectives will incorporate the condition of habitats and species in indicators as appropriate.</p>	<p>Shropshire has a rich biodiversity. The LDF will ensure that biodiversity conservation and enhancement is promoted within its policies and will fully consider the effects, both direct and indirect, of development on biodiversity.</p>
Rural Renaissance – Advantage West Midlands Rural Framework (Advantage West Midlands, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Rural Renaissance sets out AWM's integrated approach to rural development, demonstrating its role and strategy for implementing the West Midlands Economic Strategy in the rural West Midlands.</p>	<p>The Framework has five key pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To foster the sustainable development and diversification of the rural economy of the West Midlands and work with partners to develop the business clusters with greatest potential and reach, with a particular focus in the least well performing areas of the region. - To raise skills levels and improve access to skills development opportunities in rural areas, in support of the 	<p>Shropshire is predominantly rural and therefore the Framework must be reflected within the LDF's policies.</p> <p>The LDF should provide policies that reinforce the importance of a strong, diverse economy and improved access to skills development within the rural areas of Shropshire.</p>

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	<p>ten business clusters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support restructuring in the West Midlands rural economy through development of an accessible, modern, social and economic infrastructure and the environmental conditions appropriate to the growth needs of rural areas. - To address the region's most significant rural regeneration needs through a locally targeted approach, which improves social infrastructure and capacity; through improving access to opportunity. - To be an effective champion for the rural West Midlands at regional, national and international levels, ensuring that the West Midlands makes the most of all opportunities. <p>The SA will have objectives that consider the economic and skills needs of Shropshire's rural areas.</p>	
Sign Up for Sport: A Regional Plan for Sport in the West Midlands 2004-2008 (Sport England, 2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Sign Up for Sport sets out the regional importance of sport for social, cultural and economic reasons.</p>	<p>There are a number of key objectives for the development of sport in the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing levels of participation in club and community sport; - Improving levels of sports performance; - Widening access to sport; - Improving the health and well being of people through sport; - Creating safer and stronger communities through sport; - Improving education through PE and sport; and - Benefiting the economy through sport. <p>The SA will include objectives for active, healthy lifestyles and open space provision.</p>	<p>Active lifestyles and the provision of, and access to, sporting facilities are a key part of the development of sustainable communities. The LDF should include policies that encourage people to make positive choices about their lifestyle and ensure there are opportunities to do so.</p>
Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands: Building for the Future (ODPM, 2003)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Sustainable Communities in the West Midlands sets out proposals for implementing</p>	<p>Under the four key issues of Urban Renaissance; Rural Renaissance; Diversifying and modernising the Region's</p>	<p>The LDF should include policies that contribute to the delivery of sustainable communities and reflect the plan</p>

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<p>the national plan of action in the West Midlands. It highlights actions to address housing, neighbourhood renewal issues, planning, transport, economy, employment and skills.</p>	<p>economy; and Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands, the Strategy outlines key priorities for building sustainable future for the West Midlands Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing - Neighbourhood renewal - Planning - Transport - Economy, employment and skills - Other key actions 	<p>of action and key priorities of the Building for the Future document.</p>
Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands (Environment Agency, Undated)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands sets out a framework for the management of water resources throughout the region. The Strategy requires an integrated approach by organisations and individuals to achieve its objectives and should inform the production of plans and policies.</p>	<p>The Strategy has a number of underpinning principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to ensure the prudent and sustainable use of natural resources; - to seek the efficient use of water while bringing forward timely proposals for resource development (the 'twin-track' approach); - the need for the Strategy to be robust to uncertainty and change; and - where there is uncertainty about the consequences of a proposal, decisions taken should ensure that the environment is protected (the 'precautionary principle'). <p>The Strategy states that water abstraction cut-backs are necessary in some areas to improve the environment and that water resource options that are flexible to the possible impacts of climate change are preferred. The Strategy requires savings of up to 140 Ml/d compared to the highest growth scenario.</p> <p>The SA will include water management objectives.</p>	<p>The LDF should recognise the importance of carefully managing the water resources of Shropshire. Its policies should reflect the objectives set out in the Water Resources Strategy by encouraging greater water efficiency and a reduction in consumption through design policies, and by directing development away from areas under pressure in terms of water resources.</p>
West Midlands Region State of the Environment Report (Environment Agency, 2001)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Report emphasis the importance of sustainable development and the need for community involvement. It particularly highlights demands on water and the pressures from flooding in the region. It also includes issues of land contamination, waste and emissions.</p>	<p>The report covers climate change, water quality and resources, flood risk, biodiversity, fisheries, air quality, waste management and sustainability.</p> <p>Baseline data for the SA will highlight the issues of the report and will allow for future monitoring of those issues.</p> <p>Data will include:</p>	<p>The LDF will be based on sustainable development principles, have a strong regard for environmental issues, and will highlight the requirement for community involvement at each stage of plan making.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flood risk data - Waste management data - Emissions & air quality data - Biodiversity data 	
West Midlands Regional Economic Strategy: Connecting to Success (Advantage West Midlands, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The purpose of the Regional Economic Strategy is to provide a shared vision and direction for the economic development and regeneration of the region, focusing resources and activities to improve economic performance and competitiveness.</p>	<p>The objectives are set out in the Strategy under four headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business: utilise regional assets and economies with most wealth and employment potential; capitalise on low carbon technologies; promote skills and entrepreneurship. - Place: deliver sustainable communities; regenerate deprived communities; improve transport and accessibility; and maximise of cultural assets. - People: employ a diverse labour force and stimulate demand for tomorrow's products. - Powerful voice: improve evidence base; liaise with key decision makers; and improve image and marketing of the region. 	<p>The LDF should reflect the objectives of the Regional Economic Strategy by providing sufficient employment land, encouraging the growth of businesses, and improving transport whilst ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
West Midlands Regional Energy Strategy (2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The overall aim of the document is to make the West Midlands the most energy efficient region in the UK. Its vision is that: <i>"By 2020 we will have delivered the West Midlands' commitment to the climate change challenge, having ensured a sustainable, secure and affordable supply of energy for everyone and strengthened the region's economic capability"</i>.</p>	<p>There are four headline objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving Energy Efficiency - Increasing the use of renewable energy resources - Maximising the uptake of business opportunities - Ensuring Focussed and Integrated Delivery and Implementation <p>Targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing industrial CO2 emissions by 2.4 Mt (18%) and an additional 4.3 Mt (32%) by 2020. - Reducing commercial and public sector emissions by 2.0Mt (36%) by 2010, with a 1.5 Mt (26%) reduction by 2020. - Reducing domestic emissions by 2.4 Mt (19%) by 2010 and an additional 3.7 Mt (29%) by 2020. - Stabilise transport emissions by 2010 and reduce by 0.7 Mt (7%) by 2020. - Target of 1,000 Mwe by 2010 for production of Combined Heat and Power 	<p>The LDF should aim to help the region achieve the vision set out in the Regional Energy Strategy.</p> <p>The LDF will need to consider the Strategy's four key objectives and seek to ensure the use of renewable energy in new developments where possible as well as promoting sustainable development and construction in order to improve energy efficiency.</p>

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	- 5% of electricity consumption by 2010 to be from renewable energy.	
West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework - Growing our Future (2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Framework sets out a long term strategy for the planting and management of forests within the region.	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing public knowledge of woodland and forestry by education and raising awareness; - setting a regional target for percentage of woodland cover as a quality of life indicator; - meeting national targets for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the priority habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; and - targeting action for landscape improvements. <p>The SA will include objectives that protect the environment and therefore help preserve areas of natural beauty, landscape and also biodiversity.</p>	The LDF should seek to protect Shropshire's areas of landscape value and natural beauty as well as protecting local biodiversity.
West Midlands Regional Housing Strategy (West Midlands Regional Assembly, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The purpose of the Regional Housing Strategy is to reinforce and apply the principles of urban and rural renaissance to the Region's housing markets.	<p>The Strategy's key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create mixed, balanced and inclusive communities; - To assist in the delivery of West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy policies of urban and rural renaissance; - To influence the future development of new housing provision to facilitate and enhance the economic development of the Region; - To address the variety of needs across a range of specific sectors of housing circumstances; - To work towards the success of the two ODPM sponsored Housing Market Renewal Area Pathfinders; - To see that Government's Decent Homes standards are met in the municipal, social sectors, and for those in vulnerable circumstances in the private sector; - To achieve social and other affordable housing; and - To achieve sustainable access to minimise environmental resource consumption and traffic and improve the quality of the environment. <p>The SA Framework should cover these objectives.</p>	<p>The LDF should aim to provide an appropriate level of the appropriate quality housing to meet the needs of the County, including affordable housing.</p> <p>This housing should be located in sustainable locations and reduce resource consumption and impacts on the environment.</p>
West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Revised: Incorporating Phase 1 review) (West Midlands Local Government Association, 2008)		

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Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The purpose of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy is to provide a strategy to guide the preparation of local authority Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport Plans so that they can deliver to a coherent framework for Regional development.</p> <p>The RSS identifies 4 major challenges for the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban Renaissance – developing major urban areas so to counter the unsustainable outward movement of people and jobs; - Rural Renaissance – addressing more effectively major changes which are challenging the traditional roles of rural areas and the countryside; - Diversifying and modernising the Region’s economy – ensuring that opportunities for growth are linked to meeting needs and that they help reduce social exclusion; and - Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands – supporting the sustainable development of the Region. <p>The RSS is undergoing three phased reviews although the 4 key priorities of the RSS remain the same. Phase 1 on the Black Country has been completed. Phase 2 is currently ongoing and will set new targets up to 2026 for housing numbers and employment land supply.</p>	<p>The RSS aims to achieve a Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where there are opportunities for all to progress and improve their quality of life; - with an advanced, thriving and diverse economy occupying a competitive position within European and World markets; - where urban and rural renaissance is successfully being achieved; - with diverse and distinctive cities, towns, sub-regions and communities with Birmingham as a “World City” at its heart; - which is recognised for its distinctive, high quality natural and built environment; - with an efficient network of integrated transport facilities and services which meet the needs of both individuals and the business community in the most sustainable way; and - where all Regional interests are working together towards a commonly agreed sustainable future. <p>The SA will need to ensure objectives cover and balance social, economic and environmental considerations.</p>	<p>The LDF should conform to the overarching policies and themes of the RSS (As a statutory requirement, the RSS forms a part of the Development Plan for the area).</p> <p>The LDF will seek to embrace the theme of sustainability and sustainable development so that it is consistent with the RSS. It will also be consistent with the aim of tackling the four major challenges identified.</p>

COUNTY WIDE		
Safer Shropshire Partnership Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse Strategy 2005-2008 (Safer Shropshire Partnership, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Strategy sets out the priorities of reducing crime and promoting safer, healthier</p>	<p>The Strategy sets overarching aims under which objectives are set to:</p>	<p>The LDF should reflect the key objectives and targets of the Strategy. It should promote safe and healthy</p>

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<p>communities throughout Shropshire. The Safer Shropshire Partnership reports to the Local Strategic Partnership. The County has five Community Safety Partnership Groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tackle and reduce crime, burglaries, anti-social behaviour and violence in public places; - reduce harm caused by substance and alcohol misuse; - develop the capacity of local services to tackle domestic violence and support the victims of domestic violence; and - support agencies in attempt to build confidence in reporting of hate crimes. <p>Targets for the time period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14% reduction in overall crime; - 60.2% increase in adult drug users in treatment; - 9.5% reduction in common assault; and - 11.7% reduction in domestic burglary. <p>The SA will include objectives to consider the importance of safe and healthy communities.</p>	<p>communities throughout the whole of Shropshire and have regard for the Strategy's overall aims.</p>
Draft Shropshire Climate Change Strategy (Shropshire County Council, 2002)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Draft Shropshire Climate Change Strategy applies to the whole county and describes the outcomes of Shropshire County Council's participation in the Councils for Climate Protection (CCP) pilot programme and the proposals for action that have resulted from it.</p>	<p>The Strategy provides baseline information on CO2 emissions in Shropshire. Reference is made to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, which has the objective of reducing CO2 emissions to 60% of 1990 levels by 2050.</p> <p>The SA will include objectives for environmental sustainability including the need to reduce CO2 emissions.</p>	<p>The LDF should aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This can be achieved through policies to reduce travel by car (e.g. encouraging walking and cycling/providing services, employment and housing in close proximity) and encouraging renewable energy.</p>
Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy 2006-2010 (Shropshire Partnership, 2006)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF

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<p>The Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy sets out a vision for four key areas including children and young people; healthier communities and older people; safer and stronger communities; and sustainable communities.</p>	<p>The Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy sets out a number of objectives which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Helping children and families to be healthy, stay safe, achieve economic wellbeing and make a positive contribution; - Improving services for older people and vulnerable people; - Encouraging healthy and active lifestyles; - Providing opportunities for adult learning, leisure and cultural activities; - Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; - Improving access to services locally; - Creating more affordable housing to rent or buy; - Creating more and better quality jobs, and improving workforce skills; - Conserving and improving the environment; and - Creating safer and better maintained roads, and improving public transport; <p>The objectives set out in the Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy will be covered in the SA Framework.</p>	<p>The LDF will reflect the objectives set out in the Shropshire Partnership Community Strategy. It should aim to provide accessible services and facilities for all of Shropshire's residents whether they are in urban or rural areas, encourage walking and cycling, provide for sufficient employment and housing (including affordable housing) and aim to preserve and enhance a good quality local environment.</p>
<p>Shropshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (Shropshire County Council, 2006)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>The Local Transport Plan sets out the objectives for transport in Shropshire. It's vision is: <i>'An economically vibrant, healthy, inclusive and sustainable society where people meet many of their needs locally, served by an integrated transport system which allows people to have good and reliable access to jobs, services, learning and leisure opportunities, and which protects and enhances environmental quality and human health.'</i></p>	<p>There are four overarching aims:</p> <p>Accessibility: To improve access to jobs and facilities in ways which are sustainable, particularly for people from disadvantaged groups or areas;</p> <p>Environment: To protect and improve the built and natural environment and reduce the impact of traffic on local communities;</p> <p>Economy: To support sustainable economic activity and rural regeneration;</p> <p>Safety and health: To create safer roads and healthier, more secure communities.</p> <p>The SA objectives will encourage sustainable, accessible locations and transport systems.</p>	<p>The LDF will consider the transport plan and should attempt to support its objectives through sustainable development in accessible areas via a variety of means of transport. The LDF will recognise the particular transport requirements for Shropshire.</p>
<p>Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan (revised) (Shropshire County Council, 2006)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>

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<p>This Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan meets the commitment for formulating detailed action plans incorporating recent developments, and sets out new challenges for conserving biodiversity in Shropshire.</p>	<p>Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (2006 revision) includes 50 specific action plans for 22 habitats and 55 species. The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and enhance the populations and natural ranges of species, and the quality and extent of wildlife habitats and ecosystems in Shropshire; - Conserve internationally, nationally and regionally important and locally distinctive species, habitats and ecosystems and enhance their conservation status; - Maintain genetic variation within species; - Contribute to the conservation of biodiversity on a national, European and global scale; - Ensure that policies and practices that affect the environment but do not damage biodiversity, but instead contribute towards its conservation and enhancement; - Establish and maintain a comprehensive understanding of habitats and species in Shropshire through research, survey and monitoring; and - To facilitate and annually monitor and review targets. 	<p>The LDF will support the aims of the BAP and will introduce policy that relates directly to the preservation of biodiversity in the County.</p> <p>Shropshire has a number of areas with national and international designations reflecting their rich biodiversity with 123 SSSIs.</p>
<p>Shropshire Futures: An Economic Development Strategy for Shropshire (Shropshire Economic Development Forum, December 2004)</p>		
<p>Main elements</p>	<p>Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA</p>	<p>Implications for the LDF</p>
<p>Shropshire Futures is the economic development strategy for Shropshire. The Strategy aims to summarise the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the county's economy by using the framework provided by the four "pillars" identified within the Regional Economic Strategy.</p> <p>The strategy's vision is of a <i>'Thriving economy - good opportunities for all, particularly for young people - harnessing the environment – increased knowledge economy presence – improved skills'</i>.</p>	<p>The key aims of this vision include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to strengthen the business base in terms of business start-up processes and the competitiveness of established firms; - imperative for better opportunities for everyone, but particularly for Shropshire's young people; - need to harness the county's high quality environment in a sustainable and creative manner; - need to increase the incidence of activities relating to a higher value added activity and the knowledge economy; - need to improve the skills base across Shropshire and to do so in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of key businesses, both now and in the future. <p>The SA will consider economic objectives with the aim of developing and diversifying economic activity. A list of key indicators will be developed to show trends in business activity.</p>	<p>The LDF will focus on economic growth and diversity as a key theme. It will consider provisions currently made for business growth and the expansion there of, as well as considering the potential for new business start-ups. Jobs, homes and services should be provided within easy access of one another and proposals for the development of infrastructure for learning and skills enhancement should be encouraged.</p>

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Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan (Shropshire County Council, Shropshire Geological Society and the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan lays out the actions that partner organisations will take to protect, promote, enhance and explain Shropshire's geological heritage. The Action Plan covers the administrative area of to be covered by Shropshire Council and the adjacent Unitary Borough of Telford and Wrekin.	<p>The Geodiversity Action Plan is grouped into four themes under which strategic aims and objectives are grouped:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geoconservation and access - Knowledge and understanding - Interpretation and geotourism - Delivering plan actions <p>The SA will consider the importance of maintaining Shropshire's geological diversity and historic environment.</p>	The LDF should build on national guidance and the Action Plan to secure the conservation and enhancement of Shropshire's' geological assets.
Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2004-2009 (Shropshire Hills AONB, 2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
The Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan operates within national, regional and local frameworks which set policies and offer guidance on land management issues. The Plan relates to the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and to any developments outside it which may impact on its conservation and enhancement.	<p>The aims of the Shropshire Hills Management Plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-ordinate the activities of interested organisations and individuals in order to further conserve and enhance the special landscape character of the AONB; and - Provide a focus for the activities of the many organisations and individuals who live, work or have an interest in the Shropshire Hills. <p>These aims are set against key issues relating to the sustainable management of the distinctive landscape character of the Shropshire Hills; a supportive approach to rural industries that positively contribute to the Shropshire Hills; and recognition of the positive influence that tourists can bring to the AONB financially and to the quality of life.</p>	The LDF should avoid inappropriate development in the Shropshire Hills AONB, and encourage sustainable access to the AONB.

LOCAL PLANS

Bridgnorth Local Plan 1996-2011 (Saved Policies) (Bridgnorth District Council, 2006)

Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Bridgnorth Local Plan sets out the aims for sustainable planning in the Bridgnorth District area.</p> <p>The policies within the Bridgnorth Local Plan are saved for the period of 3 years from</p>	<p>The plan has a number of key aims which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focusing development on the main market towns of Bridgnorth and Shifnal, and to a lesser extent Albrighton, Broseley, Highley and Much Wenlock; - strengthening the role of market towns and large villages as employment and service centres; 	The LDF will have regard for the saved policies within the Plan. The LDF will eventually replace the saved policies contained in the Plan.

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adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing a better balance between employment and housing locally; and - minimising environmental impacts. 	
North Shropshire Local Plan 2000-2011 (Saved Policies) (North Shropshire District Council, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The North Shropshire Local Plan sets out the sustainable development and planning objectives for the district.</p> <p>The policies within the North Shropshire Local Plan are saved for the period of 3 years from adoption.</p>	<p>The Plan has a number of objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage new employment opportunities for local residents and support diversification of the economy; - conserve and enhance special character of the District; - address housing requirement; and - encourage provision and retention of local facilities. <p>The majority of development to be focussed on market towns Ellesmere, Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch.</p>	<p>The LDF will have regard for the saved policies within the Plan. The LDF will eventually replace the saved policies contained in the Plan.</p>
Oswestry Borough Local Plan 1996-2006 (Saved Policies) (Oswestry Borough Council, 1999)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Oswestry Borough Local Plan sets out the vision for sustainable development in the Borough.</p> <p>Certain policies from the Oswestry Borough Local Plan have been saved beyond September 2007.</p>	<p>The Plan has a number of aims including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - directing majority of housing development to Oswestry Town and larger villages; - promoting growth and diversification of the local economy and the creation of new employment opportunities especially in rural areas; - promoting a pattern of development that reduces the need to travel; and - promoting the viability and vitality of Oswestry Town. 	<p>The LDF will have regard for the saved policies within the Plan. The LDF will eventually replace the saved policies contained in the Plan.</p>
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Plan (Saved Policies) (Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, 2001)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Plan sets out the development objectives for the area.</p> <p>Certain policies from the Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Local Plan have been saved beyond September 2007.</p>	<p>The Plan's vision includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - retaining the pre-eminence of Shrewsbury as the centre for shopping, commercial, leisure and cultural functions and strengthen its role; and - restricting development in rural areas to larger settlements with a sustainable range of services and facilities. <p>Overall aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - actively encouraging a diverse and sustainable rural economy. - achieving an appropriate level of development without a reduction in environmental quality, now or in the future. - reducing the need for travel through careful consideration 	<p>The LDF will have regard for the saved policies within the Plan. The LDF will eventually replace the saved policies contained in the Plan.</p>

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	of the location of new development and the encouragement of alternatives to private motorised transport.	
Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Joint Minerals Local Plan 1996 – 2006 (Saved Policies)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The Minerals Local Plan sets out the key priorities for working deposits of sand and gravel, rock, coal and clay.</p> <p>Certain policies from the Minerals Local Plan have been saved beyond September 2007.</p>	<p>Key objectives of the plan include the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preserve or enhance the quality of life for everyone; - preserve or enhance the natural and built environment; - encourage sensitive working practices so that the adverse impacts on the environment of mineral operations, and transport of minerals, are minimised; and - ensure land reclaimed after mineral working is suitable for a beneficial and sustainable use. <p>The SA will ensure sustainable development and protection of the environment are priorities.</p>	<p>The LDF should ensure that mineral resources are prudently used.</p>
Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Joint Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Saved Policies)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>This is Shropshire's overarching planning document which provides a county-wide policy framework to which Local Plans adhered.</p> <p>Certain policies from the Structure Plan have been saved beyond September 2007.</p>	<p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conserving natural resources; - reducing waste; - protecting local distinctiveness; - improving overall quality of life for Shropshire residents; - supporting rural economy; - reducing the need to travel; and - reducing pollution. 	<p>The LDF will incorporate objectives that aim to conserve natural resources and protect local distinctiveness.</p>
Shropshire Waste Local Plan 2002-2014 (Saved Policies) (Shropshire County Council, 2004)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The aim of the plan is to provide a sustainable land-use planning policy framework for waste management in Shropshire, having regard to the Best Practicable Environmental Option, regional self-sufficiency, the proximity principle and the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>Certain policies from the Waste Local Plan have been saved beyond September 2007.</p>	<p>Objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring there is an integrated network of waste management facilities, contributing to regional self sufficiency; - avoiding the location of waste management facilities where they could cause harm to human health or incur unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment; - minimisation of effects of transporting waste; and - assisting economic growth and employment in Shropshire. <p>The SA will to consider waste management.</p>	<p>The LDF will need to consider the aims of the saved policies of the Waste Local Plan.</p>
South Shropshire Local Plan 2004-2011 (Saved Policies) (South Shropshire District Council, 2005)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF

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<p>The South Shropshire Local Plan sets out the sustainable development objectives and planning requirements for development in South Shropshire.</p> <p>Certain policies from the South Shropshire Local Plan have been saved beyond March 2008.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out to achieve sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focusing development in the market towns and main villages, with Ludlow and Craven Arms the principal centres for growth; - providing a range and choice of housing, incorporating provision of affordable housing; and - conservation of nature and the landscape. 	<p>The LDF will have regard for the saved policies within the Plan. The LDF will eventually replace the saved policies contained in the Local Plan.</p>
Local Housing Strategies (Shropshire's Districts and Boroughs)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>Shropshire's District and Borough Councils have each published Housing Strategies. The periods covered are:</p> <p>Bridgnorth 2007-2012 North Shropshire 2007-2010 Oswestry 2006-2009 Shrewsbury and Atcham 2006-2009 South Shropshire 2004-2009</p> <p>A Shropshire wide housing Strategy is under development in parallel with production of the LDF.</p>	<p>Strategic objectives include:</p> <p>Bridgnorth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preventing homelessness; meeting gypsies and travellers needs; resident inclusion; delivering decent homes in public and private stock; and maximising land for affordable housing. <p>North Shropshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - delivering a range of affordable housing; bringing empty properties back into stock; preventing and managing homelessness; maximising independence of vulnerable people; and working with partners to achieve high level of service to public sector housing. <p>Oswestry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing supply of affordable housing; improving housing stock; providing supported housing and housing support services for vulnerable people; improving services to the homeless; meeting needs of gypsies and travellers; and delivering equality of access. <p>Shrewsbury and Atcham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing supply of affordable housing for local people; preventing homelessness and providing housing options; investing in private sector renewal; and energy conservation and sustainability. <p>South Shropshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring adequate supply of suitable land for developing sustainable communities; maintaining balance between 	<p>The Strategies set out the local priorities for the delivery of effective housing provision. The LDF should have consideration for the objectives of these Strategies.</p> <p>The LDF should also have regard for the emerging Shropshire wide Housing Strategy.</p>

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	private and social homes; providing good access for local people; ensuring all stock is well maintained; and pursuing highest management standards from Registered Social Landlords.	
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) (Halcrow and Shropshire Districts and Boroughs, 2007)		
Main elements	Key objectives relevant to the LDF and SA	Implications for the LDF
<p>The SFRA is a strategic document which refines information on the probability of flooding and other sources of flooding (surface water, groundwater, foul and combined sewers, canals and reservoirs) and takes into account the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Phase One of the Strategic Flood Risk assessment has been completed for all Boroughs and Districts within Shropshire. Phase Two is underway.</p>	<p>The SFRA provides the basis for the Sequential Test (following the guidance in PPS25) which seeks to locate new development in appropriate areas based on the development's vulnerability to flooding.</p> <p>The SA process will pay particular attention to flood risk issues as it affects a number of settlements throughout the County.</p>	<p>The LDF must place a great emphasis on the need for effective flood risk management due to the geographic nature of many of Shropshire's towns and villages.</p> <p>The LDF must also ensure that policies promote development that does not lead to an increased possibility of flooding.</p>

Appendix C: Key social, environmental and economic baseline data

Table 1: Shropshire's population structure

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Current Population</i>	Shropshire 2005: 289,000 Bridgnorth: 52,200 North Shropshire: 59,100 Oswestry: 39,200 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 96,300 South Shropshire: 42,300	Shropshire 1991: 268,700 Bridgnorth: 50,600 North Shropshire: 53,500 Oswestry: 34,300 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 92,100 South Shropshire: 38,300	% Population increase since 1991: Shropshire - 7.2% West Midlands – 2.6% England – 5.3%	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Forecasted % Population Growth</i>	2006 – 2026: Bridgnorth: 7.7% North Shropshire: 18.8% Oswestry: 25.7% Shrewsbury & Atcham: 6.6% South Shropshire: 18.9%	No comparison available	The growth rates are based on ONS forecasts which are significantly higher than previous local forecasts.	ONS
<i>Population Density</i>	Shropshire 2005: 0.9 persons per hectare	West Midlands 2005 – 4.10 persons per hectare England 2005 – 3.86 persons per hectare	Shropshire is one of the most sparsely populated counties in England. The urban areas of Shrewsbury and Oswestry have the county's highest densities whilst rural areas in South Shropshire have the lowest.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Diversity of Population</i>	Shropshire: White – 98.8% Black or Black British – 0.1% Asian or Asian British – 0.3% Mixed – 0.4% Chinese or other ethnic group – 0.4%	West Midlands: White – 88.7% Black or Black British – 2% Asian or Asian British – 7.3% Mixed – 1.4% Chinese or other ethnic group – 0.6%	Shropshire has a much less diverse population than both regional and national figures in terms of its ethnic make up.	2001 Census

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<i>Age structure of Shropshire</i>	Shropshire 2006: 0 – 15 years: 18.2% 16 – 29 years: 14.3% 30 – 44 years: 20.1% 45 – Retirement Age (RA): 24.5% RA – 74: 13.6% 75+: 9.2%	England 2006: 0 – 15 years: 19.0% 16 – 29 years: 18.3% 30 – 44 years: 22.1% 45 – Retirement Age (RA): 21.9% RA – 74: 10.9% 75+: 7.7%	Since 1991 the number of people of retirement age in Shropshire has increased faster than national averages. The South of the County has the highest percentage of retirement age population at 25.3%. The number of people in Shropshire aged 16-29 has fallen by twice the national average since 1991. Shropshire has seen a slower percentage rise than national averages in its population between ages 30 – 44	Mid Year Estimates, ONS 2007
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Table 2. Housing and accommodation

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Housing completions for Shropshire's existing local authority areas</i>	2006/07 Shropshire - 1180 Bridgnorth: 175 North Shropshire: 235 Oswestry: 261 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 270 South Shropshire: 239	2005/06 Shropshire - 1295 Bridgnorth: 126 North Shropshire: 405 Oswestry: 233 Shrewsbury & Atcham: 341 South Shropshire: 190	The draft Regional target for the whole of Shropshire is 1285 dwelling completions per year, 310 of which should be in Shrewsbury Town (acting as a New Growth Point) Net housing completions in Shropshire have maintained fairly consistent levels over the past 10 years.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Development Trends Report'
<i>Average house prices (£)</i>	2006: Shropshire – 205,464 West Midlands – 172,697 England – 210,557	2001: Shropshire – 108,681 West Midlands – 98,457 England – 122,426	House prices in Shropshire are considerably higher than average regional prices, and have seen a sharper rise than both regional and national trends. On average the highest house prices are in South Shropshire with the lowest in Oswestry.	Land Registry Data
<i>Income ratio and affordability by existing local authority area (Ratio of lower quartile house prices to lower quartile incomes)</i>	2006: Bridgnorth – 11.26 North Shropshire – 7.97 Oswestry – 7.50 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 8.07 South Shropshire – 10.24 West Midlands – 6.78 England – 7.12	2001: Bridgnorth – 5.30 North Shropshire – 4.45 Oswestry – 3.51 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 4.48 South Shropshire – 6.02 West Midlands – 3.47 England – 3.65	The ratio between average house prices and average incomes has widened significantly in all areas of Shropshire since 2001, greater than regional or national averages. South Shropshire and Bridgnorth have seen the most significant rises.	Shropshire and Herefordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2007)
<i>Affordable housing completions</i>	2003-2007: North Area – 243 (44%)		Over the past five years the North Area of the county has seen the most affordable housing completions,	SCC (Sustainability Group) Development

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
	Central Area – 108 (20%) South Area – 194 (36%)		while the Central Area has had the fewest. County wide, affordable dwelling completions have seen a decrease since a peak of 185 in 2004/05.	Trends Report
<i>Single Person households</i>	All single households 2001: Shropshire – 32,575 Below pensionable age, 2001: Shropshire – 15,012	All single households 1991: Shropshire – 25,439 Below pensionable age, 1991: Shropshire – 9,898	The highest increases of below pensionable age single households generally came in the urban areas of Shrewsbury and Oswestry, The highest increase in single pensionable households was generally in the rural market towns. Projections indicate that the percentage of single person households in Shropshire will rise from 29% in 2004 to 38% by 2026.	2001 Census, 2004 based household projections
<i>Households in priority need of housing</i>	2006: Bridgnorth – 65 North Shropshire – 85 Oswestry – 105 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 180 South Shropshire - 100	2005: Bridgnorth – 60 North Shropshire – 205 Oswestry – 70 Shrewsbury & Atcham – 295 South Shropshire - 105	Shrewsbury and North Shropshire have seen a recent significant fall in priority need levels, whilst Bridgnorth and Oswestry levels have risen slightly.	
<i>Overcrowding (occupancy rates) 2001</i>	Percentage of households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less (one room too few or less) North – 3.3% Central – 4.1% South – 2.9% Shropshire – 3.5%	Percentage of households with an occupancy rating of -1 or less (one room too few or less) West Midlands – 5.6% England – 7.1%	It is considered that 3% of Shropshire's households live in overcrowded conditions, compared with 7% nationally and 6% regionally. Over 4,000 households live in overcrowded conditions, with particular pockets of overcrowding located in a number of urban wards in Shrewsbury.	Census 2001
<i>Gypsies and Traveller accommodation needs</i>	LA Pitch Requirements 2007-2012: Shropshire: 63 additional pitches; (North: 30) (Central: 10) (South: 23)			Sub Regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GATT) 2008

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Table 3: Safer communities

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Crime Levels</i>	Percentage of population living within the 20% most deprived SOA's* nationally: North: 3% Central: 8% South: 2% Shropshire: 4% * Super Output Areas (SOAs) are geographic layers used to map areas. Shropshire has 39 SOAs.	No data available	Crime levels are relatively low in Shropshire. Concentrations of crime do however occur in the main centres of population. Whilst only having 33% of the county's population, the central area has a 42% share of all crime in Shropshire. It is forecast that whilst volume crime has been reduced in Shropshire recently, this trend is set to plateau or slightly increase in the longer term.	IMD / Home Office
<i>Fear and perception of crime</i>	The vast majority of Shropshire residents feel very safe in their neighbourhood after dark. Residents in the Central and North Areas of the county feel less safe in comparison with the South.	No data available	The most common types of crime the people of Shropshire fear are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism (criminal damage); • Car crime; • Burglary 	
<i>Anti social behaviour</i>	There were 8619 anti social behaviour incidents between April and August 2007. This was split: North – 2639 Central – 3977 South - 2003	No data available	Trends in anti social behaviour reflect the concentrations of population in Shropshire, with the highest number of incidents occurring in the Shrewsbury area.	West Mercia Police Incident Data, 2007

Table 4: Economy, skills and employment

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Working age population as a % of total population (2006)</i>	Shropshire: 58.9% North: 59.4% Central: 59.5% South: 57.9%	West Midlands: 61.2% GB: 62.3%	The proportion of working age population in Shropshire as a whole and in its 3 sub areas is lower than both regional and national levels. The lowest proportion is in the south of the county, reflecting the older age structure in that area.	Shropshire Partnership – LAA Evidence Base 2007
<i>Economically active people 2006/07</i>	Shropshire: 81.7%	West Midlands: 77.2% GB: 78.5%	Steady increase in the amount of economically active people in Shropshire over the last 3 years.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Unemployment 2006/07</i>	Shropshire: 4.2%	West Midlands: 5.7% GB: 5.2%	Shropshire's unemployment rate is lower than both national and regional figures.	Nomis April 2008

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Employee job growth between 1998 and 2006</i>	Shropshire: 17.6% North: 15.7% Central: 19.4% South: 17%	West Midlands: 3.8% England: 8.8%	Job growth in Shropshire has increased faster than both regional and national levels.	Annual Business Inquiry 2007
<i>Employment structure in 2006</i>	Shropshire: Total employee jobs – 107,300 F/T - 64.8% P/T - 35.2%	West Midlands: F/T – 68.8%; P/T – 31.2% GB: F/T – 68.9%; P/T – 31.1%	Shropshire's economic structure shows a higher than average percentage of part time employees, although the current figure is lower than any time in the last 5 years.	Nomis April 2008
<i>In and out commuting levels</i>	Shropshire, 2001: In commuters – 20,786 Out commuters – 33,011	No comparison available	Over time an in-balance between jobs and workers has emerged in Shropshire. In 2001 there was a shortfall of around 12,225 jobs, equivalent to levels of out-commute	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Average size of workplace, 2006</i>	Shropshire: 8.2 people per workplace	West Midlands: 11.8 England: 11	Workplaces in Shropshire employ less people compared with regional and national averages.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Gross weekly pay, 2007</i>	Shropshire: Full Time – £400.2	West Midlands: F/T – £430 GB: F/T - £458.6	Average gross earnings by people working in Shropshire are significantly lower than both the regional and national average.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Employee Jobs by sector 2006</i>	Shropshire: Manufacturing: 12.5% Construction: 6.2% Service sector: 80.1% Within the service sector: 26.4% in distribution, hotels and restaurants 11.6% in Finance, IT, other business activities	GB: Manufacturing: 10.9% Construction: 4.8% Service sector: 82.9% Within the service sector: 23.5% in distribution, hotel, restaurants 21.2% in Finance, IT, other business activities	There is considerable disparity within the service sector between Shropshire and the national picture, especially in the percentage of people employed in Professional activities such as finance and IT, and tourism based jobs such as hotels and restaurants.	Nomis April 2008
<i>Employment in the farming sector</i>	Shropshire, 2006: 12,616 people employed in farming	1988: 14,500 people employed in farming	Between 1988 and 2006 there has been a 13% decline in the number of people employed in the farming sector.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Employment in the tourism sector</i>	Shropshire, 2005: 6,188 equivalent full time jobs in the tourism in Shropshire	No comparison available	In 2005 the tourism sector in Shropshire was worth £457 million	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008
<i>Employment in the Technology and Knowledge sector</i>	Shropshire, 2006: 30.8% of Shropshire's employees were employed in the technology and	West Midlands 2006: 38.3% England 2006: 40.6%	Shropshire has a significantly lower than average percentage of its workers in the technology and knowledge sector compared to regional averages.	Shropshire Economic Profile 2008

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
	knowledge sectors.			
<i>Productivity (Gross Value Added (GVA) per head) in 2004</i>	Shropshire: £13291	West Midlands: £15325 England: £17532	GVA per head in Shropshire between 1995 and 2004 increased at a faster rate than regional levels, but lower than national levels.	Nomis 2007
<i>Qualifications 2006</i>	Shropshire: NVQ level 4 and above: 26.9% NVQ level 1 and above: 82.5%	West Midlands: NVQ level 4 and above: 23.9% NVQ level 1 and above: 74.8% GB: NVQ level 4 and above: 27.4% NVQ level 1 and above: 77.8%	The percentage gaining NVQ level 4 in 2005 and 2006 was increasing slower than national levels. The Central area of the County has statistically the highest percentage of the County's population with no or low qualifications, particularly in the Meole Brace and Harlescott electoral wards.	Nomis April 2008 / Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (education and skills)
<i>Class B employment land completions</i>	Shropshire 06/07: 17.133 ha	Shropshire: 05/06: 12.823 ha 04/05: 13.825 ha	Provisional RSS target for employment land provision: 72 ha five year reservoir (14.4 per year) Class B land completions reached a 10 year peak in 06/07. The majority of these completions were in North Shropshire and Shrewsbury and Atcham.	SCC (Sustainability Group) Development Trend Reports 2007
<i>New business start up / closure rate in 2005</i>	Start up rate Shropshire: 7.1 North: 7.2 Central: 8.6 South: 6.3 Closure rate Shropshire: 6.4 North: 6.7 Central: 6.2 South: 6.2	Start up rate West Midlands: 9.4 UK: 9.6 Closure rate West Midlands: 8.2 UK: 8.3	Business start up rate in Shropshire is highest in the Central area, but overall levels remain below the regional and national average.	Nomis 2006
<i>Shropshire's Retail Hierarchy and rankings, 2007 (based on comparison goods)</i>	Shrewsbury: £ 399million Oswestry: £106 million Bridgnorth: £20 million Ludlow: £60 million	The 2007 Retail Centre Rankings for the West Midlands, ranks Shrewsbury in 9th place, Oswestry in 37th, Ludlow in 41st. Other centres which feature regionally are Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and Ellesmere	Shrewsbury is far and away the largest retail centre in Shropshire and is also classed as a regionally significant centre. Figures from Shropshire's retail capacity studies show there is a 'leakage' from Shropshire's smaller centres to larger centres both in and outside Shropshire.	Experian 2007, Shropshire Council's Retail Capacity Assessments (2006 / 2007)

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
		The predicted 2017 Retail Centre Rankings show little or no change for these centres.		
<i>Estimate of future retail growth by current district boundary in 2006 / 2007</i>	Bridgnorth: 5.2% South Shropshire: 4.6% Shrewsbury: 5.2% Oswestry: 4.2% North Shropshire: Not Known	RSS Regional Centres Study 2007: 4.4%	The forecasts for South Shropshire and Oswestry Districts carried out in 2007 indicate less growth compared to the Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury forecasts carried out in 2006. This partly reflects the less buoyant national economic climate in 2007.	Shropshire Council's Retail Capacity Assessments (2006 / 2007)

Table 5: Transport and accessibility

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Percentage of households with no car</i>	Shropshire: 17.7 North: 17.6 Central: 20.0 South: 15.2 (Rural areas: 8.3, Urban areas – 22.5)	West Midlands: 26.8 England: 26.8	There are significantly higher levels of car ownership in Shropshire than regional or national levels, particularly in the predominantly rural South Area of the County.	Census 2001
<i>Traffic and Congestion</i>	No. of cars entering Shrewsbury Town Centre 2006/07: 22,000 No quantitative data for other areas of Shropshire	1997/08: 28,000 2003/04: 25,000 2005/06: 23,000	Local Transport Plan (LTP) Target: No increase in peak traffic flows in Shrewsbury. Apart from a slight rise between 2003 and 2005 there has been a steady decrease in the number of cars entering Shrewsbury town centre.	LTP monitoring
<i>Travel to work: Average distances travelled</i>	Total average for Shropshire: 15.88 km Over 10km: 32.9% Over 30km: 9%	No quantitative data available	Shropshire residents travel longer distances to work compared to the regional and national averages	
<i>Travel to work Patterns (% use of different transport modes)</i>	Shropshire 2001: Car – 65.6 Bus – 3.6 Train – 0.7 Motorcycle – 1.5 Bike – 4.3 Walk/work at home -25.8	Shropshire 1981: Car – 54.3 Bus – 6.0 Train – 0.7 Motorcycle – 2.7 Bike – 5.6 Walk/work at home – 20.7	The private car is by far the most used mode of transport to work in Shropshire, increasing significantly over the past 20 years.	Census 2001

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Percentage of people travelling to work by public transport (2001)</i>	Shropshire: 3.5% North: 2.3% Central: 5.6% South: 2.5%	West Midlands: 10.5% England: 14.9%	The percentage people travelling to work by public transport in Shropshire are significantly lower than regional and national levels, particularly in the north and south of the county.	Census 2001
<i>Road safety</i>	No. of people killed and seriously injured on Shropshire roads (2006/07): 139	2005/06: 162	LTP Target: Total killed and seriously injured casualties. The most recent figures show a fall of 29% in deaths and serious injuries.	LTP monitoring
<i>Accessibility: Percentage of people within 30 mins by public transport¹ and walking² to key services and facilities</i>	Primary school: 88 Secondary school: 87 GP/Health clinic: 81 Market town: 73 Supermarket: 72 Employment destinations: 66 Public leisure centres: 66 HNS Registered dentist: 65 Public Library: 54 Sixth form college: 42 Further Education colleges: 41 Hospitals (out patient): 30 Major town centre: 29 Hospitals (acute services): 15		LTP Targets: - 70% people of working age to access a key employment destination within 45 mins by public transport that operates at least hourly on six days per week - 69% of rural households to access a town centre by public transport or demand responsive transport that is available on at least two days per week	Census 2001
<i>Accessibility: % of people able to access a market town centre by public transport available at least two days per week</i>	2006/07: 57% (all rural households) 64% (rural households with no access to a car)	No comparison data available	Shropshire County Council is currently preparing a new Rural Transport Strategy to improve public transport in rural areas of the county. The strategy's overall target is 95% of all rural households (with or without a car) to be able to access a market town by public transport which runs at least two times a week.	

1 Bus and Rail

2 Maximum distance of 800 meters

Table 6: Health, recreation and sport

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Percentage of people living in health deprivation</i>	Shropshire: 2% North: 0% Central: 3%		Health deprivation is primarily confined to the Central and, to a lesser extent, South areas of County. Harlescott, Monkmoor and Ludlow Henley wards fall within the fifth most deprived	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2004

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
	South:1%		wards nationally.	
<i>Percentage of people in 'not good' health</i>	Shropshire: 8.5% North: 8.6% Central: 8.3% South: 8.5%	West Midlands: 9.7% England: 9%	Over 70% of Shropshire residents consider themselves in 'good' health, higher than the national average. Specific wards considered in least good health are Gobowen, Monkmoor, Bagley, Market Drayton and Ludlow Henley.	2001 Censes data
<i>Percentage of people with a limiting long-term illness</i>	Shropshire: 17.9% North: 18.4% Central: 17.5% South: 17.9%	West Midlands: 18.9% England: 17.9%	The number of people with a limiting long-term illness has increased from 12% in 1991 to 18% in 2001. The South Area saw the highest increase due to the large increase of older people in the area. Specific wards with the highest proportion include Gobowen, Ludlow Henley, Market Drayton North, Church Stretton North and Ludlow St Lawrence.	2001 Census data
<i>Physically active people</i>	Percentage of people who do thirty minutes physical activity at least three times a week Shropshire: 22.1%	West Midlands: 19.3% GB: 21.0%	The number of people in Shropshire engaged in physical activity is slightly above the regional and national average.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>People engaged in organised sport</i>	Percentage of people who have taken part in organised sport in the last twelve months. Shropshire: 16.9%	West Midlands: 13.9% GB: 15.0%	Shropshire's percentage of people engaged in organised sport is above both the regional and national levels.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>Recreational Cycling</i>	Number of days with recreational cycling of at least 30 minutes over a four week period: Shropshire: None 91.1% 1-6 days 6.6% 7-10 days 1.0% 12 or more 1.3%	West Midlands: None - 92.6% 1-6 days - 5.4% 7-10 days - 0.8% 12 or more - 1.1% England: None - 91.4% 1-6 days - 6.3% 7-10 days - 1.0% 12 or more - 1.3%	The number of Shropshire's residents participating in recreational cycling is consistent with both the regional and national figures.	Sport England's Active People survey December 2006
<i>Recreational Walking</i>	Number of days with recreational walking of at least 30 minutes over a four week period:	West Midlands: None - 55.0% 1-6 days -	Shropshire has a higher number of people undertaking a larger number of walks than the regional and national figures with 20% undertaking recreational walks over 30 minutes at	Sport England's Active People survey

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
	Shropshire: None - 44.1% 1-6 days - 28.7% 7-10 days - 8.0% 12 or more - 19.3%	24.6% 7-10 days - 6.1% 12 or more - 14.3% England: None - 52.5% 1-6 days - 26.0% 7-10 days - 6.7% 12 or more - 14.9%	least 12 times or more in a four week period (at least 3 times a week).	December 2006
<i>Open space Provision</i>	Shropshire has well over 2000 open spaces ranging from parks and gardens, through childrens' play areas, amenity land and civic space, to allotments and churchyards.		North Shropshire, Oswestry and Shrewsbury & Atcham have carried out recent studies to audit provision, identify local needs, recommend provision standards and protect existing facilities. South Shropshire and Bridgnorth are currently undertaking studies.	Local open space studies, Shropshire councils and PMP
<i>Green Infrastructure</i>	Green infrastructure is the network of open spaces that enhances biodiversity, positively affects community well being, and provides key routes for sustainable travel and leisure activities.		Effective green infrastructure throughout Shropshire will ensure that developments including new open spaces are linked to existing networks. This is particularly important for Shrewsbury and the market towns although green infrastructure links all settlements.	Shrewsbury and Atcham TEP Green Infrastructure report 2008
<i>Countryside Access</i>	Shropshire has 5,500kms of rights of way and 10,000hectares of accessible open land.		Access for walkers is generally good throughout Shropshire. The Shropshire Hills and Clun Hills have the best access for all users. Demand for access is highest in the Shropshire Plains area although this holds only a quarter of the rights of way network.	Countryside Access Strategy (Consultation Draft) SCC 2007

Table 7: Carbon emissions and energy

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>CO₂ Emissions per sector (estimate)</i>	<p>Shropshire emissions for 2006 (kt CO₂) (percentage of total emissions in brackets):</p> <p>Industrial and Commercial: 925 (34%) Domestic: 746 (27%) Road Transport: 986 (36%) Land use, land use & forestry: 73 (3%)</p> <p>Total 2730 Kt CO₂</p>	<p>Shropshire emissions for 2005</p> <p>Industrial and Commercial: 895 (33%) Domestic: 730 (27%) Road Transport: 1002 (37%) Land use, land use change & forestry: 76 (3%) Total: 2704 kt CO₂</p> <p>West Midlands (kt CO₂) (2005): Industry and Commercial: 18773 (41%) Domestic: 12666 (27%) Road Transport: 14209 (31%) Land use, land use change & Forestry: 358 (1%)</p>	<p>Road transport provides the highest CO₂ emissions within Shropshire (36% of total emissions) and reflects the rural nature of the County and the distances between settlements. The relatively high percentage from Land use, land use change and forestry also reflects the importance of agricultural industries within Shropshire.</p>	<p>Local and Regional Estimates Carbon emissions by End User summary 2006 Defra 2008</p>
<i>Energy Consumption in Shropshire by sector (GWh) (estimate)</i>	<p>Shropshire energy consumption for 2005 (GWh) (percentage of total consumption in brackets): Industry and Commercial: 2714.8 (30%) Domestic: 2600.7 (28%) Road Transport: 3830.6 (42%) Total: 9146.1</p>	<p>West Midlands (GWh): Industry and Commercial: 56,021.9 (36%) Domestic: 50,486.2 (32%) Road Transport: 49964.7 (32%)</p>	<p>Transport accounts for nearly half of the energy consumption in Shropshire reflecting the rural nature of the County.</p> <p>Experimental energy consumption data for 2003 and 2004 are not comparable with 2005.</p>	<p>Total final energy consumption at regional and local authority level – DBERR 2008</p>
<i>Renewable energy potential</i>	<p>Shropshire has capacity for several kinds of renewable energy, including biomass, landfill gas, small scale hydro, waste, solar and wind. Whilst renewable energy potential is high, output to date has been low with less than 1% of Shropshire's total energy.</p>		<p>Ironbridge power station now co-fires with biomass and produced 19,759 MWh electricity from biomass (April 06-March 07). The South Shropshire biowaste digester in Ludlow, taking food and garden waste, started operating in 2006 and generated 35MWh of which a proportion was exported to the grid.</p>	<p>Shropshire Energy Team / Halcrow, 1997 SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'</p>

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Energy efficiency</i>	No data exists regarding energy efficiency within Shropshire.		The energy hierarchy ranks energy efficiency higher than renewable energy production.	SCC (Sustainability Group) 'Shropshire Profile'
<i>Fuel Poverty (where more than 10% of income is spent on adequately heating homes)</i>	Shropshire has a high rate of fuel poverty with around 20,000 households considered to be affected. Rural areas to the south are particularly affected. The majority of people in fuel poverty (around 80%) live in poorly heated and un-insulated homes	1.5 million households considered to be in fuel poverty in England in 2005.	Fuel prices are increasing well above the rate of inflation which will lead to the possibility of more fuel poverty within the County. 'Keep Shropshire Warm', funded by Defra, aims to reduce fuel poverty by providing effective energy efficiency advice and grants for insulation.	Fuel Poverty Advisory Group 6 th Annual report 2007 'Keep Shropshire Warm' organisation
<i>Low carbon communities</i>	The Low Carbon Communities is a pilot project run by SCC and Marches Energy Agency to increase energy efficiency in Shropshire in three areas: Ellesmere, Cleobury Mortimer and 'Floodplain community' (Kinnerley and Molverley Parishes).		The programme seeks a 5.88% (3820 tonnes) reduction in carbon usage by April 2009. The Low Carbon Communities for Business has funding to expand to encompass the whole of the Rural Regeneration Zone (RRZ) which encompasses a large proportion of Shropshire and Hereford.	SCC Sustainability Team

Table 8: The natural environment

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Number and Condition of SSSIs</i>	Shropshire has 123 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs): Condition of SSSIs (April 2008), % area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • favourable – 30.52% • unfavourable and recovering – 52.26% • unfavourable no change – 14.88% • unfavourable declining – 2.07% 	Condition of SSSIs (2006), % area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • favourable – 27.07% • unfavourable and recovering – 39.14% • unfavourable no change – 29.16% • unfavourable and declining – 4.35% 	Public Service Agreement (PSA) target: 95% SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010 % area meeting PSA target as of April 2008 – 82.78%	Natural England
<i>Biodiversity Enhancement</i>	There are a number of BEAs within Shropshire: The Shropshire Hills,	14 BEAs have been defined within the West Midlands Regional Spatial	Defining these areas means working at the 'landscape scale' to focus funding and	West Midlands Biodiversity

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Areas (BEAs)</i>	Oswestry Uplands, Mere and Mosses (north and south), Wrekin to Wenlock Edge, and Clee Hills. The regional 'Landscapes for Living' project is currently providing information to update the BEAs.	Strategy. 'Landscapes for Living' has mapped the Region and is moving on to sub-regional maps. The maps cover the whole land area and are divided into broad categories showing high to low existing biodiversity and approaches to managing biodiversity in each category.	reduce the impacts of climate change, habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity. The Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership use the national Biodiversity Action Reporting System to report on biodiversity enhancement works within BEAs. Regional identification will improve awareness of the need to protect, enhance and connect these areas.	Partnership Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan – SCC (2006 Revision)
<i>Populations of species and areas of priority habitat</i>	Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (2006 revision) includes specific Action Plans for 22 habitats and 55 species.		Targets for Shropshire's priority habitat and species are included in Shropshire's Biodiversity Action Plan and reported on through the Biodiversity Action Reporting System. Setting of targets for most habitats and some species are hampered by a lack of base-line data and therefore changes can not be determined.	Shropshire Biodiversity Action Plan – SCC (2006 Revision)
<i>Shropshire Ecological Data Network</i>	Species and habitat records are generated and maintained by a range of specialist volunteer groups/NGOs as well as Local Authorities, private consultancies and Government Agencies.		Shropshire currently does not have a typical Local Record Centre for biological data. The Shropshire Ecological Data Network was set up in 2007 to start to co-ordinate easy access to species and habitat data. SWT are collating species data and Shropshire County Council is collecting and generating habitat data, in partnership with other recording groups.	Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) /Shropshire County Council
<i>Habitat Indicator Species Mapping</i>	These are a range of maps showing overall biodiversity density, location of key areas for priority habitats and potential resilience of biodiversity to climate change.		These maps provide a means of identifying networks of habitats, producing biodiversity alert maps for development control and a range of other applications.	
<i>Inventory of Local Wildlife Sites (Local Site System)</i>	Shropshire has around 550 local Wildlife Sites encompassing the areas of highest biodiversity in the county, outside nationally designated sites.	Decisions on addition and deletion of sites are made twice a year by the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership	National Indicator 197: Improved local biodiversity – active management of Local Sites.	Shropshire Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Local Wildlife Sites Partnership.

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Landscape types</i>	<p>Shropshire has 7 key landscape areas either totally or partially within its boundary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oswestry Uplands; • Meres and Mosses; • Shropshire Hills; • Clun and North West Herefordshire Hills • Malvern Hills and Teme Valley; • Midlands Plateau; • Central Herefordshire (a small part of which is in South Shropshire) <p>On a more localised scale Shropshire has 27 distinctive landscape types recognised through the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>		There are a number of landscape types that exist in certain parts of the county and add to the make up of a locally distinctive Shropshire environment. These include: Open Moorland only in the Shropshire Hills; wooded hills and farmland predominantly in the South West; Wooded Hills and Estatelands only in Southern Shropshire along Wenlock Edge; Sandstone Hills within North Shropshire; and Sandstone Estatelands in the East.	Shropshire Landscape Character Assessment - SCC 2006
<i>Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</i>	The Shropshire Hills AONB covers 806.66 sq km to the south of Shropshire.	There are 4 AONBs in the West Midlands region.	The Government has outlined its planning policy towards AONBs in PPS7 – 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas'.	
<i>Geology</i>	<p>Shropshire has over 300 regional important sites or rocks that reflect all but 2 of the internationally recognised divisions of geological time. Shropshire is also famed for fossils including the Condoover Mammoth, Grinshill Rhynchosaurus and Ludlow Bone Bed.</p>		Threats to Shropshire's geology come from the natural deterioration of exposed rock exposures and infilling of old quarries.	Shropshire Geodiversity Action Plan – SCC 2007
<i>Light Pollution</i>	<p>Amount of unnatural light shown by percentage of Shropshire's area for the year 2000.</p> <p>(measurements: 0 = no unnatural light, 50 = brighter, 255 = saturated with light):</p> <p>0 - 1.70 18% 1.71 - 50 18%</p>	<p>1993 figures:</p> <p>0 - 1.70 24% 1.71 – 50 45% 50.01 - 150 26% 150.01 - 240 4% 240.01 - 255 1%</p>	Shropshire has a significant proportion of dark skies (predominantly in South/South West). However, light pollution is growing in the County. The 'saturated light' area remains around Shrewsbury and brighter areas are occurring in Oswestry, Whitchurch and Bridgnorth.	Light Pollution Map: West Midlands - CPRE 2003

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
	50.01 - 150 58% 150.01 - 240 5% 240.01 - 255 1%			
<i>Noise</i>	High levels of noise disturbance around Shrewsbury, Oswestry and along transport routes A5, A49. A significant proportion of the South of Shropshire has many of the region's areas regarded as 'most tranquil'.		Shropshire is regarded as 'tranquil', although noise disturbance has increased steadily in the last 50 years. Potential sources of noise pollution may be industrial works, traffic noise or localised residential areas.	Tranquillity Map for Shropshire – CPRE 2007
<i>Contaminated Land</i>	No data exists relating to the extent of contaminated land within the County.	The Environment Agency estimates that nationally there are up to 300,000 hectares of contaminated land, as defined by Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, amounting to as many as 100,000 sites.	Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to address the issue of contaminated land alongside ensuring sites are cleaned up through planning conditions attached to consents. They have to undertake a review of land that might fall into the Part IIA definition of contaminated from 'time to time'.	Dealing with Contaminated Land in England - Environment Agency 2002
<i>Soil quality</i>	There is currently a lack of data on the quality of soil in Shropshire. It is hoped that future strategies can provide a better overall baseline for this issue.	No available data	No available data	

Table 9: Built and historic environment

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Number of listed buildings</i>	Shropshire has 6,719 listed buildings: 99 at Grade I 457 at Grade II* 6,163 at Grade II	Number in GB: Listed buildings in West Midlands: 34,276	Shropshire has around 20% of the region's listed buildings and 31% of the region's scheduled monuments. This reflects the rich heritage of Shropshire and its significant contribution to the region's cultural and historical diversity.	DCMS are currently responsible for Listing and Scheduling, advised by English Heritage
<i>Scheduled Monuments</i>	Shropshire also has 433 Scheduled Monuments	Scheduled Monuments in West Midlands: 1,444	Shropshire has nearly 30% of the Region's Scheduled Monuments. 29% of the Region's Scheduled Monuments are at 'High Risk' while 34% are at 'Medium Risk'	English Heritage – 'West Midlands Heritage at Risk' Survey 2008

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
			Shropshire has 13 Scheduled Monuments at risk from stock erosion	
<i>Number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk register</i>	33 buildings are considered to be at risk in Shropshire. This includes Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments	West Midlands: 179 Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk GB: 1235 Grade I, II* and Scheduled Ancient Monuments at risk	Shropshire has a significant number of the region's buildings at risk at (due to the significant proportion of listed buildings and scheduled monuments). The reduction in the numbers of buildings at risk is a national, regional and local aim. Local Buildings at Risk Registers exist for Bridgnorth, North Shropshire and Shrewsbury & Atcham and a survey is currently being undertaken for Oswestry.	Buildings at Risk register English Heritage 2007
<i>Number of registered historic parks and gardens</i>	Shropshire has 29 historic parks and gardens: 1 Grade I, 24 Grade II* and 4 Grade II registered historic parks and gardens 1 Registered Battlefield for Battle of Shrewsbury, 1403	No available data		
<i>Number of conservation areas</i>	Shropshire has 117 conservation areas. BDC: 34 NSDC: 16 OBC: 4 SABC: 17 SSDC: 46	The West Midlands has 737 conservation areas in total.	Conservation areas exist in the town centres of Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Oswestry and Shrewsbury. They reflect the architectural and historic value of the areas.	Local Authorities
<i>World Heritage Site</i>	The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site was designated due the areas unique contribution to the Industrial Revolution and sits partially within the administrative area of Shropshire. The Pontcysyllte Canal and Aqueduct was nominated by UK as its candidate World Heritage Site in 2007. The Southern end of the canal and its buffer Zone lie in Oswestry Borough. The decision on this designation is due later in 2008.	No available data	The majority of the site lies within Borough of Telford and Wrekin. The area covered by Shropshire is predominantly wooded.	Bridgnorth Local Plan 1996-2011
<i>Historic Environment</i>	Shropshire County Council currently has records of all currently known designated and non-	No available data	The Record provides vital evidence base to support provision of curatorial advice in	Historic Building, Sites and Monuments

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Record</i>	designated historic environment assets in the county. This system is likely to become statutory when the new Heritage Bill is adopted by parliament.		relation to PPG16 and other consultations.	Records database (HBSMR)
<i>Historic Landscape character</i>	The Historic Landscape Character (HLC) assessment identified 52 different Historic Landscape Types, ranging from 20th century suburbs and WWII airfields to ancient field patterns and woodlands. The results have subsequently been integrated with the Landscape Character Assessment.	No available data	Shropshire has a diverse landscape character emerging from different historical time periods.	Draft HLC Final Report – due to be published late 2008. The Shropshire Landscape Typology SCC 2006

Table 10: Water, flood risk and air quality

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Water Quality (Biological)</i>	Shropshire (2006): Good quality – 84.54% Fair – 12.22% Poor – 3.24% Bad – 0%	Shropshire (2005): Good – 83.82% Fair – 13.0% Poor – 1.62% Bad – 1.58% West Midlands (2006): Good – 58.9% Fair – 30.8% Poor – 6.8% Bad – 3.5%	Overall the biological quality of Shropshire's river stretches is significantly better than regional averages. There has been a slight decrease in the overall percentage considered 'good' since 2005. Stretches in North Shropshire compare less favourably than the county average.	Defra
<i>Water Quality (Chemistry)</i>	Shropshire (% , 2006): Good quality – 84.26% Fair – 15.62% Poor – 0% Bad – 0.14%	Shropshire (overall % in 2005): Good – 84.64 Fair – 15.18 Poor – 0.06 Bad – 0.14 West Midlands (% in 2006): Good – 63.8 Fair – 29.6	Overall the chemistry quality of Shropshire's river stretches is significantly better than regional averages. There has been a slight decrease in the overall percentage considered 'good' since 2005. There are significantly less 'good' quality river stretches in the north of the County and a small percentage of river stretch in South Shropshire is considered 'Bad'.	Defra

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
		Poor – 6.0 Bad – 0.6		
<i>Flood Risk</i>	Shropshire has 4473 properties in flood zone 3 (highest risk of flooding) Shrewsbury has an estimated 1000 properties in flood zone 3 Shropshire has 12042 properties in flood zone 2		The Severn is the main watercourse in Shropshire and also a cause of most of the County's severe and frequent flooding incidents. Flooding incidents in Shropshire are significantly higher than other comparable cities.	Shropshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Phase 1
<i>Number of objections made by Environment Agency on flood risk grounds</i>	2006/07: There weren't any planning applications received by the six Shropshire Local Planning Authorities where a decision was made contrary to Environment Agency advice on flood grounds.	Nationally there were 90 planning applications granted against Environment Agency advice on flood grounds.		Environment Agency: High Level Target 5 April 06 – March 07
<i>Water Resources</i>	Shropshire has several key water resource areas known as aquifers, mainly in the central and north of the County and in the Bridgnorth area.	No available data	Planning policies should reflect the need to maintain a sustainable water resource in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and reflect the Environment Agency's 'Water Resources for the Future' strategy.	Council documentation
<i>Air Quality</i>	Shropshire has 5 Air Quality Management Areas* (AQMAs), 3 of which are located in Shrewsbury, 1 in Oswestry and 1 in Bridgnorth. (* if it is anticipated that national Air Quality Objectives will not be met for particular areas, the relevant Local Authority should designate that area an AQMA)	No available data	The UK Air Quality Strategy includes a range of objectives for local authorities for reducing air pollution to human health and vegetation and ecosystems. In 2006 Shrewsbury's AQMA encompassing the Frankwell and Smithfield Rd area was expanded to include the wider town centre.	UK Air Quality Archive,

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Table 11: Material resources

Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>The production of land won aggregates in Shropshire</i>	Sand & Gravel production - 2005: 0.829 Million Tonnes (MT) Crushed Rock production – 2005: 2.51 MT	Sand & Gravel production - 2004: 0.840 MT 2003: 0.822 MT Crushed Rock production – 2004: 2.47 MT 2003: 2.46 MT	Production of both Sand & Gravel and Crushed Rock has remained at fairly consistent levels since 2003, and has remained at levels consistent with Shropshire’s regional annual apportionment set out in the West Midlands RSS.	RAWP Annual Monitoring Report 2005
<i>The use of alternative aggregates in Shropshire</i>	West Midlands Sub Region (Shropshire, Staffordshire and Telford & Wrekin): 36% (1.58 MT) of construction and demolition waste produced used as secondary aggregate.	No comparison available	There is a lack of data for Shropshire specifically on the amount of recycled aggregate used.	CDEW Survey of Arisings and Use of Alternatives to Primary Aggregate in England 2005
<i>Total Waste generated in Shropshire</i>	2005: 1.22 MT of waste was generated in Shropshire. - 45% from commercial and industrial businesses; - 40% from construction and demolition sector - 15% from municipal waste	No available data	No reliable trend data is available	Local waste management data
<i>Management of waste in Shropshire (all waste streams)</i>	2004/05: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill – 36%; • Recycled – 47% • Other recovery – 17% 	No available data	No reliable trend data is available	Local waste management data
<i>Management of municipal waste in Shropshire</i>	2006/07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill – 62%; • Composted – 18% • Recycled – 20% 	2001/02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landfill – 92%; • Composted – 1% • Recycled – 8% 	<i>Landfill Directive:</i> Reduce the amount of Biodegradable Municipal Waste (BMW) going to landfill to 75% of 1995 levels by 2010. Current trends show there has been a significant sea change in the way municipal waste management is handled in Shropshire. However, whilst rates are falling, landfill continues to be the main type waste management used for municipal waste.	Local waste management data
<i>Biodegradable</i>	Shropshire:	Shropshire:	The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) provides	Local waste management

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Issue	Data	Comparators / Time Series	Targets / Trends	Source
<i>Municipal Waste Diversion Rates (away from landfill)</i>	2006/07 - 39%	2005/06 – 38%	a year-on-year target diversion rate for BMW away from landfill for each Local Waste Authority. Whilst Shropshire is currently performing well ahead of the LATS targets, these targets will become increasingly difficult to hit by 2012/13 without sufficient new waste infrastructure.	data

Appendix D: Consultation responses to the sustainability appraisals

Scoping Report

Table 1: Consultation responses to the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
English Heritage	Relevant plans and programmes	1	The Scoping Report needs to include the following key Plans: World Heritage Convention; National Draft Circular on World Heritage Sites; Regional Visitor Economic Strategy (2008); West Midlands Health and Well Being Strategy. Also note a West Midlands Historic Environment Strategy is currently in preparation (completed by the end of the year)	Agree - will incorporate into revised report
English Heritage	Baseline Information	2	Info on Scheduled Monuments recorded as a separate category, including the no. at risk based on county survey from WM survey. Similarly for other designated assets (parks and gardens, battlefield) new at risk data sets should be added and updated for listed buildings. Historic farmstead survey will be another important data set.	Agree - Have used the West Midlands Monuments at Risk report in baseline information
English Heritage	Key Sustainability Issues	3	The first issue should be expanded to other historic assets more generally, not just listed buildings; all contribute to the character and distinctiveness of Shropshire	Agree - Will incorporate the change
English Heritage	Draft SA Framework	6	We strongly recommend the draft SO11 is divided into two separate objectives; one addressing the historic environment and the second on landscape. Recommend that a separate objective on the preservation and enhancement of the historic environment will always be necessary. May also be appropriate to cover historic environment issues in objectives for regeneration, tourism, access to services, quality of life, landscape and townscape. Exact wording for historic environment and landscape SA Objectives are recommended.	Agree - Have split objective on historic environment and landscape/townscape in two. Have used suggested Objective
English Heritage	Draft SA Framework -	8	Should cover the overarching question - "will it protect and enhance sites, features and areas of historical,	Incorporated reference to urban and rural areas and revised supplementary questions accordingly, taking

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
	Supplementary Questions		archaeological and cultural value in both urban and rural areas?" - A range of other supplementary questions are also suggested covering environment, economy and social objectives	into consideration the wide range of suggestions. Given that the SA needs to cover a wide range of issues, it has not been feasible to use the complete set of suggested supplementary questions.
English Heritage	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	State of the environment indicators may not always be the most suitable for the appraisal or monitoring the significant effects of a plan. Indicators need to clearly demonstrate the impact(s) of the plan on the historic environment. Attached table gives examples of potential indicators to describe the area; monitor the type of impact or outcome; track wider policy responses or actions taken to improve the environment, mitigate degradation, and conserve the historic environment. A combination of these is necessary, with priority on significant effect indicators. LPAs should be innovative in developing indicators and keep the monitoring framework under review.	Agree - however, as the SA process is incremental, the indicators by necessity will need to be developed throughout the process, particularly the significant effect indicators. It is agreed that an appropriate mix of indicators is preferred.
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - SA Objectives	6	The sustainability considerations include discussion on the geological heritage of Shropshire which is acknowledged as of international importance. The indicators appear to overlook the geological nature conservation interest of Shropshire. Natural England suggests that either a new objective is given for this or, preferably, objective 12 is re worded to include the geological heritage. It is widely accepted that nature conservation has a wider meaning than just biodiversity and includes geological interest. Natural England suggests 12 could be reworded to include "and geological heritage." At the end of the sentence.	Agree - geological heritage will be included in a revised Objective 12
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - SA Objectives	7	Natural England has some concern that the appraisal does not draw out the impact on species of European interest. We note that a habitat regulations assessment will be undertaken however the ongoing implementation of the plan needs to be assessed against sites and species of European importance if the indicators are to reflect the effects of policy on	Included additional supplementary question 'Protect vulnerable species outside designated sites, as well as other species of European, national and local interest?'

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
			these habitats and species. The habitat regulations review will not cover species outside designated sites. Natural England suggests an objective on the protection and enhancement of European habitats and species is put forward and measurements of habitat and species protection and enhancement is developed along the lines of objective 12. (or objective 12 could be modified)	
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Supplementary Questions	8	There is no question about the public rights of way network. This would seem to be a theme under objective 5 or 7	Agree - The supplementary question 'Conserve and encourage greater use of public rights of way?' has been included for SO7
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 7 could include an indicator of accessible natural green space that uses the national targets put forward by Natural England. This may also be the place to introduce the indicator for rights of way that are managed/accessible and some estimation of the use.	Agree - inserted 'green' open space into indicators
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 9 should include an indicator of the present housing stocks energy and water use efficiency.	Comparable data does not currently exist for levels of energy and water efficiency in new development. Level of fuel poverty is suggested as an alternative indicator for SO2
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 11 needs to have some measure of the protection and enhancement of the landscape. Natural England suggests this could be achieved in two ways, and measured in the sustainability appraisal. One would be to assess Shropshire's landscapes and suggest enhancement of any degraded landscapes by targeting restoration to these areas. This could be done by policy for restoration of areas. The second element would be to protect the landscape from inappropriate development. The potential measures for this include: - development proposals would be required to have landscape impact assessments; and that advice for Natural England and the AONB planning officer should be recorded and followed for developments in or near protected landscapes, with a	Partially agreed - However, a significant effect indicator linked to landscape issues will need to be developed as the SA process develops.

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
			target of following 100% of the advice.	
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 12 should measure the protection and restoration of habitats, species and geological features. The indicator should link into the Shropshire biodiversity and geodiversity action plans, and measure the decisions reached as part of the LDF documents if the sustainability appraisal is to accurately measure the impact of the local development framework planning documents. At present the indicators measure the biodiversity and SSSI targets regardless of how they are reached or what affects them. Natural England suggests that the link between these issues and LDF is made in the following way: - the percentage of times the advice of the nature conservation adviser is followed where biodiversity and geodiversity features are impacted as part of planning proposals. This could then be broken down into the effects on SSSIs, locally important sites, regionally important geological sites, protected species and biodiversity habitats and species. The target should also include enhancements gained through the planning system, for instance new geological exposures or habitat creation (not compensation or mitigation however).	Partially agree - Have included geodiversity action plan targets into indicator. Significant Effect Indicators, which measure the actual effects of a policy against the predicted effects (set out in the SA), will be developed as the SA begins to assess Options and strategic policies. At this stage therefore it is difficult to include a comprehensive set of significant effect indicators. The recommendation to use the indicator 'percentage of EN advice taken as part planning proposals' to some extent measures the frequency of EN responses to applications rather than actual policy implementation and so has not been included at this stage.
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 14 should include some data on the frequency of flooding and the number of houses or area of industrial land/office space affected. Not all development in the flood areas is inappropriate so only the types of development permitted that are inappropriate should be measured. As an adaptation to climate change Natural England suggests you consider flood safeguard areas, areas that will be allowed to flood and inappropriate development within them specifically excluded, including land use changes.	Partially agree - have changed indicator to include only 'inappropriate development in the flood zone'. Consideration of flood safeguard areas is a policy consideration and should therefore be considered with the climate change topic paper
Natural England	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	Objective 15 could have the indicators - "Area of best and most versatile land lost to land use change or development". A simple statement of the area of	Partially agree - inserted new indicator for SO 15 (now 17) concerning loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. Have not included indicator for

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
			contaminated land may be sufficient, however some contaminated land could remain as it is, if it provides significant nature conservation value. (there may be contaminated land that is already providing this environmental asset). Clearly there will need to be cautious use of this idea to ensure there is not an overall environmental degradation, (ie run off etc)	contaminated land.
Drayton Civic Society	Relevant plans and programmes	1	CPRE, Civic Trust, CABI papers on Urban Design, Environment, and impact of renewable energy (such as Wind Turbines). North Shropshire Retail Survey 2008 - Report to North Shropshire Economic Forum	
Drayton Civic Society	Baseline Information	2	Census Population figures not up-to-date. Consult Doctor's Surgeries, Job Centres for those drawing Benefit; Estate Agents for actual houses being occupied rather than just planned for or under construction currently; Domestic and Business Rates List. Review of projects coming from those active in the community and being supported by the Local Pilot Committees. (Need for Attendance Register for members of the Public also at these committees.)	
Drayton Civic Society	Key Sustainability Issues	4	Correct	
Drayton Civic Society	Draft SA Framework - Supplementary Questions	8	Yes but perhaps.... Need to assess the number of Volunteers supporting the community services (with free labour and raising their own funds), not just those contracted to SCC but working locally - e.g. Stewards for Festivals and Events, Drayton Town Museum, those organising Interest and Activity groups for Elderly, Hard-of-hearing, Stroke Club etc; also Scouts and Guides etc; also Conservationists for canals, wildlife, heritage etc.. These are mainly the retired residents in a community.(excluding those attached to NSVA and SSVA.). Issues of replacement from next generation?	Will not be able to monitor level of volunteers, as no adequate data exists. However, reference will be included to this in the supplementary questions
Drayton Civic Society	Baseline Information	2	Market Drayton has a town centre conservation area, and also one on the Shropshire	

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
			Union Canal around Betton Wharf.	
Drayton Civic Society	Baseline Information	2	<p>On page 31 4f Health, Recreation and Sport Issue -Percentage of people with a long-tem illness Targets/Trends 2001 Census data</p> <p>Reference to Market Drayton North Could this actually be the Fairfields Estate, the East Ward, which I think is designated as a deprived area? The North Ward does contain the Dalelands Estate though.</p>	Response given by e-mail on 19 Aug - "Thanks for highlighting this - the information shown comes from Census data showing Market Drayton North with 26.2% of its resident population with a limiting long term illness. The wards shown in the Scoping Report are largely indicative and it may well be likely that the East Ward is very close to this figure also, but just fell out of the 'top' highlighted wards".
Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Access Group	Baseline Information	2	<p>In the supposed age of equality I should not need to mention this, however I would like to remind SLD Framework personnel that about 8% of the population will have a disability, or even more than one. This percentage is probably over and above the number of elderly residents; This will effect the provision of accessible public transport taxis/ community transport and parking areas within the town centres; rather than just being able to rely on Park & Ride as an alternative to driving.</p> <p>I do believe a great deal of research has been documented, and many objectives have been presented to consider; I just would say - please remember all facets of disablement. Loops / visual signals (fire alarms etc) as well as wheelchair users' needs and people with mobility difficulties. When planning for a varied population, children and elderly people are considered but not always those with an extra dimension to their life!!!!!!</p>	
The Theatres Trust	Baseline Information	2	no cultural activity content in section 4f Baseline Information.	
The Theatres Trust	Draft SA Framework - Indicators	9	there is no cultural content in the Potential SA Indicators at item 7	Have included reference to the public's satisfaction with cultural services as an additional indicator
The Theatres Trust	Baseline Information	9	We recommend that the Baseline Information at 4f is widened to include access to cultural and leisure	

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Organisation Name	Topic	SA Question. No.	Issues raised	Response comments
			activities as we expect to see specific guidance on protecting and encouraging arts and cultural provision in the Core Strategy.	
Advantage West Midlands	Relevant plans and programmes		Should only reference WMES 'Connecting Success' as this replaces WMES 'Delivering Advantage'. 2008 Delivery Framework for WMES should be included.	

Issues and Options

Table C2: Consultation responses to the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal

Organisation Name	Issues raised	Response comments
English Heritage	We welcome the inclusion of separate sustainability objectives dealing with landscapes/townscapes (SO11) and the historic environment (SO12). In our comments on the individual options and choices we make specific comments on the appraisal findings and recommendations. As general point, potential impacts on archaeological remains are not fully addressed in the appraisal which tends to focus on listed buildings and conservation areas. In future appraisals all aspects need to be taken into account	Although submitted in response to the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal, the comments are more appropriate to the Scoping Report consultation.
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	<p>It appears that this results in part from a number of assumptions made in the Appraisal which can be challenged:</p> <p>The Appraisal appears to take a narrow view of climate change adaptation - points on energy reduction under the carbon reduction heading are re-stated, and the vital aspects of localising food and energy production, and enhancing community resilience, appear to be overlooked. The Partnership feel that the sense of urgency required for imagination and new approaches to address these issues (such as currently being explored in an emerging 'Transition Initiative' for the Shropshire Hills) does not come through in the Strategy, especially on the relationship between communities and land in relation to food. The very small likely losses of greenfield land from appropriate levels of development is probably insignificant in this respect against the longer term gains of having people on the land and able to work it.</p> <p>The Appraisal assumes that the interests of the landscape are best served by minimal development, even in the long term. This view is also apparent in public opinion 4, but is not necessarily supported by a more thorough analysis. It may be true for the wildest areas, but in a settled area this over-emphasis on visual rather than functional aspects of the landscape can have serious negative consequences. Social issues, especially affordability of housing, have been exacerbated by this approach in planning over a number of years, and we believe that the long term environmental health of the landscape is not necessarily served by this</p>	Although submitted in response to the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal, the comments are more appropriate to the Scoping Report consultation.

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	<p>approach either.</p> <p>The Appraisal assumes that development in villages is bad for wildlife, referring to pressure on habitats. We contend that this need not be the case - the land-take involved is very small in a rural context, and it should be perfectly possible for new development to avoid higher quality habitats.</p> <p>The Appraisal assumes that clustered larger developments (in towns) will have higher environmental standards (e.g. in energy consumption) than smaller scale developments in rural areas. While there are some technical options such as district heating which create economies of scale in this way, we would suggest that this assumption need not always be true.</p> <p>The need to reduce carbon emissions is rightly a top priority of the Strategy, and travel especially by car is a key factor in sustainability appraisal of different options. The planning system is however only one factor influencing people's travel patterns; people's individual choices and travel behaviour being also very significant. It is important that assumptions about travel behaviour arising from certain patterns of development are not too simplistic.</p> <p>Taking these factors together we would judge that the Rural Rebalance Option E deserves a higher overall score in the Sustainability Appraisal.</p>	
<p>Environment Agency</p>	<p>The following recommendations relate to the SAR (November 2008) and should inform the Technical Appendix (January 2009).</p> <p>Key documents that should be included in the review:</p> <p>We would recommend inclusion of the European Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC. Implications for the Core Strategy (CS) are that movement of waste should be reduced and communities self sufficient in waste disposal. The objective should be to promote the waste hierarchy e.g. reduce, re-use and recycle, and support local waste recovery and disposal.</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is highlighted as a key European 'Strategy'. The WFD River Basin Management Plans, that will be finalised and adopted between now and 2010/2011, will require that the water courses will continue to show improvements in overall quality in line with the quality standards specified in these documents.</p> <p>National Policy Statements: Reference should be made to PPS9, with the replacement of PPG9.</p> <p>We would recommend that the 'water environment' section of the SAR be updated to include reference to foul drainage/waste water (discussed later). This may fit under the existing</p>	<p>Although submitted in response to the Issues and Options Sustainability Appraisal, the comments actually relate the Scoping Report consultation which finished in September 2008.</p>

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issues of 'water quality'. A potential indicator would be to include 'Percentage of all new homes and ground floor coverage (m2) of non residential development connecting to non-mains drainage' as suggested in our responses to some of the district LDF consultation reports.

We would also recommend that this section include 'The number and percentage of new (residential and commercial) development in flood zone 3 and 2'. It would be worthwhile including the 'number of additional and/or percentage of all new development incorporating Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)' in this section. Whilst we would not hold this information, the Council could monitor this based on information from Development and/or Building Control teams.

Objective no.16 (reduce the risk of flooding...) should also be amended to include the above indicator. The "number of developments considered at 'risk' of flooding" is not considered valid as the flood 'risk' could be low medium or high risk (flood zone 1, 2 and 3 respectively) which is the entire county/all development, so difficult to monitor. 'Risk of flooding' could also imply all sources of flooding which also may prove difficult?

The Water Resources issue and 'adapt to the impacts of climate change objective (no. 10)', could include a comparator/indicator using water data from OFFWAT to indicate the 'number and percentage of new (residential) development meeting level 3 or above of the Code for Sustainable Homes. A similar indicator should be linked to commercial development and equivalent BREAM standards.

Table 5.2 (objective 9) should be amended to state 'Require' new 'residential' development to meet rather than just 'encourage' and be reworded to state...'level 3 or higher Code for Sustainable Homes standards.

A similar indicator should be included to require non-residential development to meet relevant BREAM standards.

An option and therefore indicator could be to require all development over a particular threshold e.g. 20 homes to incorporate measures to retrofit existing properties with SuDS, and/or water efficiency techniques.

PPS23 – We welcome inclusion of this PPS and note that some reference has been made in the topic baseline to potential contaminated land and the regeneration of such sites in the district. However options for remediation during the regeneration of brownfield sites should be highlighted. The quality of the land and soils needs to be protected and restored to enable them to be used beneficially and safely, and so they are not a source of contamination of controlled waters (and sensitive end users),

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	The contaminated Land (natural environment section) should include 'Additional areas in ha of remediated land in the district', as an indicator.	
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Policy Directions

No comments were received on the Policy Directions Sustainability Appraisal Update.

Final Plan

Table C3: Consultation responses to the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal

Organisation Name	Issues raised	Response comments
Shropshire Association of Parish and Town Councils	Secure by design need to consider rural sensitivity. Pg20- Policy Group pleased to see density and character of local area taken into account. Transport Accessibility - Provision of public transport needs to have flexibility and ingenuity.	Comments not relevant to SA.
Stottesdon, Sidbury Parish Council	Secure by Design needs to be sensitive to the area. Example 6 foot high fencing is not needed around properties built in beautiful countryside with low crime rates - please let common sense rule! Housing development: the difference between social rented and intermediate rent should be pepper-potted on estates however small. Yet again we are pleased to see that density and local character on homes is taken into consideration at the planning stage. There needs to be flexibility in the planning for business. In the countryside there are many people working from home with the IT system that we have now. If this means a small building etc. this should be granted to allow closer working from home.	Comments not relevant to SA
South Shrewsbury Consortium	The Council has undertaken a Sustainability Appraisal of the final draft Core Strategy which has been made available with the final draft Core Strategy. This test of soundness has therefore been met. Any criticisms of the adequacy of the sustainability appraisal in relation to particular policies of the Core Strategy in our view are more appropriately dealt with in considering the coherent consistency and the effectiveness test. However in terms of the approach adopted we consider that the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requirements to consider reasonable alternatives to the plan are met. It is inevitable that a large number of options may be generated during the public consultation stages of preparation of a Core Strategy however guidance advises that the Strategic Assessment should consider broad strategic options. In this case the Council has assessed a wider range of strategic options for the location of development within the District. We do not consider that on the basis of the evidence contained within the consultation documents that any reasonable locational alternatives have been overlooked.	Comments on fit with SEA welcomed. Comments relating to SO not relevant to this consultation phase.

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Organisation Name	Issues raised	Response comments
	<p>However we consider that there could be improvements made to the SA in order to allay any fears that the range of objectives is somewhat limited with too little emphasis on social and economic objectives. The purpose of sustainability appraisal in our view is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of DPDs. Although the SA as an objective to achieve mixed and balanced developments and facilities that meets the needs of the community, there is no objective relating to the housing requirements of the whole community and objectives relating to economic development are limited to increasing the vitality and viability of town centres and the diversity and viability of the rural economy. In addition there is currently no objective relating to current flooding problems, although resilience to the effects of flooding is one of the assessment criteria relating to the objective on climate change.</p>	