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# **North Warwickshire Site Allocations DPD**

## **Sustainability Appraisal Report**

### **Non-Technical Summary**

Prepared by LUC  
March 2013

**Project Title:** Sustainability Appraisal of the North Warwickshire Site Allocations DPD

**Client:** North Warwickshire Borough Council

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## Introduction

- 1.1 This Sustainability Appraisal Report (Non-Technical Summary) relates to the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan, which is being produced by North Warwickshire Borough Council. The Council's Core Strategy, which sets out the strategic planning policies that will be pursued in the Borough over the next 20 years, is reaching an advanced stage and a Site Allocations Plan is now being produced within the context of the emerging Core Strategy in order to allocate specific sites for the development of housing, employment land and other facilities across North Warwickshire over the next 15 to 20 years.
- 1.2 Plans and strategies like the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan are required by law to be subject to a process called Sustainability Appraisal (SA) which assesses the potential impacts of the plan on social, economic, and environmental issues. North Warwickshire Borough Council has commissioned independent consultants (LUC) to carry out SA of the Site Allocations Plan on its behalf. This document provides a non-technical summary of the full SA Report for the Site Allocations Plan: Issues, Options and Preferred Options (March 2013), and it should be read alongside those two documents.

## The North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan

- 1.3 North Warwickshire Borough Council's Site Allocations Plan is being prepared within the framework of the emerging Core Strategy, the most recent version of which is the Pre-Submission document (November 2012). The Core Strategy will form the main part of North Warwickshire's new Local Plan, setting out a vision and strategic objectives for the Borough as well as Core Policies that will set the basis for directing development for the next 15 to 20 years. The Site Allocations Plan must be in accordance with the Core Strategy, and will allocate sites for housing, employment and other types of development that will help to achieve its objectives.
- 1.4 The Vision for North Warwickshire (as set out in the emerging Core Strategy) is for the Borough to be:  
*"A place where people want to live, work and visit, now and in the future, which meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to the local environment and contributes to a high quality of life".*
- 1.5 The Core Strategy specifies the level and broad location of the development that is planned for the Borough up to 2028, but it does not identify specific sites for development. This is the purpose of the Site Allocations Plan. Once adopted, the Site Allocations Plan will form part of North Warwickshire's Local Plan with the allocated sites replacing those from the saved Local Plan (2006).
- 1.6 The Site Allocations Plan (Issues, Options and Preferred Options, March 2013) is structured in seven parts. The first part introduces the plan, and the following six sections present options and preferred site allocations for each of the following types of development:
  - Employment land.
  - Retail.
  - Housing.
  - Green Belt settlements.
  - Open space.
  - Other uses/sites.
- 1.7 As well as the preferred sites for each type of development, a number of other reasonable alternative site options were considered but are not preferred. These reasonable alternative options have also been subject to SA in line with legal requirements, and the findings are

summarised in the full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary alongside those relating to the preferred options.

- 1.8 Maps showing the locations of the preferred sites are included in each section of the Site Allocations Plan.

## Sustainability Appraisal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment)

- 1.9 North Warwickshire Borough Council is required by law to carry out Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the emerging Site Allocations Plan, and has appointed LUC to do this on its behalf. The Government recommends that these two requirements are met through one integrated process, referred to as Sustainability Appraisal (or SA). The integrated SA should be conducted in accordance with Government guidance, and must meet the requirements of the European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive<sup>1</sup>. The key difference between SA and SEA is that SEA focuses primarily on environmental issues, whereas the SA covers a broader range of topics including social and economic issues as well.
- 1.10 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. It should be viewed as an integral part of good plan making, involving ongoing iterations to identify and report on the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the plan and the extent to which sustainable development is expected to be achieved.
- 1.11 This Non-Technical Summary relates to the SA Report for the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan (Issues, Options and Preferred Options, March 2013). The SA Report has been produced alongside the emerging Site Allocations Plan in order to provide sustainability guidance during its development. A description of the method used in carrying out the SA of the Site Allocations Plan is set out below.

### Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on scope

- 1.12 The SA process started in 2006 with North Warwickshire Borough Council producing a Scoping Report for its Local Development Framework (LDF), which includes the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations Plan. The Scoping Report decided what the SA should cover by reviewing a wide range of relevant policy documents (at the international, national and local levels), and by examining data and information to help identify what the key sustainability issues are in North Warwickshire as well as likely future trends. It also presented the SA 'framework' – a set of 20 SA objectives which would be used to structure the later stages of the appraisal (the SA framework is presented further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary).
- 1.13 The Scoping Report was issued in October 2006 for consultation with various stakeholders including the three statutory consultees for SEA - Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage.
- 1.14 The tasks that were originally undertaken in relation to the scoping stage of the SA have been updated where necessary throughout the SA process for the Site Allocations Plan, in order to make sure that the policy context and baseline information remain up-to-date.

### Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing their effects

- 1.15 Developing options for a plan is an iterative process usually involving a number of consultations with the public and stakeholders. The SA process can help to identify where there may be other 'reasonable alternatives' to the options that are being considered for a plan. The options/reasonable alternatives for North Warwickshire's Site Allocations Plan included potential sites for new housing and employment development and open space.

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<sup>1</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.

- 1.16 The production of the Site Allocations Plan (Issues, Options and Preferred Options, March 2013) has followed a period of evidence gathering. The site options that are presented within the document were identified through a variety of sources including:
- Sites previously and recently submitted to the Council.
  - Sites proposed within other Local Development Framework (LDF) documents such as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and Local Investment Plan (LIP).
  - A review of land allocations within the adopted North Warwickshire Local Plan.
  - A review of site specific proposals within other strategic documents and service strategies produced by other sections within the Council.
- 1.17 The site selection process for each town and village is described in detail in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the full SA report, including a description of which sites were originally put forward, which were considered to be reasonable options and so were subject to SA and which have been selected as part of the preferred option for the town or village in question. A number of the sites that were originally submitted to the Council were not considered to be reasonable alternatives for various reasons (as detailed in the summaries of SA findings for each town and village/site type); however, all of the sites that could be considered to be reasonable options were subject to SA.
- 1.18 In some cases, the boundaries of sites that were put forward have been amended (for example a number of sites were reduced in size in order that they would fit more appropriately within their surroundings). The summaries of SA findings in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the full SA report describe where site boundaries have been changed, and if the original site area could also be considered a reasonable option, it was also subject to SA.
- 1.19 Some sites have been considered for more than one potential type of development (e.g. employment or residential development). Where this is the case, and both potential uses were reasonable options, they have been subject to SA for both potential uses.

#### **SA Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal report**

- 1.20 The full SA Report and this accompanying Non-Technical Summary describe the process that has been undertaken to date in carrying out the SA of the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan. They set out the findings of the appraisal, highlighting any likely significant effects (both positive and negative), make recommendations for improvements and clarifications that may help to reduce the potential negative effects and maximise the potential benefits of the site allocations, and outline proposed monitoring measures.
- 1.21 Each site option was assessed against each SA objective, and a judgement was made regarding the likely effect that the development of that site would have on that SA objective. The sustainability effects are presented in a matrix for each site, in Annex 1 to the full SA report, along with a brief justification of the judgement made.
- 1.22 The SA findings for the Site Allocations Plan are summarised in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the full SA report and further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

#### **SA Stage D: Consultation on the Site Allocations Plan and the SA Report**

- 1.23 North Warwickshire Borough Council is now inviting representations on the Draft Site Allocations Plan in accordance with Regulation 18 of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The full SA Report (and this Non-Technical Summary) will be published alongside the Plan during the consultation period.

#### **Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Site Allocations Plan**

- 1.24 Proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Site Allocations Plan are set out Chapter 8 of the full SA Report and are summarised further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary.

## Policy Context

- 1.25 The Site Allocations Plan is not prepared in isolation, being produced within the context of the emerging Core Strategy (the key document in the Borough Council's emerging new Local Plan). The Core Strategy sets out the strategic planning policies that the Borough Council and its partners will pursue over the next 20 years. The Core Strategy is currently at Pre-Submission stage, but its emerging policies state that between 2006 and 2028, at least 3,800 dwellings will be developed and that 68.5ha of local employment land will be provided during the same period. The Site Allocations Plan will set out which sites are to be developed for housing, employment and other uses across the Borough over the next 15 to 20 years.
- 1.26 As well as the emerging Core Strategy, the Site Allocations Plan is also greatly influenced by other plans, policies and programmes and by broader sustainability objectives. It needs to be consistent with international and national guidance and strategic planning policies and should contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, such as those relating to social policy, culture and heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and the sustainability objectives established at an international, national and regional level.
- 1.27 As part of the scoping stage for the SA of the Local Development Framework (now the new Local Plan) in 2006<sup>2</sup>, a review was undertaken of the other relevant plans, policies and programmes. This review has now been updated to reflect recent changes in policy and the full updated review of relevant plans, policies and programmes can be seen in Appendix 1 of the full SA report.
- 1.28 The most significant recent development in terms of the national policy context for the Local Plan (including the Site Allocations Plan) has been the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. The NPPF replaced the suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Planning Policy Guidance (PPGs) and was intended to streamline national planning policy, having reduced over a thousand pages of policy down to around 50 pages. The Site Allocations Plan must be consistent with the requirements of the NPPF, which sets out information about the purposes of local plan-making. It states that:
- "Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. To this end, they should be consistent with the principles and policies set out in this Framework, including the presumption in favour of sustainable development."*
- 1.29 The NPPF also requires Local Plans to be 'aspirational but realistic'. This means that opportunities for appropriate development should be identified in order to achieve net gains in terms of sustainable social, environmental and economic development; however significant adverse impacts in any of those areas should not be allowed to occur.
- 1.30 The NPPF requires local planning authorities to set out the strategic priorities for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:
- the homes and jobs needed in the area;
  - the provision of retail, leisure and other commercial development;
  - the provision of infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);
  - the provision of health, security, community and cultural infrastructure and other local facilities; and
  - climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape.
- 1.31 In addition, Local Plans should:
- plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework;

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<sup>2</sup> NWBC (2006) Draft Scoping Report - Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Local Development Framework

- be drawn up over an appropriate time scale, preferably a 15-year time horizon, take account of longer term requirements, and be kept up to date;
- be based on co-operation with neighbouring authorities, public, voluntary and private sector organisations;
- indicate broad locations for strategic development on a key diagram and land-use designations on a proposals map;
- allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land, bringing forward new land where necessary, and provide detail on form, scale, access and quantum of development where appropriate;
- identify areas where it may be necessary to limit freedom to change the uses of buildings, and support such restrictions with a clear explanation;
- identify land where development would be inappropriate, for instance because of its environmental or historic significance; and
- contain a clear strategy for enhancing the natural, built and historic environment, and supporting Nature Improvement Areas where they have been identified.

1.32 While the emerging North Warwickshire Core Strategy will address many of the above requirements, it will be supported and delivered by the Site Allocations Plan. Other policy documents that are relevant to the Site Allocations Plan and the SA process include the Natural Environment White Paper which sets out the Government's approach to protecting and enhancing the environment in the UK, the European Birds and Habitats Directives which seek to protect internationally important wildlife sites and species and the Water Framework Directive, which aims to improve water quality in rivers. There are many other similar environmental protection strategies and documents, plus others that are more concerned with social and economic objectives, that have been taken into account in the SA – see Appendix 1 in the full SA report.

## Baseline Information

- 1.33 It is a further requirement of the SEA process that consideration should be given to the current state of the environment in North Warwickshire, and for the SA process, social and economic information should also be taken into account. A short summary of the environmental, social and economic characteristics of North Warwickshire is provided below, and detailed baseline information for the Borough is provided in Chapter 4 of the full SA Report. That baseline information, which has been regularly updated throughout the SA process in order to ensure that it remains up-to-date, enabled the key sustainability issues for North Warwickshire to be identified and a locally appropriate SA framework to be developed for appraising the emerging Site Allocations Plan (see below).
- 1.34 At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 62,014 people living in North Warwickshire<sup>3</sup>. The Borough is relatively sparsely populated with 2.2 persons per hectare compared to 2.8 persons per hectare in Warwickshire as a whole and 4.1 persons per hectare in England.
- 1.35 Following the demise of the mining industry, and the closure of all but one of the coal mines, many of the historic small-scale mining settlements in the Borough have struggled economically. Other settlements have sought to diversify their economic base, for example by attracting small-scale industrial parks to former mining sites.
- 1.36 The Borough has seen an increase in employment land, particularly logistics, but a decrease in manufacturing<sup>4</sup>. Large brownfield sites, such as Hams Hall, Birch Coppice, and Kingsbury Link, have been used for development, mainly for storage and distribution, and Hams Hall and Birch Coppice also benefit from intermodal rail freight interchanges. The Borough is the location for many national and international companies including Aldi, TNT, BHS, 3M, BMW, Sainsbury, Subaru and Ocado.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/key-statistics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/stb-2011-census-key-statistics-for-england-and-wales.html>

<sup>4</sup> Core Strategy Spatial Portrait text.

- 1.37 There are a number of other, older industrial estates in Atherstone, Mancetter, Arley and Coleshill that serve the local and sub-regional employment needs of the Borough with mostly smaller companies (over 90% of companies in the Borough employ 10 or less employees<sup>5</sup>). However, a large proportion of the Borough's workforce (over 50%) commutes to urban areas outside the Borough such as Birmingham and Tamworth<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.38 The unemployment rate within North Warwickshire Borough is low (5%) relative to the regional (9%) and the Great Britain averages (8%)<sup>7</sup>. This unemployment rate for the Borough represents an increase on earlier periods, probably reflecting the recent economic downturn.
- 1.39 The Indices of Employment Deprivation for North Warwickshire show areas of high and low employment and indicate that the south, west and very north of the Borough is relatively less deprived, whilst some areas of deprivation are found in the east of the Borough around Atherstone/ Mancetter, Polesworth, Hartshill, Ansley, New Arley and Old Arley. Hurley in the centre of the Borough is also relatively deprived.
- 1.40 The underlying geology and variations in topography and hydrology contribute to the complex and diverse range of habitats across the Borough<sup>8</sup>. As a whole the Borough is well-wooded, particularly within the upland areas, being most pronounced around Hartshill where extensive woodland blocks and plantations exist. There are also some areas of ancient woodland in the Borough, for example at Bentley Park Wood. In the lower lying river corridors, less woodland exists but other important habitats such as wetland vegetation and grassland are present. There are a number of large wetland areas in the Borough formed from former extraction operations concentrated around the Tame Valley and at Alvecote on the River Anker which provide notable wildlife habitats.
- 1.41 North Warwickshire has a good record of utilising brownfield sites for new development, with the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)<sup>9</sup> showing that 98% of the 130 dwellings completed in North Warwickshire during the year 2008/09 were on previously developed land. In addition, 82% of these new dwellings were located in the main towns and Local Service Centres which generally provide the most sustainable locations (as they will have better public transport provision and a wider range of local services and facilities). During the year 2009/10, 95 new dwellings were built, of which 98% were on previously developed land and 96% were within urban areas. All of the new employment sites developed during that year were on previously developed land. The AMR for the year 2010/2011 records that 105 gross dwellings were completed, of which 99% were on previously developed land and 76% were in urban areas. All completed employment floor space during that year was on previously developed land<sup>10</sup>.
- 1.42 The Borough is crossed by eight Main Rivers: the Rivers Anker, Tame, Cole, Blythe and Bourne, as well as Bramcote, Coleshill Hall and Hollywell Brooks. Flood risk is widespread throughout the Borough, particularly within a band just north of the A5 corridor along the Coventry Canal and to the west along the Rivers Blythe and Tame. This flood risk acts as a constraint to new development around Polesworth/Dordon and Atherstone/Mancetter, as well as the settlements to the west.
- 1.43 The Borough has significant cultural heritage interest. Amongst the more prominent features of the local historic environment are the remains of a number of monastic sites from the Middle Ages, whilst the economic exploitation of the Borough's geology has left a rich heritage of industrial archaeology<sup>11</sup>. There is no one Borough-wide building style but it is recognised that there are distinctive local styles<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> Core Strategy Spatial Portrait text.

<sup>6</sup> Core Strategy Spatial Portrait text.

<sup>7</sup> Employment and Unemployment 2010-2011 levels: Nomis:

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431960/report.aspx#tabempocc>

<sup>8</sup> North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment (FPCR LLP, 2010)

<sup>9</sup> Annual Monitoring Report 2009/10 (North Warwickshire Borough Council December 2010).

<sup>10</sup> Annual Monitoring Report 2010/11 (North Warwickshire Borough Council December 2011).

<sup>11</sup> Core Strategy text to support Policy NW11

<sup>12</sup> Core Strategy text- So what Makes North Warwickshire Unique?

## Key Sustainability Issues and Evolution without the Plan

- 1.44 The key sustainability issues that have been identified from the updated baseline information are presented in **Table 1** below. It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that consideration is given to the likely evolution of the environment in the plan area if the Site Allocations Plan were not to be implemented. This information is also set out in **Table 1** overleaf, in relation to each of the key sustainability issues.

**Table 1 Evolution of Key Sustainability Issues in the Borough without Implementation of the Plan**

Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
An aging population coupled with a declining birth rate.	The population is likely to continue to age if employment opportunities do not improve, which could help to attract young professionals. Policy NW7 (Employment) of the emerging Core Strategy aims to provide 68.5ha of additional employment land in North Warwickshire from 2006 and 2028, which should attract young families and increase the birth rate and reverse the aging trend of the population. However, the successful implementation requires the employment sites to be allocated in the Site Allocations DPD; therefore without the implementation of this Plan, this issue may not be addressed and the current trend would continue.
The need to improve biodiversity assets, including designated nature conservation sites, especially the condition of SSSIs.	The condition of SSSIs is likely to remain constant without specific intervention to improve them. Policy NW11 (Natural & Historic Environment) of the emerging Core Strategy will require development to protect and enhance the natural environment and wildlife features, which should help to address this issue. In addition, emerging Policy NW12 specifically states that SSSI will be subject to a high degree of protection and the trend in SSSI condition may improve. Therefore, even without the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD, this issue should be to some extent addressed through implementation of the emerging Core Strategy. However, the development that those policies refers to will come forward through the Site Allocations DPD so the issue will be addressed by a combination of the two Plans.
High house prices.	Policy NW5 (Affordable Housing) in the emerging Core Strategy targets 40% of dwellings completed from 2006 to 2028 to be affordable. This will help ensure that the issue of affordable housing is addressed and that more people in North Warwickshire have access to affordable housing. However, without the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD, fewer new housing developments would come forward and the issue would therefore be likely to continue broadly as at present.
The need to improve unsuitable properties.	Policy NW3 (Housing Development) in the emerging Core Strategy aims to provide 3,800 new homes from 2006 to 2028, which will increase the number of suitable properties in the area as an alternative to the existing unsuitable properties. However, without the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD, fewer new housing developments would come forward and the issue would therefore be likely to continue broadly as at present.
The need to reduce the fear of crime.	The implementation of the Site Allocations DPD will help to deliver policies in the emerging Core Strategy such as NW13 (Green Infrastructure), which may help improve the public realm and restore pride in some areas and reduce the fear of crime. Without implementation of the Site Allocations DPD the issue should still be addressed to some extent through the emerging Core Strategy, but it will be more successfully addressed through implementation of the two Plans together.
Varying levels of access to key services, especially for residents in the more isolated rural areas of the Borough.	Policy NW17 (Local Services and Facilities) in the emerging Core Strategy ensures the provision of services and facilities is protected and is likely to address the issue of access to key services in the Borough. Also, policy NW18 (Transport) supports sustainable transport solutions that may help improve access to services from isolated rural areas. Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will therefore still be addressed to some extent; however the specific site allocations coming forward in that Plan will go further towards providing access to key services and facilities.
Relatively high levels of income deprivation and low income levels.	Income deprivation and low income levels are likely to continue if there is a lack of high-quality employment opportunities in the area. Policy NW7 (Employment) of the emerging Core Strategy aims to provide 68.5ha of additional employment land in North Warwickshire from 2006 and 2028, which should help address income deprivation. However, the successful implementation of the Core Strategy requires the employment sites to be allocated in the Site Allocations DPD; therefore without the implementation of this Plan, this issue may not be addressed and the current trend would continue.
Relatively high levels of health	Policies in the emerging Core Strategy that improve quality of life such as NW5 (Affordable Housing), NW13 (Green

Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
deprivation and higher than the national average mortality rates.	Infrastructure) and NW17 (Local Services and Facilities) may help address health deprivation in North Warwickshire. Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will therefore still be addressed to some extent in the emerging Core Strategy, but the issue may not be addressed as successfully without the Site Allocations DPD which allocates specific sites for affordable housing development (which can benefit health).
Low levels of qualification and educational attainment.	Policy NW17 (Local Services and Facilities) in the emerging Core Strategy ensures adequate provision of education facilities, by stating that new schools will be pursued in the area, and may have an effect on educational attainment. Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will therefore still be addressed to some extent in the emerging Core Strategy, but the successful implementation of the Core Strategy policy NW17 requires the local services (such as schools) to come forward as a result of the development allocations in the Site Allocations DPD , therefore this issue may not be addressed as successfully.
The need to protect Local Geological Sites (LoGS).	Policy NW11 (Natural & Historic Environment) of the emerging Core Strategy requires development to protect and enhance the natural environment including geo-diversity features, which may address this key sustainability issue that relates to Local Geological Sites. Without knowing the location of allocated sites through a Site Allocations DPD, there is less certainty regarding whether LoGS would be affected by new developments. Therefore, even without the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD, this issue should be to some extent addressed through implementation of the emerging Core Strategy. However, the development that those policies refers to will come forward through the Site Allocations DPD so the issue will be addressed by a combination of the two Plans.
The need to improve river quality.	The baseline information identifies that the quality of rivers in the Borough is generally poor (especially with only 3% of rivers Tame, Anker and Mease River Basin District with 'good' ecological status). Policy NW11 (Natural & Historic Environment) of the emerging Core Strategy requires development to protect and enhance the natural environment. Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will therefore still be addressed to some extent the emerging Core Strategy.
The need to improve air quality, particularly around the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).	There is no policy in the emerging Core Strategy that specifically relates to air quality, however paragraph 124 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that "planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas is consistent with the local air quality action plan". Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will still be addressed through national planning policy, although the implementation of the Site Allocations Plan is likely to add more certainty to how the air quality around AQMAs might be affected by allocating particular sites for development.
The need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.	There is no policy in the emerging Core Strategy that specifically relates to carbon dioxide emissions, however Policy NW9 (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency), which supports renewable energy projects, and Policy NW18 (Transport), which promotes sustainable transport, may help reduce carbon emissions. Overall it is expected that the trend in emissions is unlikely to reduce dramatically. Without the Site Allocations Plan this issue will therefore still be addressed to some extent the emerging Core Strategy, but it will be more successfully addressed through implementation of the two Plans together as the Site Allocations DPD will identify particular sites for development that should facilitate higher levels of sustainable transport use.
High levels of flood risk in some areas.	The baseline information identifies that flood risk is widespread in the Borough. There is no specific policy in the emerging Core Strategy relating to flood risk, but paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework states that "inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk". This should help reduce flood risk in the Borough, but will be implemented through the specific allocations

Issue	Likely Evolution without the Plan
High levels of waste generation and lower rate of recycling in relation to the rest of the county.	<p data-bbox="609 194 952 220">in the Site Allocations DPD.</p> <p data-bbox="609 226 2110 379">Although recycling rates are improving in the Borough, County-level targets are not being met. There is no policy in the emerging Core Strategy or the National Planning Policy Framework that specifically relates to waste and recycling. Additional housing and employment development will inevitably increase waste generation, however the implementation of the Site Allocations DPD which has been subject to SA, considering the impacts of specific sites on waste generation, should help to ensure that impacts are minimised as far as possible.</p>
Reliance on fossil fuels for energy generation.	<p data-bbox="609 386 2110 472">National reliance on fossil fuels is likely to continue despite government efforts to increase renewable energy production. Policy NW9 in the emerging Core Strategy (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency) supports renewable energy projects. The Site Allocations DPD will not directly affect this issue.</p>

## Method and Sustainability Appraisal Framework

- 1.45 The updated review of other policies, plans and programmes and baseline data helped to identify the key sustainability issues for North Warwickshire, as described above. These key sustainability issues, and input from stakeholders, provided the basis for developing a set of SA objectives or an 'SA framework'. The SA framework, which is the main tool to be used at each stage of the SA for assessing the likely effects of the Site Allocations Plan, is set out in **Table 2** below.

**Table 2 SA Framework for the North Warwickshire Site Allocations Plan**

SA Objectives
1. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.
2. Developing and supporting vibrant and active communities and voluntary groups, who are able to express their needs and take steps towards meeting them.
3. Tackling health inequalities and improve health by supporting local communities and by improving access and raising awareness
4. Providing decent and affordable housing to meet local needs.
5. Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.
6. Providing opportunities to participate in recreational and cultural activities.
7. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character.
8. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage.
9. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire
10. Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations.
11. Maintaining the resources of air, water and productive soil, minimising pollution levels.
12. Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts.
13. Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.
14. Using natural resources efficiently
15. Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car.
16. Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.
17. Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials.
18. Creation of a modern, healthy and diverse economy which is able to adapt to changes in the wider economy while remaining relevant to the needs of local people.
19. Maintaining and enhancing employment opportunities and reducing the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs.
20. Ensuring that people of all ages are provided with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, confidence and understanding to achieve their full potential.

## Use of the SA Framework

- 1.46 Within the assessment matrices which set out the likely sustainability effects of the site options that have been considered for inclusion in the Site Allocations Plan, symbols and colour-coding have been used against each SA objective to show whether an effect is likely to be significant or minor, positive or negative, or uncertain, as shown in **Table 3** below.

**Table 3 Key to SA scores**

Symbol	Likely Effect
++	Significant positive effect
+	Minor positive effect
0	Negligible effect
-	Minor negative effect
--	Significant negative effect
?	Uncertain effect

- 1.47 The potential effects of the Site Allocations Plan need to be determined and their significance assessed, which requires a series of judgments to be made. Attempts have been made to differentiate between the most significant effects and other more minor effects through the use of the symbols shown above. The dividing line in making a decision about the significance of an effect is often quite small. Where either ++ or -- has been used to distinguish significant effects from more minor effects (+ or -), this is because the effect of the site in question on an SA objective is considered to be of such magnitude that it will have a noticeable and measurable effect taking into account other factors that may influence the achievement of that SA objective.
- 1.48 It is a requirement of the SEA Directive to consider whether the potential effects predicted are likely to be secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium or long-term, permanent or temporary. Where relevant, reference has been made to effects being either direct or indirect (the latter is taken to cover 'secondary' effects). Cumulative effects refer to the potential to increase overall effects due to one effect being added onto another. The cumulative effects of the Site Allocations Plan have been considered in Chapter 8 of the full SA Report and are described further ahead in this Non-Technical Summary. Consideration is also given to the timescales over which effects are likely to occur.

## Potential Effects of the Site Allocations Plan

### What are the sustainability effects of the Site Allocations Plan likely to be?

- 1.49 There is much to welcome in the Site Allocations Plan and the development of the preferred sites is likely to have a wide range of positive effects on sustainability issues in North Warwickshire, although the scale of development required means that inevitably there are also some potential negative effects identified, particularly in relation to the environmental objectives.
- 1.50 **Table 4** overleaf summarises the potential significant effects, both positive and negative, that are likely to arise from the development of the site allocations considered. The sites in **bold** are those that are preferred in the Draft Site Allocations Plan, while the others are the reasonable alternatives considered. Note that where significant effects were identified as part of a mixed effect (e.g. ++/--, +/- or +/-), they are recorded under either the significant positive or significant negative columns, or both, as relevant. Note that **Table 4** sets out the likely significant effects only, and that full details of all of the likely effects of the sites in each town/village can be found in Chapters 5, 6 and 7 of the full SA report, including both significant and minor effects.

**Table 4 Summary of significant effects by SA objective**

SA objectives	Proposed site use	Sites identified as having a significant positive effect	Sites identified as having a significant negative effect
1. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.	Residential	<b>COL3, COL4, COL5 (Part A), COL5 (Part B), COL6, COL7, COL8, COL9, COL10, BE7, BE8, BE9, BE6, BE11, BE12, HAR3, HAR2, ARL1, ARL2, ARL5, ARL8, ARL9, KIN1, KIN2, KIN3, KIN4, KIN5, KIN7, KIN8, KIN6, WO1, WO4, WO9, AUS1 (Part a), AUS1 (Part b), AUS3 (Part), AUS4, AUS7, AUS10, AUS1, AUS3, AUS5, AUS8, CUR3, CUR4, CUR5, CUR1, FIL1, FIL4, HUR4, NR3, NR1, NR2, WAR2, WAR3, WAR6, WAR10, WAR1, WAR7, WH1, WH2, WH3, WE1A, WE6, WE1, WE1B, WE5, ATH17, ATH18, MAN1, MAN2, MAN3, ATH1, ATH2, POL3, POL17, POL1, POL2, POL4, DOR2, DOR12, DOR1, DOR16C, DOR16D, DOR17 (WEST), DOR18 and DOR19.</b>	HAR6, HAR7, HAR8, HAR8 (Part), <b>WO1, ATH5 (part), ATH5, POL6 (part), POL12, POL6, DOR5, DOR7 Green Belt infill boundary: Lea Marston</b> and Green Belt infill boundary: Corley Moor.
	Employment	CUR1 (mixed-use) and <b>DOR18/19/20 (mixed-use).</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
2. Developing and supporting vibrant and active communities and voluntary groups, who are able to express their needs and take steps towards meeting them.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
3. Tackling health inequalities and improve health by supporting local communities and by improving access and raising awareness	Residential	<b>COL3, COL4, COL5 (Part A), COL5 (Part B), COL6, COL7, COL9, BE7, BE8, BE9, BE10, BE6, BE11, BE12, HAR3, ANSCOMM1, HAR10, ANSCOMM3, ANSCOMM4, KIN2, KIN3, KIN4, KIN5, KIN7, KIN8, KIN6, WO1, WO4, WO9, FIL1, FIL4, HUR2, HUR4, HUR5, ATH17, ATH18, POL3, POL2, POL4, DOR2, DOR1, DOR16C and DOR16D.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<b>EM4, CUR1 (employment,)</b> and CUR1 (mixed-use).	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
4. Providing decent and affordable	Residential	GRE4, GRE5, <b>HAR3, HAR8, ANSCOMM5, WE2, WE7, ATH4, ATH5, DOR/POL16A, DOR/POL16B, DOR17</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>

SA objectives	Proposed site use	Sites identified as having a significant positive effect	Sites identified as having a significant negative effect
housing to meet local needs.		<b>(EAST)</b> , DOR17 (WEST) and DOR18.	
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
5. Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
6. Providing opportunities to participate in recreational and cultural activities.	Residential	<b>COL1, COL3, COL4, COL5 (Part A), COL5 (Part B), COL6, COL7, COL9, BE3, BE7, BE8, BE9, BE10, GRE1, GRE2, BE1, BE2, BE4, BE6, BE11, BE12, GRE3, GRE8, GRE9, HAR3, ANSCOMM1, HAR1, HAR2, HAR10, ANSOMM3, ANSCOMM4, ARL1, ARL2, ARL5, ARL4, KIN1, KIN2, KIN3, KIN4, KIN5, KIN7, KIN8, KIN6, WO1, WO4, WO9, AUS1 (Part a), AUS1 (Part b), AUS3 (Part), AUS4, AUS7, AUS9, AUS10, AUS1, AUS3, AUS5, AUS6, AUS8, CUR3, CUR4, CUR5, CUR1, FIL1, FIL4, HUR1, HUR2, HUR4, HUR5, NR3, NR1, NR2, NR4, NR5, SHUT1, SHUT5, SHUT2, SHUT3, SHUT4, SHUT6, WAR2, WAR3, WAR6, WAR1, WAR7, WH1, WH2, WH3, WE1A, WE3, WE4, WE1, WE1B, WE5, ANS2 (Part A), ANS2 (Part B), ANS4, ANS1, ANS2, ATH14, ATH17, ATH18, MAN1, MAN2, MAN3, ATH1, ATH2, ATH9, POL3, POL6 (part), POL12, POL1, POL2, POL4, POL5, POL6, POL8, POL9, POL10, POL11, DOR2, DOR12, DOR1, DOR16C, DOR16D, DOR17 (WEST), DOR18, DOR19, and Green Belt infill boundary: Middleton.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	DOR18/19/20 (mixed-use).	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
7. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	GRE4, GRE5, GRE9, <b>HAR3</b> , HAR8, ANSCOMM5, WE2, WE7, ATH4, ATH5, DOR/POL16A, DOR/POL16B, <b>DOR17 (EAST)</b> , DOR17 (WEST) AND DOR18.
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>DOR8, DOR11</b> , DOR20 and ATH6 (whole site)
	Open Space	<b>DOR17.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
8. Valuing, enhancing and	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>COL3, COL4, COL5 (Part A), COL5 (Part B), COL6, COL7, COL8, COL9, COL10, BE7, BE8, BE9,</b>

SA objectives	Proposed site use	Sites identified as having a significant positive effect	Sites identified as having a significant negative effect
protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage.			<b>BE10</b> , BE5, <b>HAR3</b> , HAR2, HAR7, HAR8, <b>ARL1</b> , KIN6, <b>WO1</b> , <b>WO9</b> , <b>AUS1 (Part a)</b> , <b>AUS1 (Part b)</b> , <b>AUS2</b> , <b>AUS3 (Part)</b> , <b>AUS4</b> , <b>AUS7</b> , <b>AUS9</b> , <b>AUS10</b> , AUS1, AUS3, AUS5, AUS6, AUS8, AUS11, <b>CUR3</b> , <b>CUR4</b> , <b>CUR5</b> , CUR1, <b>FIL1</b> , <b>FIL4</b> , <b>HUR4</b> , <b>NR3</b> , NR1, NR2, NR4, NR5, <b>SHUT1</b> , <b>SHUT5</b> , SHUT2, SHUT3, SHUT4, SHUT6, <b>SHUS1</b> , <b>WAR2</b> , <b>WAR3</b> , <b>WAR6</b> , WAR1, WAR7, <b>WH1</b> , WH2, <b>ATH5 (part)</b> , <b>ATH13</b> , <b>ATH16</b> , <b>ATH17</b> , <b>ATH18</b> , <b>MAN1</b> , <b>MAN2</b> , ATH1, ATH2, ATH5, <b>POL3</b> , <b>POL6 (part)</b> , <b>POL12</b> , POL1, POL2, POL4, POL5, POL6, POL11, <b>Green Belt infill boundary: Lea Marston</b> , <b>Green Belt infill boundary: Middleton</b> , Green Belt infill boundary: Nether Whitacre, Green Belt infill boundary: Astley, Green Belt infill boundary: Corley and Green Belt infill boundary: Furnace End.
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>DOR10</b> , <b>DOR11</b> , <b>ATH6 (north of canal)</b> , <b>ATH6 (south of canal)</b> , <b>EM4</b> , CUR1 (employment), CUR1 (mixed-use), ATH6 (west) and ATH6 (whole site).
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
9. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>BE3</b> , <b>BE7</b> , <b>BE8</b> , <b>BE9</b> , <b>BE10</b> , <b>GRE1</b> , <b>GRE2</b> , BE1, BE2, BE4, BE6, BE11, BE12, GRE3, GRE5, GRE5, GRE6, GRE7 GRE8, GRE9, <b>HAR3</b> , <b>ANSCOMM1</b> , HAR2, HAR5, HAR6, HAR7, HAR8, HAR8 (Part), HAR9, HAR10, ANSCOMM2, ANSCOMM3, ANSCOMM4, ANSCOMM5, <b>ARL5</b> , <b>ARL8</b> , <b>ARL9</b> , ARL4, <b>WO9</b> , <b>CUR3</b> , CUR1, FIL4, <b>PIC1</b> , <b>SHUT5</b> , SHUT3, SHUT4, SHUT6, <b>SHUS1</b> , WH3, <b>WE6</b> , WE1, WE1B, WE2, WE5, WE7, <b>ANS2 (Part A)</b> , <b>ANS2 (Part B)</b> , ANS2, <b>ATH18</b> , <b>MAN1</b> , ATH9, POL4, POL10, DOR/POL16A, DOR/POL16B, <b>DOR5</b> , <b>DOR12</b> , <b>DOR17 (EAST)</b> , DOR3, DOR4, DOR6, DOR7, DOR16C, DPR16D, DOR17 (WEST), DOR18, DOR19, <b>Green Belt infill boundary: Lea Marston</b> , Green Belt infill boundary: Astley and Green Belt infill boundary: Corley.
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>DOR8</b> , <b>DOR11</b> , <b>ATH6 (north of canal)</b> , <b>ATH6 (south of canal)</b> , <b>EM4</b> , CUR1 (employment), CUR1 (mixed-use), DOR18/19/20 (mixed-use) and ATH6 (whole site).

SA objectives	Proposed site use	Sites identified as having a significant positive effect	Sites identified as having a significant negative effect
	Open Space	<b>DOR17.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
10. Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	GRE4, GRE5, GRE9, <b>HAR3</b> , GRE9, HAR8, ANSCOMM5, WE2, WE7, ATH4, ATH5, DOR/POL16A, DOR/POL16B
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>DOR8, DOR11</b> , ATH6 (west), ATH6 (whole site), <b>DOR17 (EAST)</b> . DOR18 (WEST) and DOR18.
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
11. Maintaining the resources of air, water and productive soil, minimising pollution levels.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
12. Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	BE1, GRE9, <b>WO9, WH1</b> , WH2, WH3, ATH4 and ATH5.
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
13. Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
14. Using natural resources efficiently.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
15. Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car.	Residential	<b>COL3, COL4, COL5 (Part A), COL5 (Part B), COL6, COL7, COL8, COL9, WO1, WO4, WO9, ATH17</b> ATH1 and ATH2.	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<b>DOR8, DOR10, DOR11, ATH6 (north of canal), ATH6 (south of canal),</b> and ATH6 (whole site).	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>

SA objectives	Proposed site use	Sites identified as having a significant positive effect	Sites identified as having a significant negative effect
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
16. Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>HAR3, HAR8, ANSCOMM5, WE2, WE7, ATH4, ATH5, DOR/POL16A, DOR/POL16B, GRE4, GRE5, GRE9, DOR17 (EAST), DOR17 (WEST) and DOR18.</b>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<b>DOR8, DOR11, ATH6 (west) and ATH6 (whole site).</b>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
17. Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
18. Creation of a modern, healthy and diverse economy which is able to adapt to changes in the wider economy while remaining relevant to the needs of local people.	Residential	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<b>DOR8, DOR11, EM4</b> and ATH6 (whole site).	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
19. Maintaining and enhancing employment opportunities and reducing the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs.	Residential	<b>ATH4 (part), ATH7, ATH14, ATH8</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<b>DOR8, DOR11, EM4, DOR18/19/20 (mixed-use), ATH6 (west), ATH6 (whole site), DOR12, DOR1, DOR17 (WEST), DOR18 and DOR19.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
20. Ensuring that people of all ages are provided with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, confidence and understanding to achieve their full potential.	Residential	<b>COL10, HAR3, HAR2, KIN2, KIN3, KIN8, ATH13, ATH16 and POL17.</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Employment	<b>DOR8, DOR11, EM4, DOR20, ATH6 (west) and ATH6 (whole site).</b>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>
	Open Space	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>	<i>No significant effects identified.</i>

## Summary of Effects by SA Objective

### **SA Objective 1: Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin**

- 1.51 This is one of the SA objectives for which a large number of likely significant effects have been identified, most of which are positive. This is because a large number of the residential site options, in particular, are within walking distance of a range of services and facilities such as churches, village halls, post offices and shops that could be utilised by residents of the new housing to be built there.
- 1.52 While a number of significant negative effects on this objective have been identified from residential site options, due to the distance of some of the sites (particularly those in the smaller villages) from services and facilities, most of these are alternative options which are not preferred in the Draft Site Allocations Plan. In general, the preferred sites offer good access to existing community services and facilities, and it is also recognised that in many cases, even where facilities are located outside of walking distance from proposed sites, there are bus routes and other public transport links that will provide access further afield including to those without access to a car.
- 1.53 None of the open space site options are expected to have an effect on this objective, although some of the employment sites could have minor positive effects where they are within close proximity of services and facilities that could be used by employees (due to the nature of employment development, effects are not expected to be significant). However, the two mixed use site options could both have a potentially significant positive effect as they include both housing and employment land that would be within walking distance of a range of services and facilities.

### **SA Objective 2: Developing and supporting vibrant and active communities and voluntary groups, who are able to express their needs and take steps towards meeting them.**

- 1.54 None of the site options considered for the Draft Site Allocations Plan are expected to have a significant (either positive or negative) effect on this SA objective. However, some of the residential site options may have a minor positive effect due to those sites being within walking distance of a community hall or similar facility that can be used by community groups for meetings and events.
- 1.55 The open space and employment site options are not expected to have a direct effect on this objective.

### **SA Objective 3: Tackling health inequalities and improve health by supporting local communities and by improving access and raising awareness**

- 1.56 The effects of residential site options on this objective depend largely on their proximity to healthcare facilities, as well as areas of open space, public footpaths etc. which can encourage healthier and more active lifestyles amongst residents. While most of the residential site options will have a minor positive effect as they are within walking distance of open space or a public footpath but not a healthcare facility such as a doctor's surgery or dentists, 39 site options will have a significant positive effect as they are within walking distance of both. Most of these sites are preferred sites in the Draft Plan.
- 1.57 Open space sites can have positive effects on this objective as they provide for new areas of open space that can be used by local people for active outdoor recreation, and effects will be positive where sites are within close proximity of residential development so people can access these on foot. Where they are in less accessible locations, minor negative effects may occur. Therefore no significant positive or negative effects have been identified for open space sites, but all three of the specific site options will have minor positive effects as they are within walking distance of residential sites at Dordon and Atherstone.

#### **SA Objective 4: Providing decent and affordable housing to meet local needs**

- 1.58 All of the residential site options will have a positive effect on this objective, due to the nature of the development proposed. Eleven of the site options will have a significant positive effect, as those sites are large in comparison to other site options (i.e. over 10ha) and so would offer opportunities for a greater number of new homes to be developed. While only one of these larger sites is preferred in the Draft Plan, it is recognised that in most cases, the large sites are not required as they are in villages where the housing allocation can be met through the development of smaller sites.
- 1.59 None of the employment or open space sites are expected to have a direct effect on housing provision.

#### **SA Objective 5: Reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour**

- 1.60 None of the residential, employment or open space site options (either preferred sites or reasonable alternative options considered) are expected to have an effect on this SA objective. The effects of new development on levels of crime and fear of crime will depend on factors such as the incorporation of green space within the development sites which, depending on design and the use of appropriate lighting, could have an effect on perceptions of personal safety, particularly at night. However, such issues will not be influenced by the location of development; rather they will be determined through the detailed proposals for each site. For this reason, the effects of all of the site options on this SA objective are considered to be negligible.

#### **SA Objective 6: Providing opportunities to participate in recreational and cultural activities**

- 1.61 Similarly to SA objective 1, a large number of likely significant positive effects have been identified for this objective from the residential site options. Many of these are the same sites that are likely to have a significant positive effect on SA objective 1, as they are sites (mainly in the larger villages and towns) that are well-connected to existing services and facilities, which include recreational and cultural activities. The most common assets for residential sites to be close to are areas of open space, public footpaths and village halls.
- 1.62 As with SA objective 3, the effects of open space site options will depend on their proximity to residential development, as positive effects will result where they are easily accessible by local people. As such, all three site options are therefore expected to have a positive effect as they are within walking distance of residential development at Dordon and Atherstone.

#### **SA Objective 7: Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character**

- 1.63 The effects of new residential and employment development on the landscape will be generally more notable where sites are large in size and are on greenfield land, which could result in them being particularly prominent in the landscape. For this reason, 12 residential site options could have a significant negative effect; however only one of those options is preferred in the Draft Plan (HAR3). Of the three employment site options which could have a significant negative effect, two are preferred (DOR8 and DOR11), although it is recognised that effects will depend on the specific local landscape character and the potential for mitigation measures to be incorporated into the design of the site (e.g. the use of planting to screen the development).
- 1.64 The Landscape Character Assessment<sup>13</sup> is a useful tool to identify the sensitivity of the landscape around the margins of the various settlements. It can help advise as to what the potential impact of development may be on the landscape and if and how this could be addressed. However, the preferred sites have not been solely selected on the basis of their landscape sensitivity. Where sites are identified as of higher sensitivity this will not necessarily preclude them from development, particularly where there are limited alternatives or opportunities available elsewhere around the settlement (such as employment submissions/proposals). It will, however, raise the bar necessary in terms of design and layout of any proposals to directly address that sensitivity issue.

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<sup>13</sup> North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment (August 2010)

- 1.65 One of the open space site options at Dordon (DOR17) could have a significant positive effect as it is relatively large in size and so could have a notable effect on maintaining (and potentially enhancing) the character and appearance of the natural environment.

### **SA Objective 8: Valuing, enhancing and protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage**

- 1.66 A large number of potential negative effects have been identified from the residential and employment site options in relation to this SA objective, as many of the sites are within 250m of heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas, the setting of which could be adversely affected by new development. A large number of other site options have been highlighted as potentially having a minor negative effect as they are within 1km of (but more than 250m from) any such assets. However, in all cases these potential effects are uncertain as they will depend largely on the specific proposals for the sites that come forward (e.g. the exact location, scale and design of the housing or employment development) and it is recognised that appropriate mitigation could reduce the potential impact of development (see Chapter 8 of the full SA report and further ahead in this non-technical summary).
- 1.67 Conversely, open space sites have the potential to enhance the setting of heritage assets as well as the quality of the wider built environment. All three open space site options could potentially have minor positive effects on this objective, as they are either within a built up area and so could have a positive effect on the overall appearance of the built environment, or are within close proximity of nearby listed buildings, the setting of which could be enhanced by the use of nearby land for open space.
- 1.68 Where significant heritage assets are known to exist they have been used as a direct constraint when determining the Preferred Options. For instance where Scheduled Monuments may be affected by sites, these have been treated as reasons to avoid allocating them. Conservation Areas and listed buildings have been treated in a more pragmatic and flexible way as issues that need to be addressed on a case by case basis. The Borough has a significant number of listed buildings and Conservation Areas affecting the main towns and villages and consequently most development will be within a reasonable distance of such assets. The main issue is ensuring the design and layout of development takes such assets into account. Where development has potential to have a detrimental effect, detailed mitigation would be included through site policies, Design Briefs and/or Supplementary Planning Documents.

### **SA Objective 9: Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire**

- 1.69 Similarly to SA objective 8, a large number of potential significant negative effects have been identified for the residential and employment site options, due to their proximity to designated biodiversity sites such as local nature reserves. However, the effects are again uncertain in all cases as they are dependent on the specific proposals for the sites that come forward (e.g. the exact location, scale and design of the housing or employment development) and it is recognised that appropriate mitigation could reduce the potential impact of development (see Chapter 8 of the full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary).
- 1.70 Open space sites can have a positive effect on biodiversity by securing areas of habitat and promoting habitat connectivity, particularly where they are large in size. Only one of the open space sites (DOR17) is large, so will have a significant positive effect while the other two options would have a minor positive effect.

### **SA Objective 10: Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations**

- 1.71 The effects of the proposed residential and employment development sites on this SA objective will depend largely on whether they are on brownfield or greenfield land. Significant negative effects could occur from large sites which are on greenfield land. A number of the residential and employment sites could have significant negative effects for this reason (17 in total), and most of these are alternative options with only three (two of which are employment options and one of which is residential) are preferred in the Draft Plan.
- 1.72 The location of open space sites is not expected to have a direct effect on this objective.

### **SA Objective 11: Maintaining the resources of air, water and productive soil, minimising pollution levels**

- 1.73 No significant effects, either positive or negative, have been identified for any of the site options on this SA objective. Where minor negative effects have been identified from the residential and employment site options, this is because they are on grade 3 agricultural land, but no site options on grade 1 or 2 agricultural land have been proposed (which would lead to a significant negative effect). As mentioned earlier, it has not been possible to distinguish between grades 3a and 3b agricultural land at this stage. No sites have been proposed that are within or adjacent to an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).
- 1.74 Conversely, two of the three open space options are expected to have a minor positive effect on this SA objective as they are on grade 3 agricultural land – this means that it would be preserved as open space and would not be lost to residential or employment development.

### **SA Objective 12: Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts**

- 1.75 The effects of new development on this SA objective will depend largely on factors that are not influenced by the location of the development, such as the incorporation of renewable energy generation. An exception to this is the employment site EM4 which is proposed for renewable energy generation and so would be expected to have a significant positive effect on this SA objective. However, the location of development could affect the extent to which North Warwickshire is affected by an increased risk of flooding. No likely significant positive effects will result from the site options on this SA objective; however a relatively small number of residential and employment sites could have a significant negative effect as they are on greenfield land and are within flood zones 2 and 3; therefore development would result in an increase in impermeable surfaces in an already higher flood risk area. However, of the nine residential and one employment site options that could have a significant negative effect, only two of the residential site options and the employment site options are preferred in the Draft Plan. It is also recognised that mitigation measures, such as the incorporation of SuDS in the new development, could help to avoid adverse effects. Nevertheless, it would be appropriate to consider whether less vulnerable uses can be sited on the areas of higher flood risk and to demonstrate that there no other alternative sites which could accommodate housing/employment which are in areas of lower flood risk.
- 1.76 The preferred residential site at Whitacre Heath (WH1) could have a significant negative effect on this SA objective due to the potential for flood risk issues to be exacerbated. However, the site is only allocated on the basis of the Environment Agency progressing a scheme to address the flood issues at the settlement. There are limited alternative sites available within Whitacre Heath (most other sites are similarly affected by flood risk or are affected by other issues such as designation as Green Belt). As such, NWBC has not undertaken a sequential test for the allocated site at Whitacre Heath and it is treated as an 'exception' in view of the settlement situation as a whole.
- 1.77 None of the other preferred sites are wholly affected by floodplain and the specific site appraisals are clear that no built development is proposed in those areas of higher flood risk. Reasonable alternative sites are assessed on the basis of development avoiding flood zones or allocating uses such as open space that can be better accommodated within flood plains. The Core Strategy and Development Management policies will require the provision of SUDS systems for development to address flood risk issues.
- 1.78 The use of land for open space could have positive effects by maintaining permeable areas, particularly where such sites are located in areas of high flood risk. For this reason, two of the open space site options could have a minor positive effect as they are either large in size (DOR17) or within a high flood risk zone (ATH4 (part)). None of the site options fit both criteria, so no significant positive effects from open space sites are likely.

### **SA Objective 13: Reducing overall energy use through sustainable design, increasing energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources**

- 1.79 Most of the site options (including both preferred sites and reasonable alternative options considered) are not expected to have an effect on this SA objective. While all new residential or

employment development will inevitably involve an increase in energy consumption, it may offer good opportunities for incorporating renewable energy generation and it is assumed that new development will be built to high standards of energy efficiency (in accordance with policy NW9: Energy Efficiency in the emerging Core Strategy). It is also likely that the forthcoming Development Management DPD will include a policy specifying higher levels of compliance with the Code for Sustainable Homes, particularly for new large-scale residential and employment development. However, the effects of new housing and employment development on efficient energy consumption will not be determined by the location of the development. The one exception is the proposed employment site EM4 which is likely to have a significant positive effect as it is proposed for renewable energy generation.

#### **SA Objective 14: Using natural resources efficiently**

- 1.80 No likely significant effects (either positive or negative) have been identified in relation to this SA objective. While new residential and employment development is likely to increase the consumption of natural resources through construction and increases in the local population, in most cases the location of the development will not have a direct effect, with the effect being determined by other factors such as the energy efficiency of the new buildings and the use of sustainable design and construction techniques. However, where development is proposed within Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas (as identified in the Warwickshire Minerals Core Strategy), this may lead to the sterilisation of minerals resources and could restrict the availability of resources in the Borough. Most of the residential and employment site options were within 250m of such sites; therefore the potential for minor negative effects has been identified. However, it is recognised that the majority of the Borough is affected by a Minerals Safeguarding Area – many of these areas lie within the Green Belt or adjoin existing areas such as Dordon, Kingsbury, Baddesley and Hartshill with a history of mining/minerals activity. The emerging Minerals Core Strategy has not raised any specific issues relating to sterilisation that would preclude or prevent any of the preferred sites coming forward although in areas such as Dordon and Hartshill the proximity to past minerals activity does raise some issues that will need to be addressed at application stage. Ongoing consultation between North Warwickshire Borough Council and the County Minerals team and the landowners are underway to address known issues.
- 1.81 The location of open space sites is not expected to have a direct effect on this objective.

#### **SA Objective 15: Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car**

- 1.82 The effects of the residential and employment sites on this SA objective depend on their proximity to sustainable transport links such as bus routes. While many of the villages in North Warwickshire are relatively small, most do offer reasonable bus services and most of the sites are within walking distance of bus links, particularly those in the larger villages and towns. Proximity to key service centres will also be beneficial as it will help avoid car travel. Twenty three of the residential and employment sites (in Coleshill, Water Orton, Atherstone, Grendon and Dordon) could have a significant positive effect on this objective as they are within walking distance of both a key service centre, and most of these sites are preferred in the Draft Plan.
- 1.83 The location of open space sites is not expected to have a direct effect on this objective.

#### **SA Objective 16: Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream**

- 1.84 It is inevitable that new housing and employment development will result in increased waste generation, regardless of location, particularly where sites are large in size. A relatively small number of the residential and employment site options could have a significant negative effect on this objective, as they are large in size and are on greenfield land, where opportunities to re-use existing buildings and materials are not likely to be as readily available as at brownfield sites. Of these, only three sites are preferred in the Draft Plan. No significant positive effects are likely in relation to this objective.

### **SA Objective 17: Encouraging local sourcing of goods and materials**

- 1.85 None of the site options, either for residential or employment development or open space use, are expected to have a direct effect on this SA objective. The effects of development will depend on factors such as the source of materials used during construction, which are not determined by the location of development.

### **SA Objective 18: Creation of a modern, healthy and diverse economy which is able to adapt to changes in the wider economy while remaining relevant to the needs of local people**

- 1.86 None of the residential or open space site options are considered likely to affect this objective as the location of housing or open space will not affect the success and flexibility of the local economy. While housing provision may affect the size of the local workforce, this is considered separately under SA objective 19; therefore the effects of all residential and open space sites are negligible.
- 1.87 Almost all of the employment site options would be expected to have a positive effect as the development of new employment land will help to encourage investment in North Warwickshire. Three of the preferred sites and one of the alternatives would have significant positive effects as they are relatively large in size. However, one of the site options (CUR1, which was an alternative option for both employment-only and mixed-use development) would have a negligible effect as some of the land is already in employment use so the re-development of this site for employment land would result in no net gain in terms of employment land.

### **SA Objective 19: Maintaining and enhancing employment opportunities and reducing the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs**

- 1.88 The effects of the residential site options on this objective are determined by their proximity to existing employment sites, as well as public transport links that would provide residents with access to job opportunities further afield. While the location of potential employment site allocations being considered for the Site Allocations Plan would have an effect, they have not been considered in relation to this SA objective due to the relatively early stage of the plan's development and the uncertainties regarding which of those sites may eventually be allocated. While most of the residential sites are not within walking distance of existing employment sites, most provide easy access to bus routes and other public transport links; therefore most of the sites will have minor positive effects. Only four site options, three of which are at Atherstone, would be expected to have a significant positive effect as they are within walking distance of existing employment sites, and three of those four sites are preferred for residential development in the Draft Plan.
- 1.89 The effects of the employment sites on this objective will be broadly positive as the development of new employment land should result in increased job opportunities, particularly where sites are large in size. For this reason, three of the preferred sites and two of the alternatives would have significant positive effects as they are relatively large in size. The effects of site CUR1 (which was an alternative option for both employment-only and mixed-use development) are potentially negligible as the site is already in employment use so depending on the exact nature of the redevelopment of the site there may be no net gain in the extent of employment land and therefore the number of job opportunities.
- 1.90 None of the open space sites will have an effect on this SA objective.

### **SA Objective 20: Ensuring that people of all ages are provided with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, confidence and understanding to achieve their full potential**

- 1.91 The effects of the residential site options on this objective are determined by their proximity to schools and colleges, which would therefore be easily accessible by residents. The effects of the residential site options are very mixed, with most having either a minor positive or minor negative effect, with residential sites in the larger towns and villages being more likely to be within walking distance of schools (and therefore have a minor positive effect). A total of nine residential site options were likely to have a significant positive effect, as they are within walking distance of two or more schools, and eight of those nine sites are preferred options in the Draft Plan.

- 1.92 The effects of the employment sites are broadly very positive, with three of the seven preferred employment sites being expected to have a significant positive effect as they are relatively large in size and so are considered to be particularly likely to offer opportunities for work-based training and skills development.
- 1.93 None of the open space sites would be expected to have a direct effect on this SA objective.

## Mitigation

- 1.94 The SEA Directive requires that consideration is given to the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Site Allocations Plan. Many of the likely negative effects of the Draft Site Allocations Plan may be mitigated through the implementation of policies in the emerging Core Strategy. It is also recognised that there should be opportunities in the Site Allocations Plan itself, as future iterations of the Plan will include site-specific policies (which will incorporate required mitigation). There will also be further opportunities through other Council measures such as the Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot and the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Warwickshire which is currently undergoing consultation.
- 1.95 The likely significant negative effects of the potential site allocations were summarised in **Table 4** earlier in this chapter, and mitigation measures are outlined in **Table 5** below in relation to each of these significant negative effects.

**Table 5 Mitigation for likely significant negative effects identified**

SA objectives for which likely significant negative effects were identified	Possible mitigation
1. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.	Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW17: Services and Facilities</b> aims to avoid the loss of existing services and facilities, Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to seek to maintain and improve the provision of accessible local and community services, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer needed by the community they serve, are not needed for any other community use or that the facility is being relocated and improved to meet the needs of the new, existing and future community.
7. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character.	Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW11: Natural and Historic Environment</b> states that within identified landscape character areas development will conserve, enhance and where appropriate, restore landscape character as well as promote a resilient, functional landscape able to adapt to climate change. Specific landscape features which contribute to local character will be protected and enhanced. Include appropriate mitigating text in specific site policies. This could draw on the recommendations provided in the North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment.
8. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage.	Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to seek to protect and enhance the historic environment. Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW11: Natural and Historic Environment</b> states that the

SA objectives for which likely significant negative effects were identified	Possible mitigation
	<p>quality of the historic environment, including archaeological features, will be protected and enhanced, and wherever possible, a sustainable reuse of the historic building will be sought. Include appropriate mitigating text in specific site policies. This could draw on material contained in Conservation Area/Listed Building appraisals.</p> <p>Further more detailed policies to protect historic environment, linked to good design should be included in the forthcoming Development Management DPD.</p>
<p>9. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire</p>	<p>Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW12: Nature Conservation</b> aims to protect biodiversity in North Warwickshire, including SSSIs and Sites of Regional and Local Importance for Nature Conservation. It states that development should help ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity and geological interest by avoiding adverse impacts first then providing appropriate mitigation measures. Include appropriate mitigating text in specific site policies.</p>
<p>10. Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations.</p>	<p>Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to be targeted at using brownfield land in appropriate locations.</p>
<p>12. Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts.</p>	<p>Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to seek to manage the impacts of climate change through the design and location of development, including sustainable drainage, water efficiency measures, use of trees and natural vegetation and ensuring no net loss of flood storage capacity.</p> <p>Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW9: Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency</b> supports renewable energy projects where they provide a local energy benefit and they respect the capacity and sensitivity of the landscape and communities to accommodate them. It also states that new development will be expected to be energy efficient in terms of its fabric and use.</p> <p>Include specific policies in the forthcoming Development Management DPD setting out the sustainability standards that housing and employment sites should meet – i.e. as a minimum Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 and perhaps higher i.e. 5+ for large-scale greenfield sites.</p> <p>Include maximum car parking standards/options for restricting off-road parking/ options for car free developments in forthcoming Development Management DPD. Include specific flood mitigation measures in detailed site policies and as a specific policy in</p>

SA objectives for which likely significant negative effects were identified	Possible mitigation
	the forthcoming Development Management DPD.
15. Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car.	Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to seek to reduce the use of cars and the encouragement of alternative forms of sustainable transport. Include maximum car parking standards/options for restricting off-road parking/ options for car free developments in forthcoming Development Management DPD.
16. Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.	Emerging Core Strategy policy <b>NW8: Sustainable Development</b> requires new developments to seek to maximise opportunities to encourage re-use and recycling of waste materials, both in construction and operation. The Warwickshire Waste Core Strategy includes recycling as a key element of its Vision and Policies including in Objectives 4, 8 and <b>Waste Core Strategy Policy 5</b> .

## Monitoring

- 1.96 The SEA Directive requires that monitoring is undertaken in relation to the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan in question. **Table 6** below sets out a number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant sustainability effects of the site options considered for the Site Allocations Plan. North Warwickshire Borough Council has already established a framework for monitoring, as set out in the Pre-Submission version of the Core Strategy. It includes indicators and targets (where appropriate) based on the Core Strategy policies, and many of these can also be used for monitoring the effects of the Site Allocations Plan. In addition, the SA report for the Core Strategy includes proposals for monitoring the sustainability effects of that plan, and it is recommended that monitoring of the significant effects arising from the implementation of the Site Allocations Plan can be most efficiently and effectively carried out if it is integrated with the forthcoming monitoring regime for the Core Strategy.

**Table 6 Suggested framework for monitoring potential significant sustainability effects arising from implementation of the Site Allocations Plan**

SA objectives for which likely significant effects have been identified	Suggested indicators
1. Equal access to services, facilities and opportunities for all, regardless of income, age, health, disability, culture or ethnic origin.	Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, area of employment, major retail centre. Amount of completed local services including retail, office, and leisure development in Town Centre and the in the wider Borough. % of households in North Warwickshire Borough that are within 4km of a bank/building society.
3. Tackling health inequalities and improve health by supporting local communities and by improving access and raising awareness	Life expectancy. Proportion of the population aged over 85. % of people classifying themselves as having good health. Obesity rates. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP and hospital.
4. Providing decent and affordable housing to meet local needs.	Net additional gypsy and traveller pitches. Number of people on social housing waiting lists. Number and tenure type of existing housing stock. Gross affordable housing completions. % of Housing meeting Building for Life Assessment.
6. Providing opportunities to participate in recreational and cultural activities.	Amount of eligible Open Spaces Managed to Green Flag Award Standards. Amount of completed leisure developments. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of recreational and cultural facilities (including pubs, shops, community facilities, open/greenspaces, playing fields and footpaths and cycle routes).
7. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the assets of the natural environment of North Warwickshire, including landscape character.	Number of changes inconsistent and consistent with defined landscape character. Proportion of new development built on previously developed land.
8. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the quality and distinctiveness of the built environment, including the cultural heritage.	Additions and losses of cultural heritage designations in the Borough. Number of designated assets identified as being 'at risk'.
9. Valuing, enhancing and protecting the biodiversity of North Warwickshire	Changes in areas and populations of biodiversity importance. % of SSSIs in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition. Achievement of BAP targets.
10. Ensuring development makes efficient use of previously developed land, buildings and existing physical infrastructure in sustainable locations.	% of new and converted dwellings on previously developed land. % of employment completions on previously developed land. % of housing completions in main towns and service centres. % of housing development being built at densities of over 30 dwellings per hectare. % of new housing/employment development on areas of Grades 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land.

SA objectives for which likely significant effects have been identified	Suggested indicators
12. Minimising North Warwickshire's contribution to the causes of climate change whilst implementing a managed response to its unavoidable impacts.	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions by source. GWh of installed low/ zero carbon energy. Renewable energy capacity installed by type. Number of buildings built that meet the Code for Sustainable Homes Standards Level 4 or higher Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding.
15. Increasing use of public transport, cycling and walking and reducing use of the private car.	Car ownership levels within the Borough. % of journeys to work by private car. New cycle facilities. Increases in frequency and use of public transport services. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of GP, hospital, primary school, secondary school, area of employment, major retail centre. Amount of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport time of recreational and cultural facilities (including pubs, shops, community facilities, open/greenspaces, playing fields and footpaths and cycle routes).
16. Encouraging and enabling waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery to divert resources away from the waste stream.	% of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and compost. % of Construction and demolition waste re-used.
18. Creation of a modern, healthy and diverse economy which is able to adapt to changes in the wider economy while remaining relevant to the needs of local people.	Unemployment Rate. Employment Rate. Job-Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate. Number of Employment Completions. Amount of new Employment floorspace by type. Employment land available by type. Amount of completed floor space for 'town centre uses'.
19. Maintaining and enhancing employment opportunities and reducing the disparities arising from unequal access to jobs.	Business survival rates. Job-Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant rate by ward. Indices of Employment Deprivation.
20. Ensuring that people of all ages are provided with the opportunity to obtain the skills, knowledge, confidence and understanding to achieve their full potential.	The number of persons not in education, employment or training (NEETs). % of pupils obtaining Level 2 or higher qualification. % of North Warwickshire's residents employed in knowledge based occupations. Indices of Education, Skills and Training Deprivation.

## Conclusions

- 1.97 Overall, the Site Allocations Plan will have mainly positive effects on social and economic issues, due to the nature of the development proposed. Significant positive effects are expected in particular for SA objective 1 (*access to services and facilities*), SA objective 4 (*housing*) and SA objective 6 (*cultural and recreational facilities*). This is because the plan allocates a large number of sites for residential development to meet the identified levels of need, and many of the preferred sites are within close proximity of a range of existing services and facilities that can be used by new residents.
- 1.98 The effects of the Site Allocations Plan are broadly less positive in relation to the environmental objectives, which is unsurprising given that the appraisal has focussed on new housing and employment development which could potentially have a range of effects on the natural environment. In particular, a large number of potential significant negative effects have been identified in relation to SA objectives 8 (*built environment and cultural heritage*) and 9 (*biodiversity*), due to the proximity of some of the proposed development sites to designated heritage assets such as listed buildings and designated biodiversity sites such as local wildlife sites. However, in all cases these potential significant negative effects are classed as uncertain as they will depend largely on the specific design of the new development coming forward at each site and it is recognised that it may be possible to mitigate potential impacts.
- 1.99 Where significant impacts (either positive or negative) have been identified, they have been clearly marked and are explained in detail within the full SA report. Proposed mitigation, where possible, has also been described. It is recognised that development at the sites allocated through the Plan would be required to conform to the development management policies and criteria set out in the emerging Core Strategy, which in many cases would be expected to mitigate the potential negative effects identified. The next version of the plan will also include more detailed policies for the sites, which will include criteria to mitigate any potentially adverse effects. The forthcoming Development Management DPD is also expected to contain a range of specific policies which will help mitigate the potential adverse effects of development.

## Next Steps

- 1.100 The full SA report and this Non-Technical Summary will be published for statutory consultation alongside the Site Allocations Plan for a six week period. During this time, the statutory consultees and the general public will be invited to comment on the plan and on the SA process that is being undertaken.
- 1.101 Following the consultation period, the responses received and the findings of the SA will be taken into account by North Warwickshire Borough Council as it develops the next version of the Site Allocations Plan.
- 1.102 More detailed information about the SA process and its findings can be found in the full SA Report which is available from North Warwickshire Council and on its website.

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