



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Draft Scoping Report

Full Technical Version



Local Development Framework

Core strategy

September 2007

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1 Introduction

To ensure that new planning documents contribute to achieving sustainable development, the new planning system requires that they are subject to [Sustainability Appraisal](#).

This is a process used to develop plans, programmes or strategies that are as sustainable as possible. The key principles of sustainable development include:

- respecting the limits of the natural environment
- the efficient use and allocation of scarce resources
- achieving a sustainable economy which provides prosperity and opportunities for all
- meeting the diverse needs of all in the community

This Scoping Report is the first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Basingstoke and Deane Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy. The LDF is the set of planning documents that collectively provide a long-term planning vision for the Borough and contain policies that will be used to guide and control development that will help achieve that vision.

Details of the documents that make up the Basingstoke and Deane LDF and the programming for producing further documents for the next few years can be found in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). This can be viewed at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf.

As the central document of the LDF, the aim of the Core Strategy is to set out, with regard to economic, environmental and social considerations, the spatial vision and objectives for Basingstoke and Deane to the year 2026. The Core Strategy will also contain the strategic policies to deliver that vision and will identify strategic locations for delivering housing and other key developments such as employment and transport.

The Core Strategy must be consistent with national and regional planning guidance, strategic and local planning policies. For example, it must conform with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – including its ongoing housing requirement. It also needs to conform to environmental protection legislation and sustainability objectives established at national and regional level.

The aim of the Scoping Report therefore, is to establish and assess the sustainability implications of the LDF Core Strategy. Accordingly, the final SA Report will show how the policy options considered have been evaluated for their economic, environmental and social impacts. It will also show how this evaluation has informed the selection and refinement of policy options to arrive at the most sustainable strategy and policies.

The full appendices for this SA Scoping Report are provided separately, and contain additional information on the methodology used for Sustainability Appraisals and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA), a detailed version of certain stages set out in the Scoping Report, and details of the Community Strategy themes and outcomes.

2 Context

2.1 Why should we use Sustainability Appraisal?

We all have a responsibility to ensure that future generations can also benefit from the global, national and local environment in the same manner we enjoy now. We can all play an active role in addressing those issues that may influence the future sustainability of our environment, including climate change.

SA is an important tool in making informed decisions that actively address the issue of sustainability, through:

- **Comparing, analysing** and **evaluating** different options for the planning of the Borough
- **Maximising** the positive impacts of plan options and minimising the negative impacts
- Illustrating a strategy or plan's overall **contribution** to sustainable development

Legislation¹ requires that the Local Development Documents (LDDs) prepared by Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

2.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

This Scoping Report, and the Council's approach to the SA, accord with the provisions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations (SEA)², which require a formal strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. The key objective of the SEA Directive is to:

'Provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development'

Current Government guidance advocates the integration of SA and SEA. Therefore within this document, where reference is made to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) or the 'Scoping Report', it denotes SA under the Act, incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations.

2.3 Structure of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

There are five key stages in the SA process, which are illustrated below. The Scoping Report represents Stage A. Each stage is broken down into a number of smaller tasks. Additional information on the methodology for the SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) can be found in Appendix A (separate document).

¹ The SEA Regulations, Statutory Instrument 2004, No. 1633

² The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)



2.4 Consulting on the SA Scoping Report

Consultation is a fundamental element of the process of producing local planning documents, including SAs. Consultation will help to ensure that the final SA report is robust enough to help move Basingstoke and Deane towards achieving its sustainable development objectives.

Consultation on the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report will conform to the methodology set out in the Basingstoke and Deane Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), and to the statutory requirement under the SEA Directive. For additional detailed information on how Basingstoke and Deane approaches planning consultation, please see our SCI which was adopted in July 2007. The SCI can be viewed at the following: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf/sci

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council welcomes **your** views with regard to this SA Scoping Report. There are a series of questions linked to each task set out within the Scoping Report – and we would also welcome any general comments on the Scoping Report.

A consultation response pro-forma is provided with the Scoping Report. This can be viewed at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning/ldf. Copies are also available from the Council's Forward Planning Team who can be contacted on 01256 845532 / 845464.

The Core Strategy SA Scoping Report consultation period will run for 6 weeks starting on 21 September. All replies must be received by 5pm Friday 2nd 2007.

3 Stage A1: Identifying Other Relevant Policies, Plans, Programmes and Sustainability Objectives

3.1 Background

Reviewing the context of international, national, regional and local planning legislation, plans and programmes is essential to establish baseline conditions and clarify the role of the Core Strategy.

Understanding the relationship between the Core Strategy and other documents helps identify opportunities and challenges, including any potential conflicts between aims, objectives and detailed policies.

This process should establish the following:

- external factors, including wider sustainability issues, that can be addressed by the Core Strategy
- potential conflicting issues that may be difficult to resolve
- social, economic or environmental objectives that should be included or reflected in the SA
- the cumulative effect of the Core Strategy and the other documents identified

The detailed review of relevant policies, plans, programmes and other sustainability objectives is in Appendix B (separate document).

3.2 Key Documents Reviewed

Regional Spatial Strategy - The South East Plan (Consultation Draft)

The South East Plan will replace Regional Planning Guidance 9 (RPG9) and sets out a spatial framework for the region from 2006 to 2026. The South East Plan has been considered at an Examination in Public and its final approval is expected in 2008. The Core Strategy must be consistent with the South East Plan and will seek to implement its spatial and transport policies. The core objectives are to balance continuing economic and housing growth with rising standards of environmental management and reduced levels of social exclusion and natural resource consumption. The South East Plan will set out the amount of housing that is to be provided within the Borough between 2006 and 2026. It also identifies Basingstoke as a regional hub – forming a focus for economic, social and cultural activities.

Pride in our Place – The Community Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane 2006-2016

Pride in Our Place is the Community Strategy for Basingstoke and Deane which was developed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The document sets out a vision for the Borough and a framework for aligning the work of the LSP and partner organisations to achieve this. The Community Strategy describes the type of place that the community want Basingstoke and Deane to be in the future and focuses attention on the issues to be addressed – but it does not set out the actions to be taken to achieve this. The Local Development Framework (including the Core Strategy) will be an important component in the delivery of the Community Strategy. The spatial vision and objectives of the Core Strategy should be based on the spatial elements of the Community Strategy. The Core Strategy (and other Local Development Documents) should be the spatial expression of the Community Strategy.

The Council Plan (2007-2010)

The Council Plan shows how the Council is planning for the future of the Borough over the next 3 years and how it will contribute to the Community Strategy to ensure the overall economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the Borough. It identifies the top priorities for the community, and the issues facing the Borough. The Council Plan sets out how the Council's resources will be used to meet local needs, how it will work with partners to meet community priorities, and how it will develop initiatives to improve services. It will also monitor performance.

3.3 Key Messages – Synergies and Conflicts Between the Reviewed Documents

The review of the Plans, Programmes, Policies and Strategies summarised in Appendix B, has highlighted a number of related themes, which the Sustainability Appraisal should address. These include:

- the prioritisation and promotion of sustainable development
- ensuring sustainable economic growth and prosperity
- the need to respond positively to climate change
- ensuring the full involvement of the public and other interested parties in the planning process
- the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment
- the promotion of sustainable resource management where appropriate (waste, new and renewable technologies etc.)
- reducing pollution (air, chemical, noise) in the local environment
- the provision of housing to meet the diverse needs of the local community
- the promotion of sustainable communities with increased social cohesion

It has also highlighted a number of potentially conflicting issues that may be challenging for the strategy to resolve. These include:

- Enabling growth whilst protecting the environment
- Maximising the use of brownfield sites whilst protecting urban character and maintaining a sufficient supply of employment land
- Improving accessibility (particularly for rural areas) whilst reducing dependency on the private car
- Maintaining the viability and vitality of towns and villages whilst concentrating growth in the most sustainable locations
- Achieving sustainable prosperity whilst reducing the impact of private vehicles
- Maximising the provision of affordable housing without inhibiting the delivery of housing in general
- Protecting designated areas of character whilst enabling the generation of renewable energy

Question One: Are there any other relevant plans, programmes, policies or sustainability objectives, in addition to those listed in Appendix B, that will affect or influence the emerging Core Strategy?

4 Stage A2: Collecting Baseline Information

4.1 Baseline Information

Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Core Strategy, and provides the evidence to help identify sustainability issues. The aim is to assemble sufficient data on the current and likely situation of the borough, to enable the impacts of different policy options for the Core Strategy to be predicted.

The requirement for baseline information in Government planning guidance is not prescriptive but it must be relevant to environmental, social and economic issues, and be of a sufficient quality to identify trends. Additionally, it must incorporate baseline information from outside the Borough – either at county, regional or national levels, to help understand the sustainability issues in a wider context.

The selection of baseline information was based on the following criteria:

- Is it up-to-date and relevant to the Borough?
- Does it add to our understanding of the sustainability issues?
- Is the information readily available?
- Can it be sufficiently measured over time?
- Does it show a trend over time, or is it comparable with data in a wider spatial context, for example at the county or regional level.

The baseline data (detailed in Appendix C, separate document) has been collected from a number of sources including the 2001 census, Hampshire County Council, the Government, Land Registry, the Environment Agency and English Heritage.

4.2 Overview: The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane

The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane is located in North Hampshire, with its northern boundary adjoining Berkshire. It covers an area of over 245 square miles, over 90% of which is undeveloped. It has a population of just over 152,500. In terms of population, facilities and employment, the Borough is dominated by Basingstoke Town although there is also a network of towns and villages, some of which are historic market towns. 60% of the population live in Basingstoke Town, which has grown to more than five times its size half a century ago.

The Borough comprises high quality landscape and built environment, with a large part of the Borough falling within North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are many Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. It is the source of two major river systems – the River Test and River Loddon, both of which are environmentally sensitive.

The Town has been identified as a 'New Growth Point' by the Government, on the basis of its relatively high level of current and future house building, and its infrastructure issues. The Town has also been identified as a 'diamond for investment and growth' within the Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016 – a major centre of economic activity which can act as a catalyst to stimulate prosperity. Basingstoke is also designated as a Regional Transport Hub within the Regional Transport Strategy, with its strategic location on the national road and rail networks contributing to its success as an employment centre. The Borough has close proximity to London, the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, and Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

4.3 Key Social Characteristics:

- There have been relatively high levels of population growth within the borough over the last 25 years.
- Due to the higher than average population figures in the 45-54 age range and increasing average life expectancy, the Borough is likely to have an ageing population in the future
- Although the number of dwellings being built annually has increased over recent years, due to the previously low level of completions, there remains a shortfall to meet the Borough's housing requirements
- Housing remains relatively unaffordable for much of the population, particularly those trying to access the housing market for the first time.
- In 2006 there were 5058 people on the Housing Register, of which '3454' are in need. This figure has been rising over the last five years.
- The average household size of 2.4 is comparable to the national average (Census 2001). A high proportion of households are small, with 25% of households being single person and 36% being two person at the time of the last Census (Census 2001)
- There are few gypsy and traveller pitches within the Borough and there is a need for increased provision in the north of Hampshire.
- Crime rates are lower, or comparable to averages within Hampshire and the South East
- The health of the population is better, or comparable with, the health of the South East's population
- In the national context, there is relatively little deprivation across the Borough, although there are local pockets of deprivation
- Although pupils are performing well at Key stages 1 and 2, educational attainment at secondary schools within the Borough is lower than that of neighbouring authorities.
- Car ownership and usage levels are high, particularly in rural areas.
- The car provides the main mode of transport for all journeys in the Borough, at a significantly higher level than the national average.
- The Borough is well provided for in terms of leisure services and facilities, with arts provision more at the level of a regional city.

4.4 Key Economic Characteristics:

- The employment rate was 85.2% in 2006; this has grown from 81.9% in 2002/03
- The number of people employed in the Borough has grown from 58,000 in 1995 to 80,000 in 2005, an increase of 22,000 (38%)
- 93% of men and 60% of women are in full-time employment
- Levels of full-time pay for people who live or work in the Borough exceed the average levels for Hampshire and the South East of England
- Basingstoke has a high level of self – containment in terms of residents working within the Borough. At the time of the 2001 Census, the Borough provided jobs for 67% of its resident workforce, the highest proportion of any Hampshire district - 27,000 out-commuted; 24,000 in-commuted (across Borough boundary)
- Relatively high proportions of the Borough's residents work in the following sectors: manufacturing, finance, real estate, IT, transport, storage and communication
- Basingstoke and Deane has one of the highest proportions of large businesses (100 or more employees) of Hampshire districts.
- For the period 1999 to 2005, the greatest growth in new businesses was in Real Estate and Construction, and the greatest contraction was in Manufacturing
- Within Basingstoke and Deane's agriculture, cereal production predominates. Livestock farming, particularly dairy cattle and sheep have a lesser role than elsewhere in Hampshire.
- High office vacancy levels exist in the Town, although this is unlikely to be the result of high rental levels which are the lowest in the western corridor region. 64% of new lettings are for out of town office accommodation, bucking the national trend of 39%
- Basingstoke town centre performs a sub-regional retail function. Its catchment extends to smaller surrounding towns, but is limited by other major retail centres such as Winchester, Reading and Guildford.
- Basingstoke has a total retail floorspace of 1.3 million square feet, mainly within the two main shopping centres of Festival Place and The Malls.
- Basingstoke's transport infrastructure is generally very good with major roads such as the M3 and the A34 and mainline rail services connecting the Borough to London, the rest of the South East and beyond.
- Basingstoke has lower levels of congestion than other urban centres in Hampshire and the Western Corridor although there is congestion in particular areas, for example, junction 6 of the M3 and the A33

4.5 Key Environmental Characteristics:

- The Borough of Basingstoke and Deane is a predominantly rural, agricultural district which covers a land area of 245 square miles, 91.4% of which is undeveloped
- In contrast, the land area taken by domestic buildings is less than 1% of the total, and under 5% if domestic gardens are included; less than 8% of the Borough's total land area is urbanised
- The majority of the Western part of the Borough is covered by the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- The Borough has over 1800 listed buildings, 69 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 10 Historic Parks
- 1.3% of the Borough is designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); 9.4% as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- The Borough currently exceeds the national target for new residential development on brownfield land
- 0.2% of the Borough's previously developed land is derelict
- Over 70% of Hampshire's water supply, including most of this Borough's, is from ground water, with the rest from groundwater-fed rivers.
- The water quality of the Borough's rivers is generally good to very good, though nitrate and phosphate pollution is an issue in some rivers (Loddon)
- Demand for water in Hampshire is rising due to population growth, decreasing average household size and changing lifestyles.
- The Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan has identified 493 'Priority Species' in the Borough

Question Two: In your opinion, is there any additional relevant baseline information which should be added to that provided?

Question Three: As far as you are aware, are there any inaccuracies or anomalies in the baseline data presented?

5 Stage A3: Identifying Key Sustainability Issues and Problems

5.1 Identifying Sustainability Issues

As part of the SA, there is a requirement to identify any existing environmental, social and economic problems within the Borough.

The context review (stage A1) and collection of baseline data (stage A2) have highlighted a number of sustainability issues for the Borough. These have been further developed in light of a number of stakeholder workshops and internal officer brainstorming sessions used to identify current and future issues to be addressed by the Core Strategy. This included workshops with Members and the Local Strategic Partnership, as well as input from pupils at junior and secondary schools.

The Borough, and specifically the Local Development Framework, will have more influence over some areas than others. However, partnership working and the close development of related strategies will provide a comprehensive approach to ensuring the issues are addressed.

Table 1 (shown overleaf) lists the main Sustainability Issues that are affecting the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, separating them into environmental, economic and social (although there is inevitably some overlap).

Table 1: Sustainability Issues within Basingstoke and Deane

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
<p>Environment</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>Issue: the potential impact of climate change upon the following areas has been identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Resources • Flooding • Agriculture • Greenhouse gases/emissions • Renewable Energy • Biodiversity • Landscape character • Human Health • Fabric of historic buildings 	<p>Research has shown that the impacts of climate change will be more pronounced for South East England (including Basingstoke and Deane) than any other UK region. Accordingly, the Borough has an obligation to address the spatial planning implications of this global trend at the local level, including the government's target to reduce CO2 emissions by 60%.</p> <p>75% of the UK's carbon dioxide emissions are accounted for from fossil fuel combustion. To reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases such as methane, a higher proportion of the Borough's energy needs to come from renewable sources.</p> <p>Although the current Sustainable Community Strategy does not refer to the issue of climate change, prior work on the Local Development Framework has highlighted this as a key issue to be addressed in subsequent revisions of that document. Additionally, the Borough has recently commenced work on a Climate Change Strategy.</p> <p>Climate change could potentially have a significant effect on the following in the Borough, aside from other influences:</p> <p>Water Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of surface water in reservoirs and rivers for abstraction could be reduced in summer • Reduction in water flow/volume could lead to a drop in water quality as there is less water to dilute discharges <p>Flooding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing levels of precipitation in the winter period, particularly if concentrated in intense rainfall events, may mean that the operational capacity of flood defence and water runoff systems will be exceeded <p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous crops may become less viable, while new crops would become more so. This may change the exposure of soils to erosion and have implications for biodiversity <p>Greenhouse gases/emissions & Renewable Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK national target is for renewables to account for 10% of UK consumption by 2010, and 20% by 2020.

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
	<p data-bbox="204 1563 228 1697">Biodiversity</p> <ul data-bbox="244 197 268 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="244 197 268 1664">• Reduction in summer rainfall and an increase in temperatures could have an impact on certain habitat types, flora and fauna. <p data-bbox="308 1451 331 1697">Landscape character</p> <ul data-bbox="347 678 371 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="347 678 371 1664">• Impact of increased temperatures and extreme weather patterns on the landscape <p data-bbox="411 1529 435 1697">Human Health</p> <ul data-bbox="451 129 579 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="451 757 475 1664">• Increased incidence of heat-related illnesses and deaths during the summer <li data-bbox="483 129 539 1664">• Increased incidence of illnesses and conditions related to increased exposure to sunlight (skin cancer) and increased incidence of pathogen related illnesses <li data-bbox="547 533 571 1664">• Increases health problems related to a rise in local ozone levels during the summer (eg. asthma) <p data-bbox="619 1395 643 1697">Fabric of historic buildings</p> <ul data-bbox="659 163 715 1664" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="659 163 715 1664">• Increased heat and humidity could have long-term detrimental impacts on historic buildings, particularly those built with ‘softer’ materials such as timber frames.
Landscape and Biodiversity	
<p data-bbox="799 1877 823 2112">Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul data-bbox="871 1753 1289 2078" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="871 1753 927 2078">• Climate change impacts (see above) <li data-bbox="967 1798 1086 2078">• Conservation and enhancement of the Borough’s landscape character <li data-bbox="1134 1765 1289 2078">• Conservation and enhancement of the Borough’s biodiversity including habitat loss, fragmentation & decline 	<p data-bbox="799 1563 823 1697">Landscape</p> <p data-bbox="839 141 1002 1697">The countryside of the Borough is one of its key assets. The borough embraces a diverse pattern of landscapes, including rolling chalk downland, pastoral river valleys, historic parkland, remnants of ancient forests and intimate mosaics of lowland farmland and woodland, with a scattering of farms, villages and hamlets, and a few larger settlements including Basingstoke. These areas are divided into 20 distinct landscape character areas which are described in detail in the Borough’s Landscape Assessment. The character of such areas should be respected in any future planning proposals.</p> <p data-bbox="1034 141 1193 1697">Almost a third of the Borough (80 square miles) is covered by the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Sustaining vibrant rural communities and encouraging sustainable rural communities through appropriate economic growth, including the encouragement of sustainable land management, and the active engagement of rural and urban communities in the conservation of the countryside, can add positive benefits to biodiversity and the landscape as well as providing a positive contribution to the well-being of residents</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
	<p data-bbox="300 1563 323 1713">Biodiversity</p> <p data-bbox="347 235 403 1713">Biodiversity contributes significantly to the quality of life, well-being and economic success of the Borough by contributing to an attractive environment.</p> <p data-bbox="443 145 563 1713">Hampshire has a wealth and variety of semi-natural habitats, and the greatest species diversity of any county in England. Likewise, Basingstoke and Deane has a rich biodiversity asset base. However, both have experienced significant decline in key indicator species such as farmland and woodland birds. Whilst direct loss of biodiversity due to development has been significantly reduced, indirect effects remain a concern.</p> <p data-bbox="603 145 826 1713">Basingstoke and Deane has large areas of a number of key habitats identified as priorities for action in the Hampshire Biodiversity Action Plan, including areas of heathland, ancient semi-natural woodland, chalk rivers and streams, and arable land. For some of these habitats, large areas are covered by protective designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Sites of Interest to Nature Conservation (SINC), and are often of national and international importance. However, there is scope for improvement in the state of the Borough's designated sites. Specific issues include land management, control and protection. For example, many private types of woodland are not under active management to conserve their biodiversity. Additionally, the economics of farming has significantly reduced the potential for ensuring the essential grazing of important habitats which can lead to a decline in their quality.</p> <p data-bbox="866 145 1050 1713">Habitat fragmentation has been a long-term issue in the Borough – reflecting the regional trend. Species living in isolated habitats will have no escape routes if the local climate changes around them. The LDF should directly address the need for networks of habitats connected by wildlife corridors that will allow species to disperse naturally to more favourable environments. Although some of Hampshire's priority species continue to decline, there are signs that the rates of decline are slowing. Many priority species have stable populations, and some are increasing, particularly where focussed conservation effort has taken place (eg heathlands, chalk grasslands SSSIs).</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
<p>Water Environment</p> <p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply • Water Quality • Flood Risk • Sustainable Water Resource Management 	<p>The protection of the water environment is a key issue. The Borough's rivers are recognised as being of high quality and are therefore deemed to be particularly sensitive. The River Test is a nationally renowned chalk river whilst the River Loddon is designated as a Salmonid river under the EU Fish Directive and an in-water Site of Special Scientific interest.</p> <p>It is recognised that future growth and development in the Borough may have an impact on the water environment. In partnership with the Environment Agency, Natural England, Hampshire County Council and the Water Companies, the Council has commissioned a Water Cycle Study which will help inform the development of the Core Strategy. Phase 1 of the study assessed the strategic capacity to accommodate development in the Borough, focusing on issues relating to water supply, water quality and flood risk. This Phase has concluded the following:</p> <p>Water Supply</p> <p>The Borough draws on water supplies from the South East which is the driest region in the UK and has the highest demand for water. However the study suggests that there is sufficient water in the Borough to supply for planned growth up to 2026 without the need for extra resource development other than that already planned by water companies. Nevertheless it is recognised that the need for new resources should be offset by adopting greater water efficiency and demand management measures.</p> <p>Water Quality</p> <p>The River Loddon is designated as a Sensitive Area under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. The Environment Agency has therefore imposed stringent discharge consent standards on the Loddon. These consent standards are the strictest within the UK and the process for meeting the standards is at the limits of conventional sewage treatment technology. Furthermore the Water Framework Directive (WFD) may affect the regulation of the water environment and result in even tighter regulatory standards for the River Loddon, although this is at present unclear. The impact of future growth and development on water quality is therefore a particular issue for the Borough.</p> <p>Flood Risk and Water Resource Management</p> <p>The Borough is felt to be mainly at risk from groundwater flooding since much of the Borough to the south is underlain by a major chalk aquifer. The aquifer is able to soak up and hold water and has a network of fractures within it allowing water to move quickly.</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
	<p>The impact of development on flood risk will be assessed through a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) which the Council aims to complete in November 2007. The Assessment will review flood risk across the district from both rivers and other sources and will assist in steering vulnerable development (e.g. housing) towards areas of lowest risk. Where this cannot be achieved and development is to be permitted in areas that may be subject to some degree of flood risk, the assessment will provide recommendations for suitable mitigation solutions, which will ensure that the risk to property and life is minimised should flooding occur.</p> <p>Phase 2 of the Water Cycle Study is currently underway. It seeks to reduce uncertainties and improve knowledge of potential solutions to the water supply, water quality and flood risk issues identified in Phase 1. In particular it focuses on looking beyond the current best available technology for innovative solutions to handling waste water and providing drinking water supplies. It also seeks to address concerns about the future impact of increased sewage discharge on the ecology of the River Loddon.</p> <p>Both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Water Cycle Study will be used to inform the Local Development Framework.</p>
Historic environment and cultural heritage	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and enhancement of archaeological sites and monuments, buildings of historic and architectural interest, and historic parks and gardens • Sustaining and enhancing the local distinctiveness of the Borough's historic environment 	<p>The conservation, enhancement and continued viability of the Borough's cultural and historic built environment is a key issue to be addressed in the Core Strategy. Historic and cultural heritage encompasses human influence on archaeology, historic settlements and buildings. Preserving the cultural and historic environment benefits communities in various ways: it provides an essential educational resource for the understanding of the past and its legacy; it contributes to the national and local economy as it promotes tourism and provides jobs and it provides people and places with a sense of identity.</p> <p>The baseline data illustrates that the Borough enjoys a rich historic environment, with a broad base of listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and historic parks and gardens. Both urban and rural areas benefit from a number of Conservation Areas of distinctive architectural, historical and landscape character. The protection and sustainable management of the countryside and the historic environment should contribute to the viability of both the rural economy and rural communities, and access to these assets will be crucial in achieving this.</p> <p>The historic environment within the Borough is underpinned by local distinctiveness and character. The use of traditional, local building materials such as thatch or flint is generally a more sustainable option for development, usually leaving a lower 'carbon footprint'. However, historic and cultural heritage is nevertheless fragile and subject to a number of threats such as pollution, weather and climate, and use or abuse from local communities. Such threats do conflict with the general aim of preserving this heritage and making it more accessible. Likewise care should be taken to preserve the integrity of our historic built environment when considering the role of new, more sustainable technologies, which have the potential to harm the appearance of that heritage.</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
<p>Resource Efficiency</p> <p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumption of fewer resources and production of less waste • Re-use of previously developed land • Maximising the use of sustainable design and construction technologies and the re-use of construction waste • Household recycling 	<p>Increasing consumption levels of natural resources is having a negative impact on the environment. The term 'resource efficiency' covers a broad range of issues including land, water, minerals, fossil fuels (some of these, such as water resources and renewable energy, have been considered in other sections of this table). The overall aim is to consume fewer resources and produce less waste in order to minimise the environmental impact.</p> <p>Reflecting the national aim of increasing the proportion of development on previously developed land, urban regeneration and renaissance, the Borough should actively seek to redevelop previously developed land and utilise its existing derelict and vacant land stock. This approach reduces the pressure on greenfield land and contributes to the protection of the Borough's natural environment. The challenge for the Borough will be to exploit continuing potential whilst taking account of the reducing amount of such land which is suitable for redevelopment and ensuring the quality of life of existing residents is not unduly harmed.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the use of sustainable design and construction technologies should reflect the Council's emerging Design and Sustainability SPD. Aside from potential economic and social benefits, the adoption of a more sustainable approach to construction will directly benefit the Borough's biodiversity through habitat enhancement, creation and links, but will also indirectly contribute through wiser use of resources such as water and measures to limit pollution. As outlined in the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework, all new built development will be expected to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use design principles and construction methods that minimise primary aggregate use, and • encourage materials from recycled and secondary sources, and secondly, use construction and demolition methods that minimise waste and re-use and recycle materials as far as possible. <p>The effective recycling of household waste can significantly reduce the amount that enters landfill sites. The baseline data illustrates that Basingstoke and Deane's household recycling rate is below that of some of our neighbouring Local Authorities and this is an issue that needs continued emphasis.</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
Economic	
Sustainable prosperity and economic growth	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing economic growth and prosperity • Shortages of graduates and highly skilled staff • Ensuring a supply of employment land to meet needs • Transport and accessibility • Image of the Borough • Tourism • Vitality and viability of the Borough's retail centres 	<p>Economy</p> <p>The draft South East Plan states that the Western Corridor and Blackwater Valley, in which Basingstoke Town lies, is the most economically prosperous sub-regional area in the SE Plan area. Furthermore, Basingstoke and Deane has been identified as a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond for Investment and Growth in the Regional Economic Strategy • Regional Transport Hub • New Growth Point (Government initiative) <p>The current Council Plan's first priority is to secure and enhance prosperity. As the baseline data indicates, the Borough continues to outperform the majority of Local Authority Areas across Hampshire and the South East of England, with regard to a number of economic indicators.</p> <p>In identifying the town as a 'diamond' SEEDA identified the Town's opportunities and constraints. In terms of issues these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town is home to the backroom functions of a number of large companies and may be subject to off-shoring • Need to move towards growing a hi-tech and high value services business base • Relatively low levels of business investment and innovation • The lack of a large base of new graduates and other highly skilled workers <p>To overcome some of these issues, the Council is working with the Learning and Skills Council to examine the potential for a learning campus or multiversity (see skills and education section).</p>

Sustainability Issues

Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?

Further sustainability issues include ensuring that the Borough has enough employment land of the right sort to meet the needs of business. Some sites on existing allocated employment areas are under pressure from higher value uses, such as housing. The Council needs to ensure that there is sufficient employment land to meet needs up to 2026 and beyond. Closely linked to this is the need to ensure that the premises and accommodation are attractive to business and in this respect some parts of the town's stock, such as Basing View are dated and have subsequently become vacant. The council is seeking to regenerate these areas to meet the needs of employers.

In terms of transport issues and how they relate to the economy, congestion (see section on transport and accessibility) and self containment are major considerations. The 2001 Census shows that 67% of residents also work in the Borough, which is the highest percentage of all districts in Hampshire. This high level of self-containment is recognised in the Hampshire Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2), which also notes that this trend is declining over time. The LTP2 recognises that this is going to be one of the biggest challenges facing the town.

There is also an issue around the image of the town, particularly from those outside of the Borough. This may impact on those who choose to invest in the Borough and may potentially be a deterrent to some. Through a groups of local stakeholders, the Council is currently undertaking research to gain a greater understanding of the perceived problems

Retail

A further key part of the local economy, is the role that town centres play and, in particular, retail and leisure activities. Basingstoke is recognised as a primary retail centre in the draft South East Plan and is the main shopping destination in the Borough. The town centre consists of several areas; the recently opened Festival Place; the older Malls developed in the 1980s; and the historic Top of Town Area, which includes the twice weekly market.

Certain parts of the town centre, such as the Top of Town and the Malls suffer from particular issues. The Malls has become a dated shopping centre which is in need of investment to create a more welcoming feel and to overcome the problem of rising shop vacancy levels. The Top of Town area also includes some vacant shop units and contains a number of bars that can create anti-social behaviour problems during the evenings. In terms of the town's shopping function, there are a number of vacant shop units across the town and it faces competition from pressure to open new stores in out-of-centre location, such as the large retail parks. This has the effect of undermining the town centre and can lead to more car journeys being made, as people drive to individual shops.

Other centres, such as Whitchurch and Tadley perform an important local function which should be supported to help ensure the sustainability of the communities they serve (see section below on Sustaining vibrant communities).

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
	<p>Tourism</p> <p>A further component of achieving prosperity relates to attracting visitors and providing services which support businesses, such as hotels. The need for additional overnight accommodation in the Borough has been recognised in a study undertaken on behalf of the Borough Council, and Tourism South East. This concluded that budget and 3/4 star hotels regularly turn away business during the working week due to lack of capacity.</p> <p>As well as the retail facilities, Basingstoke Town Centre contains several key cultural attractions including The Willis Museum, the Haymarket, The Anvil and Milestones. The surrounding area includes historical attractions such as Basing House, Highclere Castle and The Wyne, together with historic market towns and villages within attractive countryside.</p>
<p>Access and Transport</p> <p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on private transport with increased CO2 emissions due to increased traffic • Congestion • The accessibility of services • Provision, capacity & integration of public transport 	<p>The heavy reliance upon car use, rising levels of traffic flows nationally, regionally and locally, and relatively low use of non-car transport illustrates the challenge to change the transport habits of the community. Basingstoke and Deane generally has an excellent transport infrastructure. Major roads such as the M3 and the A34 and mainline rail services connect the Borough to London, the rest of the South East and beyond. Basingstoke and Deane also has relatively lower levels of congestion than other urban centres in Hampshire and the Western Corridor although there is congestion in particular areas of Basingstoke Town, for example, junction 6 of the M3 and the A33, with consequent safety and economic implications. Through the new growth point funding, the Council is working with HCC and the Highways Agency to understand particular infrastructure constraints and identify the means of resolving these. Car ownership and usage levels are high within the Borough and with future population growth there is the potential for this congestion to worsen.</p> <p>The long-term impact and implications of population/job growth in London and regional centres in the South East, particularly within the South East Plan's Western Corridor, on the Borough's public transport network, need to be fully considered. Compared to settlements within the wider region, Basingstoke is fairly self-contained (as recognised in the previous section), although transport surveys and Census data suggest that this is lessening – flows in and out of Basingstoke between Reading and West Berkshire are growing.</p> <p>The high quality road network in Basingstoke town provides good internal accessibility by car, but less so for pedestrians and cyclists where there are issues of severance caused by roads. One of the objectives of the Hampshire LTP2 is to improve local accessibility and self-containment within urban areas of North Hampshire.</p> <p>The South East Plan Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) identified that problems with transport provision and the location of services can reinforce social exclusion. For example, access to services and facilities can be an issue of particular concern for rural communities and for deprived communities.</p> <p>Given related sustainability issues, such as climate change, reducing the amount of car travel will be a key issue in reducing vehicular CO₂ emissions.</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
<p>Sustaining vibrant communities</p> <p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring local services and community facilities • Affordable housing and mix of housing • Encouraging 'urban renaissance' • Improving access to services and facilities, particularly in rural areas 	<p>The Core Strategy has an important role in ensuring that settlements remain functional with necessary health, education and community facilities, and access to local housing, employment and leisure opportunities.</p> <p>The LDF will need to address those aspects of spatial planning that can contribute towards improving the vibrancy and vitality of the Borough's communities. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing new and protecting existing services and facilities • providing affordable housing (and a mix of housing) in all areas • encouraging an 'urban renaissance' • Improving accessibility to local facilities by public transport, and safe walking and cycling routes <p>Access to services and facilities can be a particular issue for rural communities and deprived communities as a result of limited public transport and the availability of fewer services. Furthermore, with increased emphasis on sustainable development and the provision of new services and housing in accessible locations, there is a challenge in retaining existing rural services and maintaining the vitality and viability of smaller towns and settlements.</p>

Sustainability Issues	Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?
<p>Social</p> <p>Deprivation and social inclusion</p>	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood renewal of deprived areas • Regeneration 	<p>Deprivation has social, economic and environmental implications and can seriously affect residents' quality of life. The indicators used in the Indices of Deprivation cover issues such as income, employment, health, education, barriers to housing services, crime, and the living environment. These are all issues that the LDF will address through its framework and policies.</p> <p>Although Basingstoke and Deane experiences relatively little deprivation in the national context (12 areas fall within the top 1% least deprived areas in England), the overall figures mask pockets of deprivation that should be addressed. Six areas of the Borough (within the Basingstoke Wards of Buckskin, Norden, Popley East and South Ham) fall within the 40% most deprived in England. The fact that much of the Borough has very low deprivation heightens the relative disparity of the more deprived areas.</p> <p>One of the themes of the Community Strategy is an inclusive Borough with Strong Communities – it seeks to reduce levels of deprivation and poor housing at a neighbourhood level. The Council Plan has a priority to enhance local community well-being and create an inclusive Borough. The Council's Housing Strategy also has a priority to improve quality of life in the Borough, particularly within the most deprived areas. The Action Plan contains a number of priority actions aimed at regenerating areas of deprivation. The Local Strategic Partnership has also developed a Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which identifies the priority communities of the Popley Wards, Norden, South Ham, and Buckskin. It also identifies two main issues to be addressed: ensuring learning opportunities and attainment for all; and ensuring access to affordable housing and key services. The Core Strategy can influence both of these issues, as well as the wider economic, environmental and social influences on deprivation.</p>
<p>Demographics</p>	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing population • Immigration/out migration (e.g. students) 	<p>The baseline data shows a higher than average proportion of the population between the ages of 30 and 55, which suggests a likelihood that over the next 20 years, the Borough will have an increasingly ageing population. This may have implications in terms of housing requirements, the proportion of the population that are economically active, increased pressure on medical facilities etc.</p> <p>The data also shows a lower than average proportion of the population between the ages of 15 and 25 which may suggest that people in this age group are moving out of the Borough to further their education given the absence of a university or comparable higher education facility within the Borough.</p> <p>Largely as a result of the expansion of the EU in 2004, there has been a significant increase in immigration to the UK of non-British EU citizens. Whilst the Council does not have comprehensive information relating to the amount of immigration into the Borough, the data available does show a marked increase in non-British EU citizens since 2005, particularly from Poland and the Slovak Republic (together with a general increase in international immigration). This trend may well raise sustainability issues such as housing and education/skills needs, access to medical facilities, and social inclusion and cohesion.</p>

Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?	
Housing – amount, spatial distribution and delivery	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability impact of provision of new housing/ constraints on new development • Delivery of housing 	<p>The Draft South East Plan proposes that Basingstoke and Deane should deliver 825 dwellings per annum between 2006 and 2026. The Council's position is that this figure should be 740 dwellings per annum. Although housing delivery in the Borough has increased in recent years, the draft SE Plan figure exceeds the average housing completions for the last 15 years, and therefore enhanced delivery may well be required in future years.</p> <p>Providing new housing is essential to enable everyone to have the opportunity of living in a decent home. There are also economic advantages in terms of sustaining economic growth yet there are obvious sustainability issues, particularly environmental, as a consequence of new homes.</p> <p>Deciding on the location of new homes will need to be based on consideration of number of sustainability issues such as infrastructure capacity/provision, environmental protection, townscape/landscape character. The Sustainability Appraisal will be an important tool in assessing the sustainability implications of the development strategy and policy options.</p>
Housing for all	
<p>Sustainability Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability • Ensuring a balanced mix of housing • Inclusion of specific groups e.g. gypsies • Reducing homelessness 	<p>House price increases above the rate of wage inflation have resulted in difficulties for new households trying to access market housing across the Borough, and housing affordability in general.</p> <p>Although relatively high numbers of affordable housing have been provided within the Borough over the last few years, the number of people identified as in need on the Housing Register is large, and has been growing in recent years. Regular Housing Needs surveys have confirmed the need to maximise the provision of affordable housing through the planning system (without inhibiting the delivery of housing in general).</p> <p>Certain sectors of the community have specific housing needs that should be addressed. For example, the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment has identified a need for permanent and transit accommodation within north Hampshire so this issue will need to be addressed. The provision of rural affordable housing to provide for local needs is also an issue.</p> <p>Although the number of homeless within the Borough is relatively low (and falling), the issue of homelessness remains a priority of the Government and the Council needs to continue to work to minimise the number of homeless.</p>

Why is this a sustainability issue in Basingstoke and Deane?	
<p>Sustainability Issues</p> <p>Education and skills</p> <p>Sustainability issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational attainment at secondary school Higher level skills shortages 	<p>Whilst pupils within the borough schools are performing well at key stages 1 and 2, at stage 3, schools within neighbouring authorities are achieving better results. Although the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more grades A*-C at GCSE within the Borough over the last 4 years has continued to increase, attainment levels within the Borough have fallen below the regional average and barely kept pace with the national average. Although Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is not the Local Education Authority, the educational attainment of secondary schools is nevertheless a sustainability issue that should be addressed by objectives/policies within the LDF.</p> <p>Although the Borough's workforce is relatively well skilled (with a higher proportion of the working age population having NVQ4+ qualifications), it lacks a large base of new graduates and highly skilled workers. The provision of higher level learning is therefore an issue to be addressed.</p>
<p>Open space and recreation</p> <p>Sustainability issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of green infrastructure to meet local communities Improving access to open space and the countryside Improving the quality of the Borough's open spaces Meeting recreational and cultural needs to help create a healthy Borough 	<p>An audit of the Borough's open spaces was completed in September 2000. It concluded that there is not an 'oversupply' of open space within Basingstoke Town and the Borough's larger settlements. The open spaces that we have also vary considerably in their quality and value. The way that these open spaces are being used is also changing, reflecting changing community needs and expectations and also the impacts of global warming such as flooded pitches. Urban land in the Borough is under significant development pressure and there is an increasing demand to redevelop existing areas of open space for other uses including residential development.</p> <p>Borough residents and visitors have a need for accessible, high quality and well-managed open spaces, and the LDF should look at ensuring that access to high quality and useable open space for the local community is at least maintained, and wherever possible enhanced. Community needs must be met in the most sustainable way possible.</p> <p>Despite the high quality of the natural environment in the Borough, public access to the countryside is limited and there is potential for improved access to these areas. Opportunities should be taken to improve access where possible, in line with countryside access plans being developed by Hampshire County Council.</p> <p>The Borough has a wide range of convenient and accessible community, recreation and cultural facilities which contribute to its attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. The performing arts provision, in particular, is at the level of a regional city. Whilst the Borough is well served with large-scale leisure facilities, predominantly located in Basingstoke, there remains a demand for more local facilities, particularly in the smaller towns and villages. A further sustainability issue is the changing role of leisure and the need for this to be accommodated to ensure that useable and appropriate facilities and services are provided in the future.</p>

Question Four: In your opinion, are there any additional sustainability issues which should be added to those outlined above?

6 Stage A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

6.1 Why use Indicators and Objectives?

The development of SA objectives is a means of describing, analysing and comparing the environmental and sustainability effects of a plan, policy or proposal at various stages in the process. They indicate the outcomes the Local Development Framework should be seeking to achieve and can be used to check whether the Core Strategy objectives are the most sustainable. The use of appraisal criteria enables a more detailed analysis of issues that specifically affect Basingstoke and Deane.

Indicators can be used to measure any success or failure in meeting these sustainability objectives.

6.2 Identifying Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives

A range of SA objectives have been drafted, taking into account the context review, the baseline data and key Sustainability Issues identified for the Borough, the objectives of the Community Strategy, the objectives within the Integrated Regional Framework (used as the basis for the SA of the South East Plan), Government guidance on Sustainability Appraisal and the topics listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors).

The SA Objectives, appraisal criteria and indicators are detailed in Table 2 overleaf.

Table 2: Sustainability Objectives

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Housing	(1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it increase housing supply? • Will it increase the range of housing to meet all needs? e.g. type, tenure, size • Will it increase the affordability of housing? • Will it help to reduce the no. of homeless? • Will it reduce the no. of empty properties? • Will it produce dwellings of sustainable design and construction? • Will it ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place to serve the additional dwellings? • Will it produce sustainable communities? • Will it help new households access market housing? • Will it reduce the number in need on the housing register? • Will it enable social inclusion through meeting the needs of groups with specific housing needs? • Will it meet the housing needs of the ageing population? • Will it meet the housing needs of gypsies and travellers? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing completions • Amount of affordable housing delivered • Number on the Housing Register • No. of empty properties • House price/earnings affordability ratio • No. of homeless • No. in fuel poverty • House sizes/type • Number of gypsy and traveller pitches • % of new build and retrofit homes meeting Eco-homes 'very good' standard (equivalent to level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes) • Number of homes built to Lifetime Mobility standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Human Health

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Deprivation and social exclusion	(2) To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it encourage social cohesion? • Will it reduce overcrowding? • Will it reduce deprivation in the 7 most deprived areas of the Borough (within the wards of Buckskin, Norden, Popley East and South Ham)? • Will it discourage anti-social behaviour? • Will it reduce crime? • Will it provide better opportunities to improve skills/ achievements/employment, particularly within the most deprived wards of the Borough? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices of multiple deprivation for the 6 most deprived areas • Monitoring of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy • Overcrowding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Human health
Climate Change	(3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will it reduce and/or minimise greenhouse gas emissions and help to meet international, national and regional emissions targets? • Does it incorporate and/or promote the use of renewable energy technologies? • Will it mitigate the effects of climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predicted climate change effects on diurnal temperature range • Predicted climate change effects on diurnal precipitation range • Air quality and pollutants • Greenhouse gas emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic Factors • Population • Biodiversity • Fauna • Flora • Soil • Water • Air • Landscape

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Biodiversity and Landscape	<p>(4) To protect, and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna</p> <p>(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it protect and enhance sites and habitats, both designated and undesignated, of nature conservation value? Will it protect areas of highest landscape value? Will it protect and enhance the Borough's landscape character and diversity? Will it avoid damage to geological and geomorphologic interests? Will it maintain and enhance the quality of the Borough's soils? Will it retain the Borough's best and most versatile agricultural land? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape types and character areas Habitat types Priority species and types SSSI condition assessment Amount of best and most versatile agricultural land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Landscape Flora Fauna Soil
Water Environment	<p>(6) To maintain and improve the quality of water sources in the Borough</p> <p>(7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain or improve water quality? Will it reduce the vulnerability to flooding? Will it encourage a net reduction in the total number of dwellings built in areas of medium and high flood-risk? Will it increase the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems within developments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Quality Number of planning permissions in floodplains contrary to Environment Agency advice Number of localised flooding incidents reported to the Council Number of developments incorporating Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Number of developments to which the PPS25 Exception Test applies. Number of site specific Flood Risk Assessments completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Population

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
<p>Access and Transport</p>	<p>(8) To improve accessibility to all services and facilities</p> <p>(9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it minimise the need to travel? Will it provide alternative means of travel to the private car? Will it reduce private vehicular use and encourage the use of public transport? Will it improve access to community facilities and services, particularly within rural areas? Will it improve the self-containment of Basingstoke Town? Will it reduce congestion? Will it reduce barriers to social inclusion? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of out/in commuters Distance of households from key services Main mode of transport for all journeys Travel to work – distance travelled and mode % of households with access to private transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Air Climatic factors
<p>Skills/ education</p>	<p>(10) To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough, and personal and development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it increase the levels of participation and attainment in education at all levels? Will it improve the qualifications and skills of the population? Will it improve the educational performance of the Borough at secondary school level? Will it provide higher level education (graduate/highly skilled)? Will it enable learning and development to meet the skills requirements of employers within the Borough? Will it help to develop lifelong skills and reduce long-term unemployment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of population educated to degree level or higher Proportion of working age population with NVQ4+ qualification % of population aged 16-74 with no qualification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Sustainable, Prosperous Economy	<p>(11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy</p> <p>(12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment</p> <p>(13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth</p> <p>(14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote employment opportunities for the whole community? Will it promote a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy? Will it encourage business start-up and business growth? Will it maintain or provide a sufficient supply of employment land to meet the needs of existing businesses and attract inward investment? Will it retain or improve retail facilities in the Borough? Will it improve the image of the Borough to attract inward investment and tourism? Will it meet the needs of visitors to the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment and unemployment Economic Activity Earnings Business and Job Density Commercial floorspace availability and take-up Agricultural holdings Number of new businesses Number of bed spaces provided/lost? Amount of employment floorspace lost to other uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Material assets

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	(15) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the local built environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it promote and maintain an attractive and diverse townscape, and protect areas of highest townscape quality? Will it promote high quality design and enhance the built environment? Does it value and protect the locally distinctive settlement character? Will it safeguard sites and monuments of archaeological importance? Will it preserve and enhance buildings of historic or architectural interest? Will it avoid damage or degradation to designated areas (Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens) Will it protect the Borough's historic and cultural heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Conservation Areas Listed Buildings Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) Number of buildings removed from the local 'at risk' register 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage Material assets

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Resource Efficiency	(16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it use water more efficiently? Will it reduce water consumption? Will it result in a reduction in the amount of waste requiring treatment and disposal? Will it improve energy efficiency? Will it enable development to re-use brownfield land and convert existing buildings? Will it seek to support sustainable design and construction techniques? Will it enable the remediation of contaminated land? Will it reduce the Borough's carbon footprint? Will it provide energy from renewable sources? Will it reduce the amount of waste and/or increase recycling rates? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of new build and retrofit homes meeting Eco-homes 'very good' standard (equivalent to level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes). % of commercial buildings meeting BREEAM 'very good' standard Household energy use per capita Residential development on previously developed land (PDL) Recycling of household waste Domestic gas and electricity consumption Home Energy Conservation Act return 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material assets Water Soil

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Sustaining vibrant communities	(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it direct new development towards those settlements best able to accommodate it? Will it promote the viability and vitality of the Borough's town, district, local and village centres? Will it avoid excessive intensification in built-up areas, loss of open space and disruption of locally distinctive settlement form? Will it support the provision and retention of key facilities and services ensuring that local needs are met locally wherever possible? Will it, reflecting the objectives of the SCI, improve the engagement of local communities in the local planning system? Will it help create a sense of place and add to the distinctiveness of the Borough's settlements? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to schools, further education, work, GPs, hospitals, and major centres Access to cultural facilities Provision of new/improved community facilities Number of farm diversification schemes permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Cultural heritage
Open Space and Recreation	(18) To promote and improve access to open space and countryside, and encourage healthy lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it maintain or improve public access to open space and the countryside? Will it improve the quality of the Borough's open space Will it contribute towards meeting the sport and recreational needs of all in the community? Will it encourage participation in leisure and cultural events? Will it promote healthy lifestyles? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of greenspace Quality of open spaces Level of sport and recreational facilities Accessibility of communities to open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Landscape Cultural heritage

Issue	Objective	Appraisal criteria	Indicators	SEA Directive Topics
Safety and security	(19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it reduce opportunities for crime (e.g through design and layout)? Will it reduce antisocial behaviour? Will it reduce the fear of crime? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total recorded crime rate % of residents that have some fear of crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Human health
Health and well-being	(20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will it improve access to health and social care? Will it promote healthy lifestyles? Will it provide/improve healthcare facilities to meet the needs of older people? Will it help to develop healthy and 'liveable' neighbourhoods Will it improve air quality? Will it increase noise pollution near residential areas? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life expectancy % of residents describing their health as good Air quality and pollutants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Human health

6.3 Compatibility of the SA objectives and the Community Strategy

The Community Strategy themes and outcomes have been tested against the draft SA objectives to check for consistency and compatibility as well as any tensions. A detailed list of the Community Strategy themes and outcomes is included as Appendix D (separate document). Table 3 below matches the SA objectives with the Basingstoke and Deane Sustainable Community Strategy themes and objectives.

Table3 Testing the SA objectives against the Community Strategy Outcomes

Issue	Objective	Community Strategy Outcomes
Housing	(1) To provide all residents with the opportunity to live in a sustainable, decent home	H2: Homes and communities are improved in ways that reduce causes of poor health E1: The variety and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced and well designed E3: Access to affordable and appropriate housing is improved C1: Levels of deprivation and poor housing at a neighbourhood level are reduced
Deprivation and social exclusion	(2) To reduce deprivation and inequalities in quality of life between residents and neighbourhoods	C1: Levels of deprivation and poor housing at a neighbourhood level are reduced
Climate Change	(3) To reduce and minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and manage the impact of climate change	E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution
Biodiversity and Landscape	(4) To protect and enhance local biodiversity, flora and fauna	E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed
	(5) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape, soils, geological and geomorphologic interests	E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution

Issue	Objective	Community Strategy Outcomes
Water Environment	<p>(6) To maintain and improve the quality of water sources in the Borough</p> <p>(7) To reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to the local community, environment and economy</p>	<p>E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed</p> <p>E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution</p> <p>E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed</p> <p>E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution</p> <p>S5: Ways to prevent accidents and crime are routinely considered by all organisations</p>
Access and Transport	<p>(8) To improve accessibility to all services and facilities</p> <p>(9) To improve choice and access to sustainable transport options</p>	<p>E3: Access to affordable and appropriate housing is improved</p> <p>E4: Residents can access the services they need without the use of a car</p> <p>E6: Access to the countryside and public open space is improved</p> <p>H1: Access to good health and social care advice, treatment and facilities are improved</p> <p>H3: Health and healthcare for older people is improved</p> <p>H5: High levels of participation in cultural and leisure activities are maintained for all age groups</p> <p>L1: Provision for quality early years activities and childcare is increased</p> <p>L2: Access to a wider range of opportunities for learning and creativity is increased through improved information, reduced costs and access via a wide range of locations</p> <p>E4: Residents can access the services they need without the use of a car</p> <p>C4: Neighbourhoods have strong networks which are accessible to all residents and help them take responsibility for their communities</p> <p>E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution</p>

Issue	Objective	Community Strategy Outcomes
Skills/education	(10) To improve educational attainment and increase opportunities for new skills and learning to support the economic competitiveness of the Borough and personal development.	<p>P1: Individual and workforce skills are increased</p> <p>P4: Barriers to employment and investment are reduced</p> <p>L2: Access to a wider range of opportunities for learning and creativity is increased through improved information, reduced costs and access via a wide range of locations</p> <p>L3: Support for adults to improve basic skills is increased</p> <p>L4: Support for young people is increased through good schools and colleges and other appropriate learning opportunities</p> <p>L5: There is an integrated approach to community learning, in partnership with providers and the business community</p>
Sustainable, Prosperous Economy	(11) To develop a diverse and competitive knowledge-based economy	<p>P1: Individual and workforce skills are increased</p> <p>P4: Barriers to employment and investment are reduced</p> <p>H4: Work-life balance is improved across the country</p> <p>L2: Access to a wider range of opportunities for learning and creativity is increased through improved information, reduced costs and access via a wide range of locations</p> <p>L5: There is an integrated approach to community learning, in partnership with providers and the business community</p>
	(12) To maintain high and stable levels of employment	<p>P1: Individual and workforce skills are increased</p> <p>P4: Barriers to employment and investment are reduced</p>
	(13) To maintain and enhance sustainable economic growth	<p>H4: Work-life balance is improved across the country</p> <p>L5: There is an integrated approach to community learning, in partnership with providers and the business community</p> <p>P1: Individual and workforce skills are increased</p> <p>P4: Barriers to employment and investment are reduced</p>

Issue	Objective	Community Strategy Outcomes
Sustainable, Prosperous Economy	(14) To enhance the attractiveness of the Borough to visitors	<p>S4: The Borough has a positive self-image</p> <p>H5: High levels of participation in cultural and leisure activities are maintained for all age groups</p> <p>P3: The wider world has a positive image of Basingstoke</p> <p>E1: The variety and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed</p> <p>E2: The diversity and quality of the natural environment is protected and enhanced</p> <p>E6: Access to the countryside and public open space is improved</p>
Historic Environment & Cultural Heritage	(15) To protect and enhance the distinctiveness of the local built environment	<p>E1: The variety and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced and well designed</p>
Resource Efficiency	(16) To improve the efficiency of resource use, including re-using previously developed land, existing buildings and materials, and encouraging the maximum use of sustainable design and construction technologies	<p>E1: The variety and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced and well designed</p> <p>E2: The diversity and quality of the built environment is protected, enhanced, and well designed</p> <p>E5: We are effectively using our natural resources and minimising waste and pollution</p> <p>C1: Levels of deprivation and poor housing at a neighbourhood level are reduced</p>
Sustaining vibrant communities	(17) To create and sustain vibrant settlements and communities	<p>C6: Diversity is celebrated and discrimination is eliminated</p> <p>C4: Neighbourhoods have strong networks which are accessible to all residents and help them take responsibility for their communities</p> <p>C2: Communities and individuals are routinely involved in the planning of the physical environment and services that affect their lives</p> <p>C5: There is a thriving voluntary and community sector that benefits the community</p>
Open Space and Recreation	(18) To promote and improve access to open space and the countryside, and encourage healthy lifestyles	<p>H5: High levels of participation in cultural and leisure activities are maintained for all age groups</p> <p>E6: Access to the countryside and public open space is improved</p> <p>C4: Neighbourhoods have strong networks which are accessible to all residents and help them take responsibility for their communities</p>

Issue	Objective	Community Strategy Outcomes
Safety and security	(19) To improve community safety by reducing crime, the fear of crime, and antisocial behaviour	<p>S1: Residents have increased confidence in feeling safe</p> <p>S2: Levels of crime are reduced</p> <p>S3: Levels of antisocial behaviour are reduced</p>
Health and well-being	(20) To improve health and well-being through the development of healthy communities	<p>H1: Access to good health and social care advice, treatment and facilities are improved</p> <p>H2: Homes and communities are improved in ways that reduce causes of poor health</p> <p>H3: Health and healthcare for older people is improved</p> <p>H5: High levels of participation in cultural and leisure activities are maintained for all age groups</p> <p>H4: Work-life balance is improved across the country</p> <p>E6: Access to the countryside and public open space is improved</p>

6.4 Findings

It can be seen that the Core Strategy SA objectives are generally compatible with the Sustainable Community Strategy, and no further SA objectives are proposed as a result of this exercise.

**Question Five:
Are the sustainability objectives suitable in the context of Basingstoke and Deane?**

**Question Six:
Are there any additional sustainability objectives that should be included or should any of the objectives be removed?**

**Question Seven:
Do you have any further comments on the information in the Scoping Report generally?**

7 Stage A5: Consulting on the Scope

The Borough Council will consult on the scope of this draft for a period of 6 weeks. Under the SEA Directive, the Council has a statutory duty to consult the three environmental bodies - Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency. The report will also be made publicly available, and sent to selected stakeholders.

We would welcome any comments on this scoping report, as we wish to ensure that all of the sustainability issues associated with the Core Strategy are considered in the assessment of the relevant policies and guidance. Consultation at this stage is important as it will help to ensure that the SA will be comprehensive and robust. Following the consultation period, the comments will be analysed, and changes made to the scoping report where appropriate.

To summarise, the consultation questions are:

Question One:

Are there any other relevant plans, programmes, policies or strategies, in addition to those listed in Appendix B, that will affect or influence the emerging Core Strategy?

Question Two:

In your opinion, is there any additional relevant baseline information which should be added to that provided in Appendix C?

Question Three:

As far as you are aware, are there any inaccuracies or anomalies in the baseline data presented?

Question Four:

In your opinion, are there any additional sustainability issues which should be added to those identified?

Question Five:

Are the sustainability objectives suitable in the context of Basingstoke and Deane?

Question Six:

Are there any additional sustainability objectives that should be included or should any of the objectives be removed?

Question Seven:

Do you have any further comments on the information in the Scoping Report generally?

The following table sets out the proposed timetable for the next stages of the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal:

Table 4: Proposed timetable for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal

Timescale	Core Strategy	Sustainability Appraisal
September/October 2007	Evidence gathering	Consultation on scoping report
November 2007	Engagement/consultation on Issues and Options	Assessment of Key Options against Appraisal objectives/criteria
January – May 2008	Identifying and refining the Preferred Option – technical work	Assessment of Options against Appraisal objectives/criteria
September 2008	Engagement/consultation on Preferred Options	Prepare Draft SA Report
May/June 2009	Submission version	Final SA Report

8 Further Sustainability Appraisal Stages

Stage B in the SA process involves assessing the various issues and options put forward in relation to the Core Strategy against the SA objectives. This stage may also include:

- Testing the plan objectives against the SA Framework;
- Developing and refining options;
- Predicting and assessing effects;
- Identification of mitigation measures; and
- Developing monitoring proposals