



Warrington
LDF | Local
Development
Framework

Pre Publication
Draft Core Strategy
Sustainability Appraisal Report

December 2011





Region

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1 Summary and Outcomes

Non-technical summary

1.1 EU Directive 2001/42/EC and subsequent UK Regulations introduced the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of all plans and programmes that have a significant environmental effect. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 made the broader Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process a requirement for certain documents produced as part of a Local Development Framework.

1.2 The purpose of SA is to promote sustainable development through the integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of new Development Plan Documents (DPDs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).

1.3 A Core Strategy Scoping Report was published in September 2006. This set out:

- Environmental, social and economic objectives contained in other relevant plans and programmes;
- Baseline information on the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the borough;
- Key sustainability issues facing the borough; and
- An appropriate framework for Sustainability Appraisals including objectives and indicators.

1.4 The report was the subject of consultation in order to ensure that the information collected was comprehensive and accurate and an appropriate framework had been constructed that could be used to assess and improve the emerging Core Strategy. As the production of the Core Strategy has taken longer than originally anticipated, a second, updated Scoping Report was published for consultation in January 2009. The report covered the same issues, but presented more up to date information. Consultation responses received on both scoping reports have been taken into account in this Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.5 All of the background information collected helped to shape the draft objectives of the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal framework was used to check that these were as sustainable as they could be. The effects of the draft Core Strategy have also been predicted and evaluated to make sure that there are no negative effects and any positive effects are maximised.

A statement of the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy

1.6 The Core Strategy is likely to have a positive effect in a number of areas. The most significant effects will be related to:

- Strengthening the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth by providing sufficient land for economic development in the right locations, and minimising the loss of any employment land to other uses.
- Ensuring access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing by providing sufficient land for housing development and increasing the amount of affordable housing completions secured as a percentage of all completions .
- Protecting and enhancing accessibility for all to essential services and facilities by locating them in accessible, sustainable places.
- Protecting and improving the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place by focusing on the regeneration of previously developed sites, protecting green spaces and ensuring high design quality.
- Protecting, managing and improving local amenity and local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding, and
- Ensuring the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation by focusing development on sustainable, accessible locations that make the best use of existing infrastructure.

1.7 The positive effects predicted that are not considered significant show that the Core Strategy will also contribute to the creation of sustainable communities.

Statement on the difference the process has made to date

1.8 The Sustainability Appraisal process has made certain amendments, both in the drafting of the Core Strategy objectives and the way in which the process of reviewing the Core Strategy has been undertaken.

1.9 The process of undertaking Sustainability Appraisal has meant a logical approach to identifying the context in which the Core Strategy should be reviewed and the relevant issues that should be addressed. The Sustainability Appraisal framework constructed as part of the scoping report exercise has been used to ensure that the objectives of the Core Strategy are as sustainable as possible. It has also helped analyse the emerging strategy and policies to identify where the Core Strategy could improve on the current situation. Finally, the process has helped to identify a monitoring framework for the Core Strategy, which is already largely in place.

1.10 The Sustainability Appraisal process has not revealed any significant or unacceptable social, economic or environmental effects likely to arise from the adoption and implementation of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

How to comment on the report

1.11 The draft Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal Report and associated appendices are available for consultation for 6 weeks prior to formal publication consultation which will take place in 2012.

1.12 Comments on any of the documents can be made on-line through the Consultation Portal:

<http://warrington-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/cs/>

1.13 Alternatively comments can be sent to:

Policy & Programmes Team
Environment & Regeneration Directorate,
New Town House,
Buttermarket Street,
Warrington,
WA1 2NH

Or emailed to: ldf@warrington.gov.uk

By **Friday 20th January 2012**

2 Appraisal Methodology

Approach adopted to the Sustainability Appraisal

2.1 The sustainability appraisal undertaken has been based on the approach set out in the ODPM document "Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents" published in November 2005.

2.2 The ODPM guidance document sets out a five-stage process for undertaking Sustainability Appraisal:

Stage A	Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Stage C	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage D	Consulting on the preferred options of the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal Report
Stage E	Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy

When the Sustainability Appraisal was carried out

2.3 Work on the Warrington Core Strategy started in 2007 with the production of the "Borough Portrait". The production of this document included the collection and presentation of background information that was of relevance to the environmental, economic and social baseline of Warrington. This contained much of the information that was put together in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which was the subject of consultation between September and October 2006. The process of producing the emerging Core Strategy took much longer than expected, for a number of different reasons including changing requirements at a national level. It was therefore considered appropriate to update the original Scoping Report and consult on it again in January and February 2009.

2.4 Responses to both the scoping report consultations were analysed and background information was amended following this process.

2.5 Work on the Sustainability Appraisal tasks involving developing and refining Core Strategy objectives and options and assessing effects has been ongoing since the publication of the Council's "Issues and Options Report" in February 2009 and has included consultations on a "Refined Vision Report" (January 2010), an "Objectives and Options Consultation Report" in July 2010 and Housing and Employment Land Requirement Reports in November 2010.

2.6 Work on finalising the draft Core Strategy and producing the Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report was undertaken throughout 2011.

Who carried out the Sustainability Appraisal

2.7 The Sustainability Appraisal process of the Core Strategy document has been led by an officer within Warrington Borough Council's planning service. It has been informed by a Planning Policy team working group which has ensured a consistent approach to developing and refining the documents objectives and options.

Who was consulted, when and how

2.8 The Core Strategy Scoping Report (which detailed the methodology and the Sustainability Appraisal Framework) consultation documents were sent to the four statutory consultation bodies (Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency) as well as the Warrington Local Strategic Partnership and the Government Office for the North West.

2.9 Specific Consultation Bodies and General Consultation Bodies as listed in the Borough Council's Statement of Community Involvement were also either sent a full copy of the document, or a letter setting out that the consultation was being undertaken and that documents were either available on request, within Council offices or on the Council's website.

2.10 The Initial five-week consultation ran from the 11th September 2006 to the 13th October 2007. Because of consolidation of the roles of English Nature and the Countryside Agency and confusion over relevant contact details, it was considered that a second five-week period of consultation should be undertaken to allow Natural England to respond to the consultation. The second consultation ran from the 23rd October to the 24th November 2007.

2.11 The updated Core Strategy Scoping report was the subject of similar consultation between January and February 2009.

2.12 The Scoping Report has not been re-issued following consultation, but the comments received during these consultations were taken on board in undertaking and producing subsequent Sustainability Appraisal work and documents.

Difficulties encountered in compiling information or carrying out the assessment

2.13 No difficulties were identified in compiling information / carrying out appraisals.

3 Background

Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal and the Sustainability Appraisal Report

3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy was undertaken in order to ensure that the objectives of the document, and the document itself, were as sustainable as possible and dealt with all the economic, social and environmental issues that were considered appropriate.

3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Report is an audit trail that sets out how the Core Strategy was reviewed and how the Sustainability Appraisal was carried out and where it has influenced the final document.

Core Strategy objectives and outline of contents

3.3 The **Local Development Framework** (LDF) is the name given to the new style local plan that was introduced in 2004. Whilst under the old system a single local plan was produced every ten years or more, the new system requires a series of plans and documents to be produced and to be kept up to date.

3.4 Warrington's Local Development Framework therefore consists of a suite of documents as illustrated in Figure 1.1. Together these documents set the framework to guide decisions in the borough over the next 15 years about a wide range of activities that shape areas, from the role of the town in the economy, the health of the Town Centre, and how future housing needs can be accommodated, to the location of new schools and opportunities for outdoor play for children.

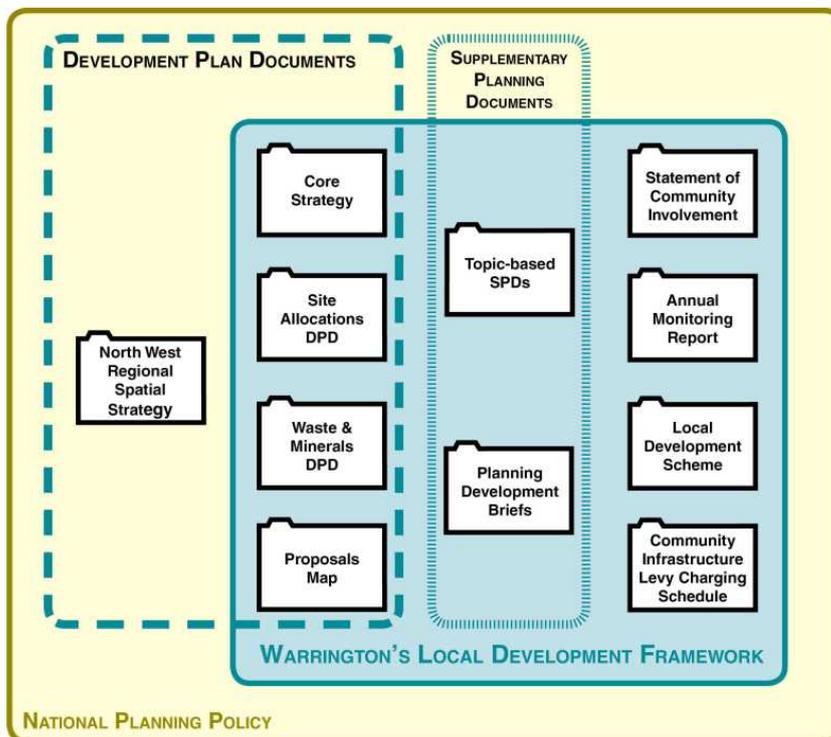


Figure 3.1 Warrington's Local Development Framework

3.5 The policies against which planning applications will be assessed are contained within the Local Development Framework's Development Plan Documents. These, along with the Northwest Regional Spatial Strategy will constitute the Borough's Statutory Development Plan which operates within the wider context set by national planning policies. As brought forward, in a phased manner the Development Plan Documents will gradually replace the Council's existing local plan - the Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

3.6 The **Core Strategy** is the Council's first Development Plan Document to be prepared and is the key document from which all other documents will follow. A Proposals Map which shows the boundaries of those policies within the Council's adopted plans which have an area or place specific implication has also been produced alongside the Core Strategy.

3.7 Warrington's **Core Strategy** is the overarching strategic policy document in the Local Development Framework. It sets out a planning framework for guiding the location and level of development in the Borough up to 2027 as well as a number of principles that will shape the way that Warrington will develop between now and then.

3.8 The Council cannot shape Warrington alone. It must continue to work with partners to achieve agreed outcomes. A key partner is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which includes organisations and people who can influence what happens in the Borough from Health Trusts to the Environment Agency and the local Chamber of Commerce. The LSP's vision for Warrington is expressed in their Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the Core Strategy, seeks to translate this vision into on the ground activity.

3.9 The other key partner is the private sector, companies and individuals who choose to invest in the borough's economy and deliver the homes, jobs and supporting services that Warrington will need in the future. The Core Strategy aims to ensure that this investment goes to the right places at the right time and that the resulting developments are sustainable.

3.10 In addition to the LSP's overarching vision, the Core Strategy contains a series of visions which relate to thematic issues and specific places. Each of these visions sets out how each issue or place is expected to change over the plan period and is followed by a number of strategic objectives which outline the general policy directions that need to be pursued in order to realise the vision.

3.11 The Core Strategy then sets out a series of core, borough-wide and place specific policies for addressing the vision and objectives and it is these which provide the framework for guiding and co-ordinating future public and private investment in Warrington and for promoting a more positive and proactive approach to managing development within the Borough. In addition to being used to determine planning applications these policies also provide a starting point for preparing more detailed policies and site specific proposals likely to be contained in other LDF documents such as the site allocations DPD and Minerals and Waste DPD.

3.12 The strategic objectives of the draft Core Strategy are set out below. These have been tested against the Sustainability Framework Objectives and amended accordingly (see Appendix 4). The document also includes more specific objectives that relate either to issues or places relevant to Warrington. These have also been tested against the Sustainability Framework objectives and amended accordingly, but are not set out here in the interests of brevity.

3.13 The strategic objectives of the draft Core Strategy include:

- W1 To secure the regeneration and renewal of the older areas of the town, strengthen existing neighbourhoods and make the most efficient use of infrastructure, ensuring development brings benefits to their host communities whilst:
 - Delivering a minimum of 10,500 new homes (equating to 500 per year) between 2006 and 2027, and
 - Supporting growth in the local and sub-regional economy by providing 277 Hectares of employment land between 2006 and 2027

- W2 To maintain the permanence of the Green Belt in the borough and protect it from inappropriate development
- W3 To strengthen the role of Warrington Town Centre as an employment, retail, leisure and cultural destination as well as a transport hub for the borough and the wider region
- W4 To be as accessible as possible whilst reducing the need to travel and providing opportunities to move people and goods by non-car modes
- W5 To secure high quality design which reinforces local distinctiveness and protects, enhances and embraces the borough's built and natural assets
- W6 To minimise the impact of development on the environment through the prudent use of resources and ensuring development is energy efficient, safe and resilient to climate change.

3.14 The Contents of the draft Core Strategy are:

- Introduction
- Warrington Borough - A Spatial Portrait
- How this Document Works
- The Core Strategy
 - Strategic Vision
 - Key Diagram
 - Strategic Objectives
 - Strategic Policies
- Borough wide strategies
 - Creating Prosperity and Vibrancy
 - Strengthening Neighbourhoods
 - Securing a High Quality Environment
 - Making the Place Work
- Place Making
 - The Town Centre
 - Inner and North Warrington
 - West Warrington
 - East Warrington
 - Stockton Heath and South Warrington
 - The Countryside and its Constituent Settlements

- Development Management
- Delivery and Monitoring
- Appendices

Compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Regulations

3.15 The methodology for undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive was set out in the Core Strategy Scoping Report. Table 1 shows a summary of SEA requirements and where they are covered:

SEA Directive Requirements	Where covered in this report
A) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Scoping Report and paras 3.3 - 3.14 (pages 7 - 10) and para 4.1 (pages 11 & 12)
B) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;	Scoping Report and paras 4.2 - 4.7 (pages 12 & 13)
C) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Scoping Report and paras 4.2 - 4.7 (pages 12 & 13)
D) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance;	Scoping Report and para 4.8 (pages 13 - 17)
E) The environmental protection objectives, established at international, community or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;	Scoping Report and para 4.1 (pages 11 & 12)
F) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects;	Paras 5.39 - 5.43 (pages 33 - 38)
G) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan;	Paras 5.44 - 5.49 (pages 38 - 43)
H) An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;	Paras 5.5 - 5.38 (pages 26 - 33)
I) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article 10;	Para 6.4 (page 44)
J) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Section 1

Table 1

4 Sustainability Objectives, Baseline and Context

Task A1 - Links to other policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives and how these have been taken into account

4.1 Table 2 outlines, in no particular order, the key messages emerging from a review of policies, plans and programmes. Many of the key issues overlap and all of the documents of relevance might not be listed – just those that deal with the key issue as a major consideration.

Key Message	Source
Adhere to principles of sustainable development.	Johannesburg Declaration, European Strategy for Sustainable Development, ESPD, UK Government Strategy for Sustainable Development, Urban & Rural White Papers, PPS1, Action for Sustainability.
Create Sustainable Communities and Promote Social Inclusion	Communities Plan: Sustainable Communities in the North West, NW Equality and Diversity Strategy, Warrington Community Strategy, WBC Corporate Strategy, A Regeneration Framework for Warrington, Community Safety Strategy, Warrington Anti-poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy.
Achieve economic growth	Northern Way Growth Strategy, PPS4, Regional Economic Strategy, Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action, Sub Regional Economic Strategy for Warrington and Cheshire, Manchester and Liverpool City Region Development Plans, Warrington Economic Development and Competitiveness Strategy, WBC Corporate Strategy.
Protect and Enhance the built and natural environment	EU Habitats Directive, European Landscape Convention, Ramsar Convention, PPG2, PPG15, PPG16, WBC Tree and Woodland Strategy, WBC Corporate Strategy, WBC Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.
Conserve and Enhance Biodiversity	Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, Ramsar Convention, UK Biodiversity Strategy, PPS9, "Nature Matters" Biodiversity Action Plan for Warrington.
Improve air and water quality and consider impacts of flooding and flood risk whilst taking into account the impacts of climate change	EU 6 th Environmental Action Plan, Kyoto Protocol, EU Air Quality Directive, EU Water Framework Directive, National Air Quality Strategy, PPS25, The Air About Us – Warrington's Air Quality Management Plan.
Provide an integrated transport network and secure wider benefits by reducing the need to travel by car	Transport 2010: DETR 10 year plan, PPG13, WBC Corporate Strategy, LTP3.
Achieve more sustainable waste management and mineral extraction	EU Framework Directive on Waste, EU Directive on landfill of waste, PPS10, MPG1 – 15, MPS2, Regional Waste Strategy, WBC Corporate Strategy, WBC Waste Strategy.
Minimising the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of climate change.	EU Renewable Energy Directive, Energy White Paper, PPS1 Climate Change Supplement, PPS22, NW Sustainable Energy Strategy, Rising to the challenge - a climate change action plan for England's Northwest 2007-09, WBC Corporate Strategy, WBC Climate Change Strategy

Key Message	Source
Ensure Health and Wellbeing	PPG17, Investment for Health: A Plan for the NW of England, NW Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, WBC Corporate Strategy, WBC Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.

Table 2 Key Messages from PPP Review

Task A2 - Description of the social, environmental and economic baseline characteristics and the predicted future baseline

4.2 Establishing baseline information provides a basis for predicting and monitoring effects of plans and proposals and helps identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. An evidence base will consist mainly of quantitative indicators, but qualitative information can also be collected.

4.3 Establishing baseline information should occur at the same time as the evidence gathering pre-production stage of a LDD. Much information collected will, however, be generic to an authority's area rather than specific to a particular DPD or SPD. It is therefore the intention that a Borough-wide evidence base is established and updated as necessary.

4.4 The 2006 scoping report baseline was expanded to produce the Borough Portrait in 2007. This document was a detailed account of how different parts of Warrington were performing in a number of areas considered by the Government to be key characteristics of a sustainable community.

4.5 The baseline evidence has since been updated. The main findings of this evidence base are presented in table and map form (see Appendix 2). There are, however a number of other qualitative sources of information which will be taken into account in the SA process, this includes documents that deal with historic landscape characterisation, landscape character, conservation area appraisals and management plans. This includes documents and resources such as:

- Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Landscape Character Volume - NW England
- Streets for All North West – a regional English Heritage guide to the management of streets and public open spaces
- Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, Warrington Borough.
 - Part 1: Archaeological Assessments.
 - Part 2 Archaeological Strategies.
- Heritage Counts: www.heritagecounts.org.uk
- National Monuments Record Centre: www.pastscape.org.uk
- Images of England – photos of listed buildings alongside the statutory list description: www.imagesofengland.org.uk
- Urban Surveys – HER / SMR or English Heritage: www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1294
- National Mapping Programme Aerial Photographs: www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr
- National and Regional skills report: www.helm.or.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.4625
- Quality of Life Assessment: www.countryside.gov.uk/LAR/Landscape/Quality/index.asp
- Countryside Quality Counts: www.countryside-quality-counts.org.uk

4.6 The SEA Directive requires that the likely evolution of the borough without implementation of the plan or programme should be identified. The baseline data gives the current state of the area, whereas extrapolation of trends can provide clues as to what would happen without LDF intervention. Major projects that are currently underway or planned include:

- Omega Business Development site

- New Urban Village at Chapelford
- Regional strategic site at Warrington Waterfront

4.7 Whilst the adopted UDP and other Regional and Council initiatives, plans and programmes will have an influence, without implementation of the LDF, the following trends are likely to continue:

- The population is projected to increase from 194,000 in 2006 to 201,400 in 2026.
- The size of the population is forecast to decrease for all age groups up to the age of 44. Conversely the size of all age groups over the age of 44 will increase, especially those over the age of 65.
- There is a high level of housing commitments in the borough, so it is expected that the high level of completions will continue, at least in the short term. The opportunities to secure affordable housing within the borough through the planning system may therefore continue to be limited.
- Some areas of the borough may continue to suffer from multiple deprivation.
- Current levels of employment land will continue to be provided.
- Continued high of levels car ownership within the borough will contribute to traffic congestion remaining at current levels.
- Current development within the town centre should help retain existing market share. A static leisure offer may mean a reduced leisure market share for the town centre.
- Chemical and Biological water quality within the borough could continue to be below regional and national levels.
- Significant areas of the borough could be affected by flooding from rivers or the sea.

Task A3 - Main social, environmental and economic issues and problems identified

4.8 The table below identifies social, environmental and economic issues that are relevant to the Core Strategy Development Plan Document. In addition to identifying the relevant issues, the table also explores how the Core Strategy may contribute towards alleviating the problems associated with it.

Issue	Evidence	How Can the Core Strategy Address This?
Economic		
Accessibility of Employment	Travel to work by public transport / walking / cycling figures for Warrington are lower than regional or national average. Use of car is higher. Problem is exacerbated by New Town Development pattern. Source: 2001 Census, National Statistics as shown in 2008 Warrington Borough Profile	Ensure that new employment development is in accessible locations. Encourage the provision of Green Travel Plans.
Pockets of Unemployment	Averages for the borough as a whole are below regional and national averages, but Indices of Multiple Deprivation show high levels of employment deprivation in 24 SOA's in the borough. Source: Department of Communities and Local Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Link new employment development with areas currently suffering from deprivation.

Issue	Evidence	How Can the Core Strategy Address This?
The need to continue to promote sustainable economic growth	The RES vision specifically looks to fully develop growth opportunities around Warrington. Should ensure that available employment land continues to provide choice and opportunities for sustainable development. Source: RES, WBC Employment Land Report.	Ensure the provision of a choice of employment opportunities that are accessible in terms of location and types of jobs provided
Pockets of education, skills and training deprivation	There are 18 Lower Layer SOAs within Warrington Borough that rank within the 20% most deprived nationally in terms of the Education, Skills and Training Deprivation Domain. Source: Department of Communities and Local Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Ensure provision of and access to education facilities and training opportunities
Town Centre Vitality and Viability	Figures show vacancy and vitality and viability are currently at acceptable levels. Should ensure this continues to reflect the important role the centre plays in the Borough. Source: WBC Town Centre Survey 2010.	Ensure new retail and leisure development contributes to or does not detract from the vitality and viability of the town centre
Social		
Pockets of relative deprivation	Index of Multiple Deprivation shows 18 SOAs in the 20% most deprived in England. The inner areas of Warrington tend to show higher levels of deprivation than outer areas. Bewsey and Whitecross, Orford, Poplars and Hulme, Poulton North and Latchford East all have SOAs in the 10% most deprived in England. Source: Department of Communities and Local Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Contribute to the creation of sustainable communities.
Shortage of Affordable Housing	Identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2007.	Ensure all opportunities to secure affordable housing are taken.
Ageing population	Life expectancy in the Borough is above regional averages, and similar to national figures. There are significant changes to the structure of the population anticipated with a 37.8% increase in 65 to 74 year olds and an increase of 75.1% in over 74 year olds between 2006 and 2026. Source: http://www.seldesure.co.uk/images/Population%20and%20sheet%202008_fm31-27196.pdf	Ensure that all housing needs are catered for and accessibility issues are addressed.

Issue	Evidence	How Can the Core Strategy Address This?
Fear of Crime and Antisocial behaviour	Levels of crime within the borough are similar to regional and national averages, but household surveys show fear of crime at night is higher than national figures. Source: The Audit Commission	Contribute to the creation of sustainable communities.
Pockets of Health Deprivation	Figures for the borough as a whole are similar to regional and national averages, but Indices of Multiple Deprivation show high levels of health deprivation in 32 SOA's in the borough. Source: Department of Communities and Local Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Ensure provision of and access to health facilities as well as planning for health in the location and design of new development.
Environmental		
Protection & enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity assets	There are significant nature conservation, wider green infrastructure and geodiversity assets in the borough. Source: AMR & GIS records, MAGIC internet based map system and Natural England mapping system	Ensure development does not result in a net loss of biodiversity and geodiversity assets and opportunities to enhance biodiversity and geodiversity are maximised.
Protection and enhancement of the historic environment & landscape and townscape character and quality	There is a significant number of historic assets in the Borough & a number of buildings / monuments have been identified as being in vulnerable or deteriorating condition. Source: AMR & BAR records, English Heritage	Ensure development does not result in damage to heritage assets and opportunities to enhance are maximised.
Pollution, air quality and climate change	Three AQMAs are designated within the Borough. One is related to the motorway network, the other is focused on Wilson Patten Street, around Bank Quay Station and Sankey Way/Liverpool Road. Source: http://www.warrington.gov.uk/news/air/campaign/air_frame.htm	Ensure the location and design of new development does not worsen air quality within the borough.
Increasing car use and dependency	National trend exacerbated by New Town car dependency. Identified in the Local Transport Plan 3: Warrington Borough Council Local Transport Plan	Ensure that new development is in locations accessible by means other

Issue	Evidence	How Can the Core Strategy Address This?
		than the private car.
Rising traffic volumes and traffic congestion.	Identified in the Warrington Borough Council Local Transport Plan	Ensure that new development is in locations accessible by means other than the private car.
High levels of commuting into and out of the Borough	Identified in the Warrington Borough Council Local Transport Plan	Ensure that new employment development is in accessible locations. Encourage the provision of Green Travel Plans. Link new employment development with nearby residential areas.
Quality of land and waterways in the Borough.	A legacy of the towns industrial past. There are a large number of potentially contaminated sites within the Borough and a significant length of Warrington's rivers are graded as having poor chemical and biological quality. Source: The Environment Agency	Ensure that new development does not worsen the quality of land or waterways and remedial works are carried out.
Flood protection in the borough	Areas within the Borough are identified on the Environment Agency's Indicative Floodplain maps. Source: The Environment Agency	Ensure that new development does not increase flood risk and reduces flood risk, if possible.
Amount of waste entering land fill	Warrington's waste strategy sets out targets to increase recycling and composting to meet national targets. Source: Warrington Borough Council Waste Management Strategy	Ensure that new development helps to meet recycling and composting targets.
Renewable energy and energy efficiency	A need for a more pro-active approach to production / usage identified. Source: Warrington Borough Council Climate Change Strategy	Ensure, where possible, that new

Issue	Evidence	How Can the Core Strategy Address This?
		development contributes to renewable energy production and is energy efficient.

Table 3 Key Sustainability Issues

Limitations of the information and assumptions made

4.9 Wherever possible the data shown in the table and maps is from 2007/2008. In some cases, however, it has not been possible to obtain data from this year. In these cases, the most up to date data has been presented.

4.10 There are some omissions in the data where it has not been possible to identify an appropriate data source or figures or monitoring mechanisms are not currently in place. Work will continue on trying to establish base line information in order to rectify some of these omissions. There are also gaps in terms of regional and national comparators. Again, work will continue on trying to fill these information gaps.

4.11 The table and maps will be updated on a regular basis and care will be taken to ensure, as far as possible, that data is collected in the same format in order to establish trends and to be able to make reliable comparisons.

Task A4 - The Sustainability Appraisal framework, including objectives, targets and indicators

4.12 The Core Strategy Scoping Reports (September 2006 and January 2009) set out how the sustainability objectives and indicators have been derived. Amendments have been made in response to consultation, and a Sustainability Framework which will be applicable to the Sustainability Appraisal of every DPD and SPD produced as part of the Warrington Borough Council Local Development Framework has now been established.

4.13 The amended Sustainability Appraisal Objectives include:

1. Strengthen the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth
2. Improve the education and skills of the population overall
3. Reduce poverty, deprivation and social exclusion and secure economic inclusion
4. Reduce the need to travel, especially by car, improve choice and the use of more sustainable modes
5. Improve physical and mental health and reduce health inequalities
6. Ensure access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing
7. Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime
8. Enable groups to contribute to decision making and encourage a sense of community identity and welfare
9. Protect and enhance accessibility for all to essential services and facilities
10. Provide, protect or enhance leisure opportunities, recreation facilities, green infrastructure and access to the countryside
11. Protect and enhance places and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value
12. Protect and improve the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place

13. Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity
14. Protect, manage and improve local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding
15. Limit, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change
16. Ensure the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation
17. Increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy
18. Minimise waste and maximise re-use, recovery and recycling
19. Ensure high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm that is appropriate to the locality

5 Core Strategy Issues and Options

Task B1 - Testing Core Strategy Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework

5.1 The objectives of the Core Strategy that were published for consultation in July 2010 as well as amendments to the objectives as a result of consultation were assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. The results of these assessments are set out in detail in Appendix 4.

5.2 The assessment of the Core Strategy Objectives resulted in a number of issues to consider. In such instances, either the objectives have been amended or amalgamated or these issues have been taken into account in the drafting of the Core Strategy document itself. The following table sets out where changes to the Core Strategy objectives have occurred as a result of the Sustainability Appraisal objective assessment.

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>H4 To ensure that from adoption and throughout the plan period, sufficient land is available for a deliverable rolling forward supply of at least 5 years, in sustainable locations</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p> <p><u>To ensure that from adoption and throughout the plan period, sufficient land is available, through reference to specific sites, for a deliverable rolling forward supply of at least 5 years and beyond this a developable forward supply of at least a further 5 years.</u></p>
<p>H5 To demonstrate that a developable supply can be sustained for a period of at least a further 5 years, and throughout the plan period and beyond, either by reference to specific sites or broad locations.</p>	
<p>H7 To set criteria for the release of additional sites for housing development where justified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to 'top up' the 5 year supply of housing land • The need to supplement the supply of affordable homes • The need to support regeneration initiatives • Overwhelming community support for a proposal which meets the criteria for sustainable, high quality development. 	<p>To set criteria <u>to guide</u> for the release of additional sites for housing development where justified by <u>reasons which may include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to <u>'top-up' the ensure a rolling 5</u> year supply of housing land • The need to supplement the supply of affordable homes • The need to support regeneration initiatives • <u>Overwhelming community support for a proposal which meets the criteria for sustainable, high quality development.</u>
<p>H8 To provide a mix of both market and affordable housing in terms of type, tenure, size and price, that delivers a better balance to the housing market across the borough in terms of matching supply to identified needs.</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p> <p><u>To provide a mix of housing in terms of type, size and tenure to deliver a better balance to the housing market across the Borough in terms of matching supply to identified needs, securing</u></p>
<p>H10 To contribute to the overall supply of affordable housing in the borough through negotiations to secure planning obligations on qualifying housing developments, where viable, to complement initiatives in the Warrington Housing Strategy.</p>	<p><u>planning obligations on qualifying housing developments, where viable, to boost the supply of affordable homes within the Borough.</u></p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>H11 To establish the level of need for criteria for sites to accommodate the Gypsy and Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople communities that need to reside temporarily or permanently within the borough, and set criteria for the identification of sites to meet need.</p>	<p>H11To establish the level of need for criteria for sites to accommodate the Gypsy and Traveller, and Travelling Showpeople communities that need to reside temporarily or permanently within the borough, and set criteria for the identification of sites to meet need.</p>
<p>E1 To identify sufficient land in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations to meet demand for economic development over the period 2003 – 26.</p>	<p>E1 To <u>identify sufficient land in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and to give priority to previously developed land, taking into account the need to review current levels of provision and opportunities to re-allocate any surplus land to other uses when identify sufficient land to meet demand for economic development over the period 2003 - 2026</u></p>
<p>E2 To give priority to previously developed land, taking into account the need to review current levels of provision and opportunities to re-allocate any surplus land to other uses.</p>	<p><u>Amalgamated with E1</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>E1 To identify sufficient land in attractive, accessible and sustainable locations and to give priority to previously developed land, taking into account the need to review current levels of provision and opportunities to re-allocate any surplus land to other uses when identify sufficient land to meet demand for economic development over the period 2003 - 2026</u></p>
<p>E3 In assessing and making provision for employment land, to take account of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the different locational requirements of business, including size of site required, site quality, access, and proximity to markets, as well as an accessible workforce. • Identify locations in or on the edge of Warrington Town Centre as sites for larger B1 office developments, while recognising that market demand will influence office location. • Identify locations for uses generating substantial freight movements that avoid congestion and preserve local amenity interests, and give access to rail or water where feasible. 	<p>E2 In assessing and making provision for employment land, to take account of the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide for the different locational requirements of business, including size of site, site quality (<u>attractiveness</u>),<u>accessibility to markets and workforce in sustainable locations.</u>
<p>S2 To secure a proportion of the energy supply of new developments from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.</p>	<p>S2 To secure a proportion of the energy supply of <u>all</u> new developments from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources <u>where appropriate.</u></p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>T1 Ensure new residential development is built in sustainable locations with walking, cycling and public transport access health, education, leisure facilities and fresh food.</p>	<p>T1 Ensure <u>all</u> new residential development is built in sustainable locations with walking, cycling and public transport access <u>to</u> health, education, leisure facilities and fresh food.</p>
<p>T5 Increase the movement of freight by rail and water whilst ensuring that there is minimal detrimental effect as a result of increased swing bridge openings on the ManchesterShip Canal.</p>	<p>T5 Increase the movement of freight by rail and water whilst ensuring that there is minimal detrimental effect <u>on water quality, as well as limited detrimental impact on traffic movements</u>, as a result of increased swing bridge openings on the Manchester Ship Canal.</p>
<p>T7 Ensure new and existing development such as employment and schools explore demand management measures as part of travel planning to reduce dependence on the private car and encourage alternative modes of travel.</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p> <p><u>T7 Ensure new large scale development and existing development at key locations such as Warrington Hospital and schools are as sustainable as possible and explore demand management measures as part of travel planning to reduce dependence on the private car and improving accessibility to alternative modes of travel, particularly from deprived areas.</u></p>
<p>T9 To make sure key locations including WarringtonHospital are more sustainable, by ensuring that accessibility by public transport, cycling and walking, particularly from deprived areas, is assessed and improved.</p>	<p><u>T9 To make sure key locations including WarringtonHospital are more sustainable, by ensuring that accessibility by public transport, cycling and walking, particularly from deprived areas, is assessed and improved.</u></p>
<p>WC2 To reduce the level of vacancies within the primary shopping area of the centre</p>	<p>SA process concluded bjectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p>
<p>WC4 To protect the town centre and other centres identified in the retail hierarchy from the harmful impacts of inappropriate retail development in edge-of-centre and out-of-centre locations.</p>	<p><u>WC2 To reduce the level of vacancies and protect the town centre and other centres identified in the retail hierarchy from the harmful impacts of inappropriate retail development in edge-of-centre and out-of-centre locations.</u></p>
<p>BE1 To identify, conserve and where appropriate enhance, the borough’s historic assets and their settings, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings and Structures • Conservation Areas • Buildings and Structures of Local Importance • Scheduled Ancient Monuments • Areas and Sites of Archaeological Significance 	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p> <p>-</p>
<p>BE2 To ensure that the identified historic assets play their full part in the social, economic and environmental life of the Borough, for example by encouraging visitors to support the local economy, and sustainably re-using and enhancing heritage assets as an inherent part of place shaping and regeneration</p>	<p>BE1 To identify, conserve and where appropriate enhance the borough’s historic assets, and their settings, to ensure that the assets play their full part in the social, economic and environmental life of the Borough, for example by encouraging visitors to support the local economy and sustainably re-using and enhancing heritage assets as an inherent part of place shaping and regeneration.</p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>BE3 To achieve the high quality, inclusive and sustainable design of buildings, places, spaces, sites and streets</p>	<p>SA process concluded objective should be amended as follows:</p> <p>BE2 To achieve the high quality, inclusive and sustainable design (<u>as defined in paragraphs 33 to 36 of PPS1</u>) of buildings, places, spaces, sites and streets.</p>
<p>G11 To identify, conserve, diversify and where appropriate extend the existing multi-functional network of green infrastructure in the urban and rural areas of the borough incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places for outdoor relaxation and play • Space and habitat for wildlife with access to nature for people • Amenity space that has no other formal designation • Climate change adaptation - for example flood alleviation and cooling urban heat islands. • Opportunities for environmental education • Local food production - in allotments, gardens and through agriculture • Improved health and well-being – lowering stress levels and providing opportunities for exercise • Access to high quality opportunities to participate in sport and recreation <p>and including key sites and areas of international, national, regional and local significance for biodiversity, geodiversity, trees and areas of woodland, playing fields, farmland, wildlife corridors, and the courses and environs of rivers and canals</p>	<p>SA process concluded objective should be split and amended as follows:</p> <p>G11 To identify, conserve, diversify and where appropriate extend the existing multi-functional network of green infrastructure in the urban and rural areas of the borough <u>to maximise its value in providing opportunities for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Places for outdoor relaxation and play • space and habitat for wildlife and access to nature for people • <u>improving health and well-being through providing opportunities for relaxation to lower stress levels and providing access to both informal and formal sport and recreation for opportunities for exercise</u> • climate change adaptation through for example flood alleviation, cooling urban heat islands <u>and the production of energy crops supporting economic development by providing attractive environments to contribute to inward investment</u> • opportunities for environmental education • local food production through allotments, private gardens and agriculture <p>G16 To identify, conserve and where appropriate enhance key sites and areas of international, national, regional and local significance for biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>
<p>G15 To protect and enhance landscape and townscape character where appropriate.</p>	<p>G15 To protect and enhance <u>the landscape and townscape character where appropriate of the built up areas of the borough.</u></p>
<p>MW1 To achieve a reduction the amount of waste produced in the borough and treat waste at as high a level of the waste hierarchy as possible.</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p>
<p>MW2 Radically reducethe proportion of waste going to landfill sites, by providing appropriate facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for re-use • for re-cycling 	<p><u>To achieve a reduction in the amount of waste produced in the borough and treat waste at as high a level of the waste hierarchy as possible, by providing appropriate facilities for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>for re-use</u>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for recovery of energy from waste and/or enter into a partnership arrangement with private or public bodies to secure satisfactory provision of suitable waste management facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>for re-cycling</u> <u>for recovery of energy from waste</u> <u>and/or enter into a partnership arrangement with private or public bodies to secure satisfactory provision of suitable waste management facilities.</u>
<p>I5 To increase housing choices in areas of deprivation through the delivery of a variety of type and tenure of new homes</p> <p>To ensure that the location, size and type of affordable housing provides at least an equivalent standard of accommodation to housing available on the open market</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p> <p><u>To increase housing choices in areas of deprivation through the delivery of a variety of type and tenure of new homes, ensuring that the location, size and type of affordable housing provides at least an equivalent standard of accommodation to housing available on the open market.</u></p>
<p>HP4 To provide sport, recreational and cultural facilities in locations which are accessible for all.</p>	<p>HP4 To provide sport, recreational and cultural facilities in <u>sustainable</u> locations which are accessible for all <u>by modes of transport other than the private car.</u></p>
<p>TC9 Promote remodelling of the Cockhedge mall to achieve better links and integration with the town centre.</p> <p>TC10 Look at the potential of underutilised and underperforming gateway areas such as Cockhedge retail sheds and School Brow through masterplanning.</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could logically be amalgamated to read:</p> <p><u>Look at the potential underutilised and under performing gateway areas such as Cockhedge Mall retail sheds and School Brow through master planning in order to achieve better links and integration with the town centre.</u></p>
<p>RA1 Create an attractive route into town with landscape enhancement</p>	<p>RA1 <u>Make the A49</u> Create an attractive route into town with landscape enhancements</p>
<p>RA2 Create a successful and vibrant business location</p>	<p>RA2 <u>Make the A49 corridor</u> Create a successful and vibrant business location</p>
<p>RA5 To support the development of an attraction of sub-regional importance and increase the length of visitors stays using local facilities.</p>	<p>RA5 To support the development of an attraction <u>in SankeyValley</u> of sub-regional importance <u>which is accessible by a variety of modes of transport so as to</u> and increase the length of visitors stays using local facilities.</p>
<p>n/a</p>	<p>SA process concluded a need for a new objective within this section as follows:</p> <p>RA7 Safeguard biodiversity in SankeyValleyPark.</p>
<p>RA8 To achieve the delivery of employment development comprising a mix of industrial and storage uses at the site</p>	<p>To achieve the delivery of employment development comprising a mix of industrial and storage uses at the <u>Forrest Way</u> site.</p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>RA9 To achieve the completion of the development of these sites.</p>	<p>To achieve the completion of the development of these sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CarringtonPark</u> • <u>Former Greenall's Distillery</u> • <u>Naylor's Timber Yard Walton Locks.</u> • <u>Britannia Wire</u> • <u>Saxon Park East</u> • <u>Former Beers Timber Yard</u> • <u>MSCC, Thelwall Lane</u> • <u>Edgewater Park/New World Ltd</u> • <u>Eagle Ottawa Site, Thelwall Lane</u> • <u>Land to the north of Ryfields Retirement Village.</u>
<p>WW4 To support the development of an attraction in SankeyValley of sub-regional importance and increase the length of visitors stays using local facilities.</p>	<p>WW4: To support the development of an attraction in SankeyValley of sub-regional importance <u>which is accessible by a variety of modes of transport</u> so as to increase the length of visitors stays using local facilities</p>
<p>WW5 To support future provision, development and management of recreational facilities within the SankeyValley.</p>	<p>WW5: To support future provision, development and management of recreational facilities within Sankey Valley Park, whilst safeguarding the elements of heritage value, (including Bewsey Old Hall, RAF Burtonwood and St Helens canal and its biodiversity especially at Bewsey tip.</p> <p><u>(An amalgamation of WW5, WW6 and WW7 to form a single objective.)</u></p>
<p>WW6 Safeguard the Park's heritage value including Bewsey Old Hall, RAF Burtonwood and the St Helens Canal</p>	<p>WW5: To support future provision, development and management of recreational facilities within Sankey Valley Park, whilst safeguarding the elements of heritage value, (including Bewsey Old Hall, RAF Burtonwood and St Helens canal and its biodiversity especially at Bewsey tip.</p> <p><u>(An amalgamation of WW5, WW6 and WW7 to form a single objective.)</u></p>
<p>WW7 Safeguard biodiversity in the Park especially at the Former Bewsey Tip.</p>	<p>WW5: To support future provision, development and management of recreational facilities within Sankey Valley Park, whilst safeguarding the elements of heritage value, (including Bewsey Old Hall, RAF Burtonwood and St Helens canal and its biodiversity especially at Bewsey tip.</p> <p><u>(An amalgamation of WW5, WW6 and WW7 to form a single objective.)</u></p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>WW8 To achieve the delivery of employment development comprising a mix of industrial and storage uses at the site</p>	<p>WW6: To achieve the delivery of employment development comprising a mix of industrial and storage uses at <u>Burtonwood Services</u>.</p>
<p>WW9 To achieve the completion of a development comprising market homes and a significant contribution towards the provision of affordable homes</p>	<p>WW7: To achieve the completion of the development of <u>Dawson House</u> comprising market homes and a significant contribution towards the provision of affordable homes.</p>
<p>WW10 To support the role of Westbrook District Centre in the town's retail hierarchy</p>	<p>WW8: <u>To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of local shopping provision in the area</u> and support the role of Westbrook District Centre.</p>
<p>WW11: To control the extension and expansion of inappropriate retail development at Gemini</p>	<p>WW9: To control the extension and expansion of inappropriate retail development at Gemini.</p>
<p>CC2 To develop the recreational and visitor attraction potential of Walton Hall and Gardens.</p>	<p>CC2 To develop the recreational and visitor attraction potential of Walton Hall and Gardens, <u>whilst protecting the local environment and minimising additional travel by car.</u></p>
<p>CC3 To ensure that the predominant land use at Barleycastle Trading Estate continues to be transport related and storage, warehouses and distribution uses.</p>	<p>CC3 To ensure that the predominant land use at Barleycastle Trading Estate continues to be transport related and storage, warehouses and distribution uses, <u>whilst ensuring that development minimises travel by private car and encourages the use of more sustainable modes of transport.</u></p>
<p>CC5 To encourage the effective re-use and / or partial redevelopment of this extensive vacant site in the Green Belt in order to safeguard the built heritage value of the former school and grounds.</p> <p>A change was made to this objective following consultation which deleted the reference to: "this extensive vacant site in the Green Belt" and inserted "MasseyHallSchool"</p>	<p>To encourage the effective re-use and/or partial redevelopment of MasseyHallSchool in order to safeguard the built heritage value of the former school and grounds.</p>
<p>CC6 To support continued investment for the purposes of power generation, together with associated measures to reduce environmental and transport impacts.</p>	<p>SA process concluded objectives could be logically amalgamated to read:</p>

Objectives as set out in the Objectives and Options Report (July 2010)	Amendments owing to Sustainability Appraisal Process
<p>CC7 To provide opportunities for the establishment of related development including processing and manufacturing that would benefit from the proximity of resources at the site including heat, power, water supply and secondary aggregates.</p>	<p><u>To support continued investment at Fiddlers Ferry Power Station for the purposes of power generation, together with associated measures to reduce environmental and transport impacts, including opportunities for the establishment of related development that would benefit from the proximity of resources such as heat, power, water supply and secondary aggregates.</u></p>

Table 4 Changes to Core Strategy Objectives as a result of Sustainability Appraisal Objective assessment

5.3 A number of the objectives have subsequently been amended and revised as a result of redrafting and simplifying of the document, bearing in mind the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives assessment.

5.4 In the case of the strategic objectives and Objective GI1, the changes made to objectives as a result of testing against Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and internal workshops have resulted in a significantly different objective. In these instances, the amended Core Strategy objective has been subject to a re-assessment against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives. The re-assessment has shown that further amendment of the objectives is not necessary.

Task B2 - Developing Core Strategy Options

Main strategic options considered and how they were identified

5.5 The ODPM guidance⁽¹⁾ states that “Given the duty under the Act on those preparing a DPD to contribute to sustainable development, it is essential for it to set out to improve on the situation which would exist if there were no DPD. It should also aim to improve on the effects of existing DPD or “saved plan”⁽²⁾. It goes on to state, however, that “To test this, options considered often include scenarios termed “no plan” and “business as usual”.”⁽⁴⁾

5.6 This assessment provides the baseline against which the effects of the Core Strategy itself can be considered. The baseline for the purposes of this Sustainability Appraisal consists of:

- The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West of England - approved 2008
- The saved policies of the Warrington Unitary Development Plan - adopted 2006

5.7 A Sustainability Appraisal was carried out on the Regional Spatial Strategy in September 2008. The appraisal found that overall the plan itself is broadly sustainable and the SA has enhanced this situation (i.e. Making it more sustainable). Nonetheless there were considered to be tough issues left to grapple with and it was considered that it was down to the Local Planning Authorities that the interpretation and implementation rests.

5.8 The Panel examining the RSS found that the Regional Planning Body (once NWRA, then 4NW) and Secretary of State had considered the SA in their decision making and with this in mind they could confidently say that the process of undertaking the SA had changed the plan for the better (better being more sustainable). The Panel felt that there was an inherent bias towards economic progress (which was justified and should not be denied), but that environmental elements had been made consistently more robust through the plan iterations.

1 Sustainability Appraisals of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM Nov 2005)
2 Para 3.3.6

5.9 An initial Sustainability Appraisal of each UDP Part 2 Policy was carried out at the time of preparation. This considered whether the policy had a positive, negative or neutral effect on 18 environmental, social and economic issues.

5.10 The existing strategy put in place by these two parts of the development plan can now be assessed in more detail against the Sustainability Framework Objectives (see Appendix 5). Instead of simply measuring how sustainable the saved policies are, this process gives an idea of where the sustainability of the existing Policies could be improved.

5.11 The conclusions of this exercise are that the current situation could be improved by:

- Reviewing the levels of employment land supply including Omega and considering deliverability
- Providing for future levels of housing need in the context of updated land supply information, especially relating to deliverability.
- Maximising opportunities for new employment in areas of deprivation
- Improving the provision of transport links to employment areas
- Improving opportunities in the town centre
- Improving the consistency of approach with the current Local Transport Plan
- Increasing the provision of open space where there is an identified deficiency
- Addressing specific health issues
- Improve mechanisms to consider and address climate change
- Improve mechanisms to consider and address flooding issues
- Improve mechanisms to increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy
- Improve mechanisms to incorporate sustainable construction methods.

5.12 Delivery of an improvement on the current situation offers few reasonable strategic options that can be considered. Three strategic options that considered the distribution (and subsequent level of) development were therefore identified:

1. Prioritising development on Inner Warrington brownfield sites - the "no plan" or "business as usual" option
2. Prioritising development on Inner Warrington brownfield sites with selective release of other sites
3. Promoting development on all suitable and available development sites

5.13 Alongside the three strategic options, three levels of housing delivery were considered:

1. 274 dwellings per annum (deliverable through Strategic Option 1)
2. 322-465 dwellings per annum (deliverable through Strategic Option 2)
3. 337-480 dwellings per annum (deliverable through Strategic Option 3)

5.14 In addition, three levels of employment development were considered:

1. Continuation of current UDP levels of employment land provision
2. Decrease levels of employment land provision in line with monitoring
3. Increase levels of employment land provision

Task B3 - Predicting the effects of the preferred option

Comparison of the social, environmental and economic effects of the options

5.15 All three options have been considered against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (See Appendices 1 & 2). The table below provides a summary of the conclusions reached:

	Sustainability Objective	Strategic Option 1	Strategic Option 2	Strategic Option 3
Economic	Strengthen the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth	+	++	-
	Improve the education and skills of the population overall	0	0	0
Social	Reduce poverty, deprivation and social exclusion and secure economic inclusion	0	0	-
	Reduce the need to travel, especially by car, improve choice and the use of more sustainable modes	+	+	-
	Improve physical and mental health and reduce health inequalities	+	+	+
	Ensure access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing	+	++	++
	Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime	+	+	+
	Enable groups to contribute to decision making and encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	0	0	0
	Protect and enhance accessibility for all to essential services and facilities	++	++	+
	Provide, protect or enhance leisure opportunities, recreation facilities, green infrastructure and access to the countryside	++	++	+
Environmental	Protect and enhance places and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value	++	++	++
	Protect and improve the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	++	++	++
	Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity	++	++	++
	Protect, manage and improve local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding	++	++	++
	Limit, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change	+	+	+
	Ensure the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation	++	++	+
	Increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy	+	+	+
	Minimise waste and maximise re-use, recovery and recycling	+	+	+
	Ensure high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm that is appropriate to the locality	++	++	+

Table 5 Assessment of Strategic Options against Sustainability Objectives

5.16 This assessment shows that Core Strategy Strategic Option 2 will ensure that more economic, social and environmental objectives are supported.

5.17 In particular, Strategic Option 2 is considered to be more supportive of the local economy and will more likely ensure sustainable economic growth.

5.18 Along with Strategic Option 1, Strategic Option 2 helps to focus development on inner Warrington and could therefore have the potential to:

- reduce the need to travel by car,
- protects and enhances access to services and facilities,
- provides, protects and enhances leisure opportunities, recreation facilities, Green Infrastructure and access to the countryside
- Ensures sustainable and prudent use of natural resources
- Ensures high quality and sustainable design appropriate to the locality

5.19 However, along with Strategic Option 3, Strategic Option 2 helps to ensure access to good quality sustainable housing, by ensuring that there is a deliverable supply of housing land.

5.20 Strategic Option 3, however has the potential to have a negative impact on the local economy and on levels of social exclusion and reducing the need to travel. This is due to the lack of spatial focus of the option, which could lead to dispersal of development to areas with lower land values, or fewer remediation costs. The dispersal of development would also mean that the very positive impacts of Strategic Options 1 & 2 in terms of accessibility to services and leisure opportunities as well as the sustainable and prudent use and management of resources are significantly reduced.

5.21 The general location and numbers of housing provided under the three strategic options were then considered:

	Sustainability Objective	Housing Option 1	Housing Option 2	Housing Option 3
Economic	Strengthen the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth	-	+	+
	Improve the education and skills of the population overall	0	0	-
Social	Reduce poverty, deprivation and social exclusion and secure economic inclusion	+	+	-
	Reduce the need to travel, especially by car, improve choice and the use of more sustainable modes	+	-	-
	Improve physical and mental health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0
	Ensure access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing	+	++	++
	Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime	0	0	0
	Enable groups to contribute to decision making and encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	0	0	0
	Protect and enhance accessibility for all to essential services and facilities	+	+	-
	Provide, protect or enhance leisure opportunities, recreation facilities, green infrastructure and access to the countryside	0	0	-
Environmental	Protect and enhance places and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value	0	0	0
	Protect and improve the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst	0	0	0

	Sustainability Objective	Housing Option 1	Housing Option 2	Housing Option 3
	maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place			
	Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity	0	0	-
	Protect, manage and improve local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding	0	0	-
	Limit, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change	0	0	0
	Ensure the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation	+	+	+
	Increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy	0	0	+
	Minimise waste and maximise re-use, recovery and recycling	0	0	0
	Ensure high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm that is appropriate to the locality	0	0	0

Table 6 Assessment of Housing Options against Sustainability Objectives

5.22 This assessment shows that Core Strategy Housing Option 2 will ensure that more economic, social and environmental objectives are supported.

5.23 In particular, providing housing in Inner Warrington only would not supply sufficient housing to meet identified housing needs and would not provide sufficient housing and therefore working age population to support the economic growth aspirations of Warrington.

5.24 Whilst Housing Options 2 and 3 secure greater access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing due to the greater choice of sites available, it is also apparent that the amount of land required to provide for the levels of housing in Housing Option 3 would necessitate development of greenfield sites away from the inner areas of Warrington. This could have a detrimental effect on levels of deprivation, reducing the need to travel by car, and access to all to essential services and facilities, leisure and recreation provision.

5.25 Housing Option 3 could also have a detrimental effect on biodiversity and local environmental quality, due to the presumption that this option would look to develop housing on some greenfield sites, which could potentially fulfil a greater variety of important Green Infrastructure functions than the brownfield sites that are the focus of the other Housing Options.

5.26 Employment Land Options were then assessed.

	Sustainability Objective	Employment Option 1	Employment Option 2	Employment Option 3
Economic	Strengthen the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth	+	+	+
	Improve the education and skills of the population overall	0	0	0
Social	Reduce poverty, deprivation and social exclusion and secure economic inclusion	0	0	0
	Reduce the need to travel, especially by car, improve choice and the use of more sustainable modes	0	0	0

	Sustainability Objective	Employment Option 1	Employment Option 2	Employment Option 3
	Improve physical and mental health and reduce health inequalities	0	0	0
	Ensure access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing	0	0	0
	Reduce crime, disorder and the fear of crime	0	0	0
	Enable groups to contribute to decision making and encourage a sense of community identity and welfare	0	0	0
	Protect and enhance accessibility for all to essential services and facilities	0	0	0
	Provide, protect or enhance leisure opportunities, recreation facilities, green infrastructure and access to the countryside	0	0	0
Environmental	Protect and enhance places and buildings of historic, cultural and archaeological value	0	0	0
	Protect and improve the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place	0	0	0
	Protect and enhance geodiversity and biodiversity	0	0	0
	Protect, manage and improve local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding	0	0	0
	Limit, mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change	0	0	0
	Ensure the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation	-	+	--
	Increase energy efficiency and production of renewable energy	0	0	0
	Minimise waste and maximise re-use, recovery and recycling	0	0	0
	Ensure high quality and sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm that is appropriate to the locality	0	0	0

Table 7 Assessment of Employment Options against Sustainability Objectives

5.27 This assessment shows that Core Strategy Employment Option 2 will ensure that more economic, social and environmental objectives are supported.

5.28 Whilst all employment options will support the objective of strengthening the local economy and ensuring sustainable economic growth, Employment Option 2 represents the most sustainable and prudent use of resources. This is because Option 1 (continuing with the current level of provision) would represent an overprovision of land based on recent take up rates. A similar situation would arise

under Employment Option 3 which looks to increase provision from current levels. Both Employment Options 1 and 3 would continue to accumulate a surplus of employment land which will not be a prudent use of the Borough's land resource and which could sterilise land for other uses.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A full assessment of the development sites included in the three Strategic Options has also been carried out through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (published December 2011). This assessment is set out in full in Appendix 8. The assessment shows that the Council is not looking to allocate any sites within any of the options, but that the emerging preferred option in terms of sustainability cannot be accommodated in areas that are not at risk of flooding. The assessment does show, however, that development that may be key to the draft Core Strategy could not be located in areas of lower flood risk without compromising the strategy of regeneration and renewal of the older, inner areas of the town.

The detailed assessment shows that within the areas considered to be key in terms of the strategy and regeneration, there is still the opportunity to take a sequential approach to the location of development. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is also clear where a sequential and exceptions test must be provided as part of any application for development, or where the Council will have to provide fuller justification in terms of an Allocations Development Plan Document.

How social, environmental and economic issues were considered in choosing the preferred options

5.29 It is immediately apparent from the table set out above where the options are assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal framework that Strategic Option 2 has the potential to address more comprehensively the broad range of Economic, Social and Environmental issues.

5.30 Given the level of support that the Strategic Option 2 could give to the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives, it is clear that the preferred option in sustainability terms is Strategic Option 2 – Prioritising development on Inner Warrington brownfield sites with selective release of other sites.

Other options considered and why these were rejected

5.31 Although Strategic Option 1 concentrated on inner Warrington and could therefore bring benefits in terms of regeneration and dealing with deprivation, the amount of development that could be accommodated on land within Inner Warrington would not be sufficient to meet identified housing needs or provide for a necessary level of growth (both in terms of population and employment) for Warrington.

5.32 This could lead to an imbalance within Warrington where there is either significantly more employment, or more residential population, which could lead to increased unsustainable transport movements as people either commute out of the area to access job opportunities that are not available in Warrington, or are drawn to employment opportunities in Warrington that cannot be taken up by the resident population.

5.33 This Strategic Option has therefore been rejected.

5.34 Strategic Option 3 brings more benefits in terms of the potential for growth in Warrington, but the lack of focus in this option means that opportunities to address social deprivation issues are missed. The Strategic Option could also mean a dispersal of development, which would not contribute to sustainable development within Warrington Borough, and which could lead to increased deprivation and social exclusion and an increased need to travel by car to access essential services and facilities and leisure and recreation opportunities.

5.35 This Strategic Option has therefore been rejected.

5.36 The level of housing provision set out in Housing Option 1 does not meet the identified housing need, and provides limited opportunity to provide sustainable, affordable housing across the borough. This housing option has therefore been rejected.

5.37 Whilst the level of housing provision set out in Housing Option 3 more appropriately meets the identified housing need, the location of development could lead to increased deprivation especially when considering access to essential services and facilities.

5.38 The monitoring of employment land take up rates has shown that it would be appropriate to decrease the level of provision currently pursued through the Unitary Development Plan. This is borne out when considering the three employment options against the Sustainability Objectives. Employment Options 1 and 3 both result in an oversupply of employment land over the plan period, which does not constitute the more prudent use of land and resources, and which could sterilise land for other potential uses. These Employment Options have therefore been rejected.

Task B4 - Evaluating the effects of the preferred option

5.39 The impacts of the draft Core Strategy on each indicator that was used to construct the evidence base at the scoping stage have been considered (see Appendix 9). In each case any impact identified has been assessed as to whether it is positive or negative, its likelihood, scale, permanence. Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects are considered later. A conclusion has then been reached as to the significance of the impact of the draft Core Strategy on the issue the indicator considers.

5.40 The assessment shows that in a number of cases, it is possible that the draft Core Strategy will have a positive impact. In many cases whilst the overall trends can be monitored, it would be difficult to measure direct effects of the Core Strategy itself. These impacts were therefore not considered to be significant, but will help to create sustainable communities. In a small number of cases, the potential impact of the draft Core Strategy against certain indicators could be negative (e.g. Development in Areas at Risk of Flooding). In these cases it should be borne in mind that appropriate policies would be included in the draft document to ensure that development would incorporate mitigation measures that would ensure that it would not be at risk from flooding and would not increase flooding elsewhere.

5.41 The positive impacts of the draft SPD considered to be of significance are outlined below.

SA Objective & Indicators	Can the effect be quantified?	Targets (where available)	Effect over time	Comments / Explanation
<p>1. Strengthen the local economy and ensure sustainable economic growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of land developed for employment type. Percentage of above, by type, which is on previously developed land. Losses of employment land in local authority area and development / regeneration areas Amount of employment land lost to residential development. 	Yes – will be measured through the Annual Monitoring Report.	<p>Draft Core Strategy makes provision for 277ha of land for employment purposes over the plan period.</p> <p>No targets are included for development on previously developed land, or for losses of employment land</p>	+	<p>The draft Core Strategy makes provision for employment land over the plan period, and seeks to direct such development to either inner Warrington or to existing employment areas. Existing employment areas are protected from non-employment uses except where justified.</p> <p><i>Likelihood: Possible</i></p> <p><i>Scale: Borough wide</i></p>

SA Objective & Indicators	Can the effect be quantified?	Targets (where available)	Effect over time	Comments / Explanation
				<i>Permanence: Long term target will take into account short term fluctuations</i>
<p>6. Ensure access to good quality, sustainable, affordable housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing completions – by type Re-use of previously developed land for housing Affordable housing completions (as a % of all completions) 	Yes – will be measured through the housing trajectory and the Annual Monitoring Report.	<p>Draft Core Strategy makes provision for an annual average of 500 dwellings.</p> <p>The Draft Core Strategy sets a target of 80% of new housing being delivered on previously developed land.</p> <p>The Draft Core Strategy sets a target for affordable housing of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% on previously developed or Greenfield sites between 5 and 14 dwellings regardless of location within the borough 20% on previously developed sites of 15 or more dwellings within Inner Warrington 30% on previously developed sites of 15 or more dwellings where the 	+	<p>The draft Core Strategy makes provision for housing development over the plan period and seeks to direct such development to inner Warrington and to previously developed sites. The Core Strategy also looks to secure affordable housing by ensuring that all developments which incorporate open market housing make provision for affordable housing.</p> <p>Likelihood: Possible</p> <p><i>Scale: Borough wide</i></p> <p><i>Permanence: long term</i></p>

SA Objective & Indicators	Can the effect be quantified?	Targets (where available)	Effect over time	Comments / Explanation
		site is located outside of Inner Warrington <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% on Greenfield sites of 15 or more dwellings regardless of its location within the borough 		
9. Protect and enhance accessibility for all to essential services and facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of completed retail, office and leisure development respectively. Percentage of completed retail, office and leisure development respectively in town centres. 	Yes – will be measured through the Annual Monitoring Report.	There is no target for the total amount of retail, office or leisure development over the plan period or for the percentage to be completed within defined centres.	+	The Draft Core Strategy does not set out a target for the total amount of retail, office or leisure development over the plan period. Policies within the Draft Core Strategy set out that such development will be directed towards defined centres <i>Likelihood: Possible</i> <i>Scale: Borough wide</i> <i>Permanence: long term</i>
12. Protect and improve the quality and character of places, landscapes, townscapes and the wider countryside whilst maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of derelict land and buildings 	Yes – will be measured through the Annual Monitoring Report.	No target available	+	Draft Core Strategy seeks to direct housing and employment development to the inner Warrington, where there is greatest concentration of derelict land and buildings. In addition the draft strategy prioritises the re-use of PDL in urban areas and indicates that at least 80% of all new

SA Objective & Indicators	Can the effect be quantified?	Targets (where available)	Effect over time	Comments / Explanation
				homes will be delivered in these locations. <i>Likelihood: Possible</i> <i>Scale: borough wide</i> <i>Permanence: long term</i>
14. Protect, manage and improve local amenity and local environmental quality including land, air and controlled waters and reduce the risk of flooding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of derelict land and buildings 	Yes – will be measured through the Annual Monitoring Report.	No target available	+	Draft Core Strategy seeks to direct housing and employment development to the inner Warrington, where there is greatest concentration of derelict land and buildings. In addition the draft strategy prioritises the re-use of PDL in urban areas and indicates that at least 80% of all new homes will be delivered in these locations. <i>Likelihood: Possible</i> <i>Scale: borough wide</i> <i>Permanence: long term</i>
16. Ensure the sustainable and prudent use and management of natural resources including the promotion of sustainable drainage and water conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-use of previously developed land for housing Amount of employment development 	Yes – will be measured through the Annual Monitoring Report.	The Draft Core Strategy sets a target of 80% of new housing being delivered on previously developed land, but does not have a similar target for employment land. No targets are available for green spaces lost to	+	Draft Core Strategy seeks to direct housing and employment development to the inner Warrington, where there is greatest concentration of derelict land and buildings. In

SA Objective & Indicators	Can the effect be quantified?	Targets (where available)	Effect over time	Comments / Explanation
<p>completed on brownfield land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green spaces lost to development Area of derelict land and buildings 		<p>development or the total area of derelict land and buildings.</p>		<p>addition the draft strategy prioritises the re-use of PDL in urban areas and indicates that at least 80% of all new homes will be delivered in these locations.</p> <p>The Core Strategy also looks to protect green spaces / infrastructure and only allows their development where fully justified.</p> <p><i>Likelihood: Probable / Possible</i></p> <p><i>Scale: borough wide</i></p> <p><i>Permanence: long term</i></p>

Table 8

5.42 In order to determine secondary / cumulative impacts of the plan in its entirety, each draft Core Strategy Policy was then assessed against the Sustainability Objectives, . The graph below shows how the policies of the draft Core Strategy have a very positive, positive, unknown, negative effect on each of the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives and where the policies are not expected to have any effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

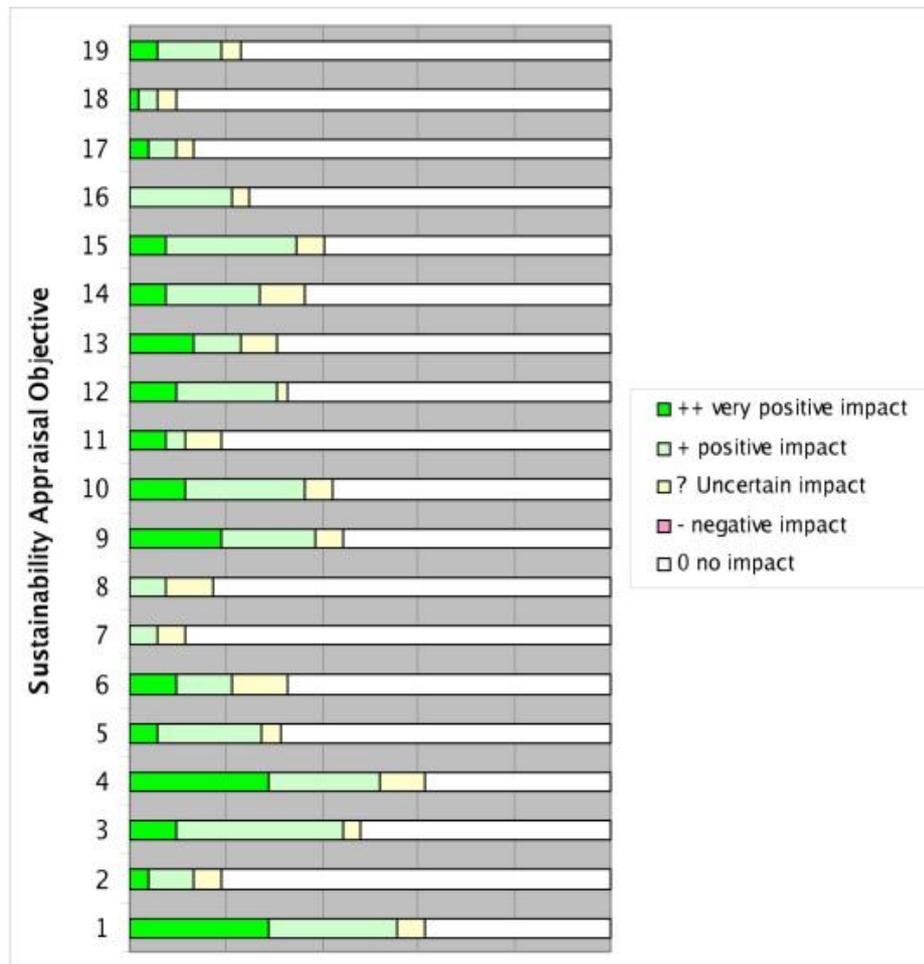


Figure 5.1

5.43 This shows that the Core Strategy has at least a positive, if not very positive overall effect on the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. No negative effects were identified. Where unknown effects were identified, this was either due to questions over detailed implementation or where possible mitigation measures (in terms of amendments to the policies) were identified. The resulting amendments to the policies as a result of the assessment are set out in the next section. The full policy assessments are set out in Appendix 10.

Task B5 - Mitigating potential effects

5.44 The Core Strategy will deliver an improvement on the current situation and evaluating the draft Core Strategy Objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives shows that in the majority of cases where the Core Strategy has an impact, this is considered to be positive. A number of draft Core Strategy Objectives were amended as a result of the assessment to ensure that impacts were positive and these are set out in at the start of this section, in Task B1.

5.45 In predicting and evaluating the draft Core Strategy against the baseline indicators, it was found that in a small number of cases the draft Core Strategy could potentially have a negative impact on a number of indicators being considered as a direct result of development (e.g. The level of development at risk from flooding). In all cases it was considered that the possible negative impact would not materialise as protection is afforded by other policies.

5.46 It was therefore not considered necessary to propose any mitigation measures to the overall strategy.

5.47 In undertaking an assessment of each draft policy against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives some potentially uncertain or negative effects were identified, but these were not considered to be significant as it was felt that the cumulative effect of all of the policies in the plan would afford protection against these effect. There were however, a number of instances where changes were suggested to the policy to mitigate either negative or uncertain impacts.

Policy	Issue Identified	Original Wording	Amended Wording
CS1	Possible need to reference location of services (such as health facilities) in appropriate / accessible locations, not just “sites”	Throughout the borough, development proposals that are sustainable will be approved.	Throughout the borough, development proposals that are sustainable will be approved.
	There is no reference to active travel as this would have health benefits	To be sustainable, development must accord with national and local planning policy frameworks	To be sustainable, development must accord with national and local planning policy frameworks
	Could make reference to local distinctiveness to encourage community identity	and have regard to:	and must, in no particular order, have regard to:
	The strategic policy makes no specific reference to green infrastructure / leisure / recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned provision made for economic and housing growth; The requirement to provide for the full range of identified needs; The priority afforded to the protection of the Green Belt and the character of the countryside; The priority afforded to accommodating growth in Inner Warrington through the use of previously developed land; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planned provision made for economic and housing growth; The requirement to provide for the full range of <u>recognised and</u> identified development needs; The priority afforded to the protection of the Green Belt and the character of the countryside; The priority afforded to accommodating growth in Inner Warrington through the use of previously developed land;
	A specific reference to the prudent use of resources could be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to develop sites in appropriate and accessible locations; The need to make the best use of existing infrastructure within existing settlements, and ensure additional provision where needed to support development; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of sustaining and enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centre and other designated centres that act as community hubs; The need to develop sites, <u>services and facilities in appropriate locations and accessible locations by public transport, walking and cycling;</u>
	A specific reference to energy efficiency could be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of sustaining and enhancing the vitality and viability of the town centre and other designated centres that act as community hubs; The need to address the causes of and be resilient to the effects of climate change; The need to sustain and enhance the borough’s built heritage, biodiversity and geodiversity; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to make the best use of existing <u>transport, utility, social and environmental</u> infrastructure within existing settlements, and ensure additional provision where needed to support development;
	A specific reference to minimising waste and maximising re-use, recovery and recycling could be made.		

Policy	Issue Identified	Original Wording	Amended Wording
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to safeguard environmental standards, public safety, and residential amenity; The delivery of high standards of design and construction; and The need to improve equality of access and opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The need to address the causes of and be resilient to the effects of climate change; The need to sustain and enhance the borough's built heritage, biodiversity and geodiversity; <u>The importance of prudently using resources and maximising re-use, recovery and recycling where possible;</u> The need to safeguard environmental standards, public safety, and residential amenity; The delivery of high standards of design and construction, <u>that have regard to local distinctiveness and energy efficiency;</u> and The need to improve equality of access and opportunity
CS2	The policy should make reference to the hierarchy of centres, not just the town centre	<p>6th Bullet:</p> <p>Warrington Town Centre will maintain its role and status by being the focus for further retail and leisure development investment, and strictly controlling inappropriate out-of-centre retail developments;</p>	<p>6th Bullet:</p> <p><u>Defined centres including</u> Warrington Town Centre will maintain their role and status by being the focus for further retail and leisure development investment, and by strictly controlling inappropriate out-of-centre retail developments;</p>
CS6	Consider making reference to linkages to the wider greenway network / green infrastructure in the policy.	<p>The Council will support development in the town centre where it supports its viability and vitality and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generates job growth, particularly in indigenous sectors, including retail and high value jobs; or adds to the provision and attractiveness of the office market in the town centre; or supports existing, committed and planned 	<p>The Council will support development in the town centre where it supports its viability and vitality and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generates job growth, particularly in indigenous sectors, including retail & high value jobs; or adds to the provision and attractiveness of the office market in the town centre; or supports existing, committed and planned

Policy	Issue Identified	Original Wording	Amended Wording
		<p>public and private investment; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increases the diversity of uses and contributes to the day or night time economy; or • supports the town in its role as a regional transport gateway / interchange and improves linkages to it from the rest of the borough and beyond; or • includes housing development. 	<p>public and private investment; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increases the diversity of uses and contributes to the day or night time economy; or • supports the town in its role as a regional transport gateway / interchange and improves linkages to it from the rest of the borough and beyond <u>especially by active travel modes</u>; or • includes housing development.
CS7	Consideration should be given as to whether a reference to leisure opportunities / GI should be included.	<p>The Council will not support proposals to develop the Strategic Location which seek to develop the site in a piecemeal or disjointed manner. Development proposals should have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any proposed phasing of development on the site and the timely delivery of any necessary and agreed mitigation measures and infrastructure; • The need to link employment development to adjoining residential areas, especially in Inner Warrington to maximise local employment opportunities that can be accessed by active travel or public transport modes; and • The need to adhere to policies elsewhere in the plan especially those that relate to sustainable development (CS11), ensuring a high quality place (QE7) and active travel and public transport (MP3 and MP4). 	<p>The Council will not support proposals to develop the Strategic Location which seek to develop the site in a piecemeal or disjointed manner. Development proposals should have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any proposed phasing of development on the site and the timely delivery of any necessary and agreed mitigation measures and infrastructure; • The need to link employment development to adjoining residential areas, especially in Inner Warrington to maximise local employment opportunities that can be accessed by active travel or public transport modes; and • The need to adhere to policies elsewhere in the plan especially those that relate to sustainable development (CS1), <u>Decentralised Energy Networks and Low Carbon Development (QE1)</u>, <u>Green Infrastructure (QE3)</u>, ensuring a high quality place (QE7) and active travel and public transport (MP3 and MP4).
	Consideration should be given to including more specific reference to sustainable design and the aspiration / potential for CHP.		

Policy	Issue Identified	Original Wording	Amended Wording
CS8	Consideration as to whether a more specific reference to education and skills improvement in this area should be made.	<p>Inner Warrington will continue to be the focus of development and physical change in the borough.</p> <p>Development in the area should look to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the maximum physical and environmental benefits from the re-use and redevelopment of underused, vacant and derelict land; Secure the maximum social benefits in order to contribute to the Council's "Closing the Gaps" agenda and address issues within areas of deprivation Contribute to the delivery of new homes to help achieve the 60% target set out in Policy CS1, whilst ensuring that a mix of housing in terms of type, size and tenure is delivered to ensure that an attractive and balanced housing offer is available Ensure accessible employment opportunities for the local population are maintained and improved. 	<p>Inner Warrington will continue to be the focus of development and physical change in the borough.</p> <p>Development in the area should look to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure the maximum physical and environmental benefits from the re-use and redevelopment of underused, vacant and derelict land; Secure the maximum social benefits in order to contribute to the Council's "Closing the Gaps" agenda and address issues within areas of deprivation; Contribute to the delivery of new homes to help achieve the 60% target set out in Policy CS1, whilst ensuring that a mix of housing in terms of type, size and tenure is delivered to <u>help meet identified needs and</u> ensure that an attractive and balanced housing offer is available; Ensure accessible employment <u>and training</u> opportunities for the local population are maintained and improved.
	Consider making reference to "identified housing needs" to illustrate the need to use Council evidence		
CS10	Consider making reference to potentially acceptable uses	No reference made	Added to policy: "Further consideration and guidance on appropriate uses will be provided through either the Site Allocations Development Plan Document or a Supplementary Planning Document.
CS11	Consider whether a reference to water quality is necessary	<p>5th bullet:</p> <p>any adverse effects on sites of nature conservation importance, to ensure that these effects are avoided, mitigated or compensated as appropriate.</p>	<p>6th bullet:</p> <p>Any adverse effects on <u>other</u> sites of nature conservation importance <u>or water quality</u>, to ensure that these effects are avoided, mitigated or compensated as appropriate.</p>

Policy	Issue Identified	Original Wording	Amended Wording
SN2	Policy could be strengthened to include an explicit reference to securing accommodation specifically targeted at the elderly as a means of helping to enable a greater degree of self independent living and therefore mental wellbeing.	No reference made	additional bullet point added: "Requiring development proposals to give specific consideration to meeting the needs of the elderly and enabling a greater degree of self independent living"
QE8	Consider amending wording of policy to include reference to economic activity	The Council and its partners will aim to recognise the significance and value of historic assets by identifying their positive influence on the character of the environment and an area's sense of place; their ability to act as a catalyst for regeneration; and their ability to inspire the design of new development.	The Council and its partners will aim to recognise the significance and value of historic assets by identifying their positive influence on the character of the environment and an area's sense of place; their ability to <u>contribute to economic activity and</u> act as a catalyst for regeneration; and their ability to inspire the design of new development.
MP10	Consider amending the policy to reference the types of infrastructure to be considered	The Council and its partners will ensure that Warrington's future growth is supported and enhanced through the timely delivery of necessary infrastructure required to support strategic and site specific infrastructure proposals in accordance with the overall spatial strategy by:	The Council and its partners will ensure that Warrington's future growth is supported and enhanced through the timely delivery of necessary <u>transport, utility, social and environmental</u> infrastructure required to support strategic and site specific proposals in accordance with the overall spatial strategy by:

Table 9

5.48 Although the exercise of predicting and evaluating effects has produced only minor changes in the draft Core Strategy, this is probably due to early consideration of a full range of sustainability objectives in the drafting of the Core Strategy objectives and the document itself.

Any proposed mitigation measures

5.49 Overall, the assessment of RSS and UDP policies with improvements as set out in the preferred strategic, housing and employment preferred options have not identified any potentially significant negative outcomes. It is therefore not considered necessary at this time to consider any mitigation measures. The next section will look at identifying significant social, environmental and economic effects and an assessment of individual policies, which may identify potential mitigation measures which are more specific.

Task B6 - Developing proposals for monitoring

6 Implementation

Links to other tiers of plans and programmes and the project level

6.1 The Core Strategy is the main Development Plan Document in the Council's Local Development Framework. Other documents of relevance within the LDF will be:

6.2 Development Plan Documents:

- Waste and Minerals Development Plan Document
- Site Allocations Development Plan Document

6.3 The timetable for the production of each of these documents is set out in the Council's Local Development Scheme. Each of these documents will be subject to their own Sustainability Appraisal.

Proposals for monitoring

6.4 The mechanisms for monitoring the baseline evidence of the Core Strategy are well established in the Annual Monitoring Report. Alignment between indicators used in this report with Sustainability Framework indicators has been ensured as far as possible so as not to overburden any monitoring regime.

6.5 Although the format of the Annual Monitoring Report may change with the amendments made to reporting arrangements in the Localism Act, any changes will consider the need to reflect all relevant Sustainability Appraisal objectives and indicators.



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