

South Staffordshire Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy

Preferred Spatial Strategy Interim
Sustainability Appraisal

January 2009

Entec UK Limited

Report for

Paul Collings
Development Plans Manager
South Staffordshire Council
Council Offices
Wolverhampton Road
Codsall
WV8 1PX

Main Contributors

Robert Deanwood

Issued by

.....
Robert Deanwood

Approved by

.....
Clive Harridge

Entec UK Limited

Gables House
Kenilworth Road
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire CV32 6JX
England
Tel: +44 (0) 1926 439000
Fax: +44 (0) 1926 439010

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South Staffordshire Council

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Non-Technical Summary

Introduction

Sustainability Appraisal is a process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of the policies and proposals in a plan, in this case the Core Strategy. It also appraises the extent to which implementation of the plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives of sustainable development.

This report is the third stage of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Core Strategy of the South Staffordshire Local Development Framework (LDF). It follows the preparation of a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Core Strategy (published in September 2006) and interim Sustainability Appraisals of: the Core Strategy Issues and Options (September 2006) and Alternative Spatial Strategy Options (January 2008).

The purpose of this Sustainability Appraisal Report is to:

- Identify and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy, and alternatives, including any cumulative and/or synergistic effects.
- Document how the Sustainability Appraisal process has been used in developing the Preferred Spatial Strategy.

Context and baseline review

Preparation of the Scoping Report involved identifying issues, opportunities and challenges which exist in the District, identifying social, environmental and economic objectives and indicators that formed the framework against which plan objectives, options and policies could be appraised. Baseline data collected as part of this exercise helps to provide a basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the Plan. In the light of data analysis, the following sustainability issues for the District were identified in the Scoping Report (**Table 1**).

Formal consultation on the Scoping Report took place between 30th October and 11th December 2006. The four statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, English Nature, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage) were consulted along with parish councils and a wide range of other stakeholders involved in the preparation of the LDF. The comments made on the Scoping Report, principally relating to data, were addressed in a revised Scoping Report which was produced in August 2007. Given the time which has elapsed between the preparation of the Scoping Report and consultation on the Preferred Spatial Strategy, a further refresh of the Scoping Report has been undertaken to accompany this document.

Table 1 Sustainability Issues in South Staffordshire

SA Theme	SA Objective	Sustainability Issue and Trend
A. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	No District-level data available
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	Recycling rates in the District are above the average for England.
B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	No District-level data available
C. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	There is room for improvement in biodiversity provision and the standard of maintenance of nationally important resources.
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	There is a good stock of cultural and landscape assets which make a significant contribution to defining the character of the District.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Pollution levels in the District are low (there being no contaminated land, for example).
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	South Staffordshire has relatively good air and water quality.
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	There is currently no data on which to assess the District's performance.
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	There is a high re-use of previously developed land, assisted by the high proportion of Green Belt in the District. The proportion of new housing completions within 30 minutes of key services is relatively low.
D. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Crime rates in South Staffordshire are lower than regional and national averages.
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	The overall health of residents is broadly similar to national and regional averages, with better than average healthcare provision. South Staffordshire's rural character may cause accessibility problems for certain sectors of the

SA Theme	SA Objective	Sustainability Issue and Trend
		community.
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Average house prices are around 30% higher than the regional figures, although on a par with the national average. Housing completion rates are below target which could have an impact on the supply of affordable housing.
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	Access to services and facilities is relatively good, although opportunities for full participation could be limited by the rural character of the District.
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	The rural character of the District means that car use is relatively high for job, service and leisure trips. Use of more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling are commensurately relatively low. These use characteristics are likely to continue.
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	The economic performance of the District is strong, with low unemployment, strong local business formation and access to a wide range of employment opportunities in the adjacent Birmingham conurbation.
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	The key issues affecting village vitality are not well understood in the District.
	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	Educational attainment levels are higher than the regional average, although below the national average. Unemployment is below regional and national averages.
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	The District has a strong stock of recreational and cultural assets, although the predominantly rural character of the District creates issues over accessibility.
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Participation in elections and other forms of governance, in line with regional and national patterns, is relatively low. There are nevertheless opportunities for stimulating interest through mechanisms such as Parish Planning.
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	Whilst the District is relatively prosperous, pockets of deprivation will need to be identified and addressed.

Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Objectives

The Sustainability Appraisal exercise compared the Preferred Spatial Strategy against the 'Do Nothing' option. This helped to illustrate the impacts in different social, environmental and economic aspects, and to show the difference made by that policy. As well as highlighting the likely positive impacts of implementing the Preferred Spatial Strategy and its associated

policies, potential negative impacts were also identified which need to be monitored and mitigated.

The Preferred Spatial Strategy sets out a vision for South Staffordshire, with 16 objectives to help deliver this vision. The vision for South Staffordshire is that:

“by 2026 the villages of South Staffordshire will have maintained their local distinctiveness including the natural and built environment and be places where sustainable safe communities have been encouraged to thrive and where local people and families enjoy access to a broad range of well designed housing (including affordable housing), enjoy access to a good range of employment opportunities and enjoy access to local services (including shops, social, medical and educational facilities and open space/recreational facilities). In recognition of the continuing interdependence of the area, particularly within the West Midlands conurbation, concerns for the prosperity of the Black Country will be respected including the need to improve and maintain good public transport links.”

Core Strategy Objectives to help deliver this vision are:

Environmental Quality

1. To protect and maintain the Green Belt and Open Countryside in order to sustain the distinctive character of South Staffordshire.
2. To retain and re-enforce the current pattern of villages across South Staffordshire and in particular protect and retain the important strategic gaps between existing settlements in order to prevent the coalescence of settlements.
3. To protect and improve South Staffordshire's environmental assets.
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the countryside, character and quality of the landscape and the diversity of wildlife and habitats
5. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and to ensure that the character and appearance of the District's Conservation Areas is improved through better-designed developments and management plans.
6. To ensure that all new development is sustainable enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.
7. To reduce the effect of society on the environment, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Housing

8. To ensure the delivery of decent homes for members of the community including the provision of more affordable housing which matches in type, tenure and size the needs of the residents of South Staffordshire.

Economic Vibrancy

9. To meet local housing and employment needs consistent with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in a way that enables the existing villages within South Staffordshire to develop in a sustainable way that secures their future viability and prosperity and supports Rural Renaissance.

10. To support the Urban Renaissance of the Black Country Major Urban Area by distributing new housing and employment growth within South Staffordshire in a way that supports the 4 objectives of the Phase 1 Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy and in particular discourages out-migration of the A & B socio-economic groups from the Black Country Major Urban Area.

11. To support the growth of a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable local economy, sustain, improve and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres and promote South Staffordshire as a tourist destination.

12. To support thriving and sustainable communities by ensuring that local people enjoy access jobs and key services such as social, health care, education, open space and recreation and other facilities.

To reduce the need to travel, to secure improvements to public transport infrastructure and services and make it safer and easier for the community to travel to jobs and key services by sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.

Community Safety

14. To adopt a design-led approach to all new development to ensure that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire are maintained and enhanced and that attractive, well designed and safe places are created.

Health and Well Being

15. To improve the leisure, recreation and cultural facilities in South Staffordshire and ensure that each community has access to areas of good quality green space.

Children and Young People

16. To support the needs of children and young people in South Staffordshire, ensure that provision is made for children's play and that teenagers have access to leisure, recreation and learning opportunities.

Compatibility between objectives

The compatibility between the Sustainability Objectives and the Objectives of the Preferred Spatial Strategy is tested in **Table 2**. The analysis reveals that there are no incompatibilities between the Sustainability Objectives and the Strategic Objectives of the Preferred Strategy, and significant degree of compatibility between the two. There are, however, a significant number of unknown impacts which will depend upon the character and use of policies which will help to implement the Strategy. These centre on Objective 2 (reinforcing and protecting the existing settlement pattern), Objective 11 (support for economic growth), Objective 12 (access to services) and Objective 13 (reducing the need to travel).

Table 2 Compatibility between Sustainability Objectives and Preferred Spatial Strategy Objectives

		Sustainability Objectives																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Preferred Spatial Strategy Objectives	1	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	?
	2	+	~	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	~	~	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~
	4	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	?	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~
	5	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	?	+	~	~	~	~
	6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	7	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	+	?	~	~	~	~	~
	8	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+
	9	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	+
	10	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	?	+	~	~	+/?
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	12	~	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	13	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	?	+	?	?	?	?	~	?
	14	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	~	~	~	~
	15	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	~	+	?	?	?	~	+	~	~
	16	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	?	~	+	+	+

+ compatible 0 partly compatible x incompatible ~ no relationship ? uncertain relationship

Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Spatial Strategy policies

There are 22 core policies and the Sustainability Appraisal Framework was used to assess the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of each Preferred Spatial Strategy policy. The main findings are summarised in **Table 3** with an indication of the possible cumulative effects of all the policies combined, in turn indicating the likely impact of the Core Strategy as a whole on each Sustainability Appraisal Objective.

The analysis uses the following notation in the appraisal of the Core Strategy alternative options. The notation is intended, at this stage, to provide a broad steer on the way in which the options presented perform against the sustainability objectives set.

<p>energy</p> <p>4. Protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of importance</p> <p>5. Protect and enhance biodiversity</p> <p>6. Reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil</p> <p>7. Maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources</p> <p>8. Promote local stewardship of natural resources</p> <p>9. Promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land</p> <p>10. Reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer</p>	<p>14. Reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport</p> <p>15. Create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities</p> <p>16. Sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres</p> <p>17. Encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population</p> <p>18. Encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access</p> <p>19. Provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making</p> <p>20. Reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities</p>
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The analysis in Table 3 suggests that there is no significant incompatibility between the SA Objectives and the proposed Core Strategy Policies. Indeed, it is likely that a significant degree of synergy exists between them, particularly through strong commitments to the protection of natural and cultural resources (CP2 – CP5) and the promotion of the District’s socio-economic health. Equally, there are significant examples such as CP15 (open space, leisure & recreation) where neutral effects are dominant, the outcomes being dependent upon the detail of policy or the way in which it is applied.

The major uncertainties against the SA Objectives relate to reducing the need to travel (SA14) and providing opportunities to participate in decision-making (SA18). Here, the detail of specific proposals and how policy is used to judge them will determine the quality of the outcome.

The cumulative effect of the policies is generally positive in sustainability terms, with neutral or uncertain effects dependent upon the way in policy is applied.

Further details of the likely significant effects of the Preferred Spatial Strategy as a whole on each Sustainability Appraisal Objective are shown in **Table 4**. Potential negative impacts or uncertainties that need to be mitigated and monitored are noted.

Table 4 Preferred Spatial Option: cumulative appraisal of all policies combined

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Comments
A. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION				
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	Improve design, in terms of quality and sustainability, of new developments using standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM? Create opportunities to design out crime?	+	Encourage and, where appropriate require, best practice. Through design requirements accompanying determination of applications
Waste Generation	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of	Reduce the volume of domestic and commercial waste		-

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Comments
and Management	waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	produced?		waste
		Reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfill?	0	Potential for the extension of recycling to balance increase in volume
		Increase the number and accessibility of waste recycling facilities?	+	Potential for new facilities and economies of scale

B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	Increase the proportion of energy both purchased and generated from renewable and sustainable resources?	}	+	Encouraged through best practice in design
		Reduce the demand and need for energy?			Encouraged through best practice in design
		Promote and improve energy efficiency?			Encouraged through best practice in design

C. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	Conserve, enhance and provide for the long term management of natural habitats and species on designated sites and more generally?	}	+	Through rigorous protection of designated sites. Non-designated areas could be compromised by development pressure
		Achieve Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets?			See above
		Improve access to, and contact with, the natural world?			Through policies on encouraging greater access to natural resources such as through recreation
		Raise awareness and respect for biodiversity resources and promote their prudent management?			
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	Protect and enhance landscapes, sites and features of historical, archaeological and cultural value and/or potential?		+	General protection of environmental and cultural assets. Possible compromise of quality through pressures for development.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Reduce pollution from all sources?	}	0/?	Aspirations for the reduction of pollution could be compromised by the volume and location of development e.g. extra commuting pressures
		Promote the more efficient use of resources to help avoid pollution and waste?			
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	Improve air and water quality?	}	0/?	As above
		Encourage the more efficient use of water resources?			

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Comments	
Land Use Planning	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	Promote greater local concern for, and involvement in, community management of local environments?	+	Opportunities to encourage greater community involvement e.g. in open space management.	
		Encourage farming practices that are sensitive to the character of the countryside?	?	Limited influence of spatial policy here	
	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	Promote sustainable forms of development such as avoiding areas of floodrisk, and mitigating the effects of flooding?	++	Policies aim to secure development which makes best use of land resources (e.g. in suitable densities and encouraging brownfield over greenfield development). Market forces will be influential on extent and rate of re-use, however.	
		Reduce the number of vacant and derelict buildings?	+		
Promote the use of land that has been previously developed?	++				
Encourage the more efficient use of resources such as the re-use of buildings?	+				
D. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES					
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour?	}	+	Encouraging good design will help to produce, over the longer term, environments which discourage crime.
		Reduce fear of crime?			
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	Reduce health inequalities?	}	+	Opportunities to promote more healthy lifestyles through the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities, for example.
		Improve access to high quality health facilities?			
		Protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?			
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Reduce homelessness?	}	+	Policies will have varying impacts on these indicators, directly affecting the provision of affordable housing, for example. Impacts are most likely to be felt over the long term.
		Reduce the number of unfit homes and overcrowding?			
		Increase the range and affordability of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)?			
		Improve the quality of housing?			
		Provide housing that encourages a sense of community and enhances the amenity value of the community?			
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and	Promote more equal access to key local services and facilities?	}	0/+	Whilst access to facilities can be promoted through co-location, for example, directly influencing provision is more difficult.
		Provide additional services and facilities were needed?			

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Comments	
	lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities				
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?	}	+	Policy impacts should be positive if, for example, job opportunities are provided closer to where people live. Individual behaviour will have the most significant effects, however.
		Reduce the need for people to travel by improving their access to services, jobs, leisure and amenities in the places in which they live?			
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	Improve business development and its resilience?	}	+	The protection and provision of opportunities for employment creation should be encouraged through policies, through site allocation for example. However, wider economic circumstances will dictate their success.
		Encourage business start-ups, support their growth and prevent the loss of indigenous businesses?			
		Encourage inward investment, innovation and help to diversify the economy?			
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	Encourage more shops and better services in accessible locations?	+	Policies will encourage these aspects as part of wider council approaches to community vibrancy.	
	Encourage a feeling of greater community spirit?	?			
Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	Assist with matching skills and aptitudes with appropriate employment opportunities?	0	0		
	Contribute to enhancing skills and meeting skill shortages?				
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	Promote social cohesion and encourage engagement in community activities?	?	0	Plan policies can encourage the provision of facilities which then, over the longer term, indirectly promotes less tangible benefits such as social cohesion.
		Promote community spirit and encourage community networks?	0		
		Increase the quantity and quality of public open space?	++		
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Increase the ability of people to influence decisions?	}	?	Policies are developed and applied through a participatory process.
	Support civic engagement and encourage the involvement and participation of a diverse range of stakeholders?				

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Comments
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas and communities most affected?	+	All policies implicitly promote equality of opportunity and in some cases direct intervention (such as the provision of affordable housing).

The analysis shows that implementation of the Preferred Spatial Option will have a variety of positive effects, or at worst minor negative, neutral or uncertain effects. Other policies work with one another to produce synergistic effects such as reducing car travel, encouraging the use of public transport and the appropriate location of development to encourage the former.

Potential positive impacts can be observed across many aspects of the sustainability agenda. Overall the Core Strategy aims to encourage sustained economic prosperity and, where required, regeneration, paying particular attention to the interests of the village communities which characterise the District. Through the provision of affordable housing, there should be greater access to a home for local people, and for services there should be more equitable through better access, aided by a reduced need to travel. The environmental and cultural character of the District will be protected and enhancement through minimisation of the loss of greenfield land to development and improvements in air quality, for example. The net result should be positive for the functioning and perception of the District. Some impacts will be immediate (such as the protection of the natural and built environment), whilst others (such as increased employment opportunities and the delivery of more accessible and better-designed environments will take longer. The Preferred Spatial Strategy will need to act in partnership with other strategies for the District, notably the Sustainable Community Strategy, to help deliver synergistic benefits across a range of issues, adjusting the approach, if required, over time.

Whilst the Preferred Spatial Strategy overall has positive or neutral effects, there are a number of potentially unknown effects. These include the economic viability of rural settlements if housing growth is stifled, and the increase in waste generated by additional households. The degree of these impacts is particularly difficult to assess as they depend upon individuals and the wider influence of the economy. However, their effects are likely to be played out over the long term, giving the opportunity for monitoring and mitigation, such as working with service providers to offset the worst effects of change.

Monitoring the significant effects of the Core Strategy

A monitoring framework will be devised to monitor the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy, both positive and negative. Results will be incorporated into the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

The impact of the Sustainability Appraisal process on the preparation of the Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal has played an integral role on shaping the Preferred Spatial Strategy. It has proved to be useful in assessing and comparing the various options and therefore devising

the Preferred Spatial Strategy, notably through mapping their performance against the Sustainability Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal has assisted with the identification of the most sustainable option, taking into account the likely social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the different strategic alternatives. The process has helped to illustrate the areas which the Preferred Spatial Strategy intends to improve, and the difference made by that approach.

How to comment on this report

This report will be published for public consultation alongside the South Staffordshire Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy for eight weeks, from Monday 9th February to 5pm on Monday 6th April 2009.

If you would like to make any comments on this report, please send them by **6th April 2009** to:

Planning Policy Team
South Staffordshire Council
Council Offices
Wolverhampton Road
Codsall
WV8 1PX

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1. Background

1.1 Introduction

This report has been produced for the purpose of setting out the Sustainability Appraisal of the South Staffordshire Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy (January 2009). It follows production of the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (September 2006) and interim Sustainability Appraisal of the Issues and Options Document (September 2006) and Alternative Options Document (January 2008).

1.2 Plan objectives and outline of contents

The Preferred Spatial Strategy of the Core Strategy sets out a vision for South Staffordshire, with 16 strategic objectives under six themes to help deliver this vision. The vision for South Staffordshire is that: *“By 2026 the villages of South Staffordshire will have maintained their local distinctiveness including the natural and built environment and be places where sustainable safe communities have been encouraged to thrive and where local people and families enjoy access to a broad range of well designed housing (including affordable housing), enjoy access to a good range of employment opportunities and enjoy access to local services (including shops, social, medical and educational facilities and open space/recreational facilities). In recognition of the continuing interdependence of the area, particularly within the West Midlands Conurbation, concerns for the sustainable prosperity of the Black Country will be respected including the need to improve and maintain good public transport links”*.

The Core Strategy Objectives developed to help deliver this vision are:

Environmental Quality

1. To protect and maintain the Green Belt and Open Countryside in order to sustain the distinctive character of South Staffordshire.
2. To retain and re-enforce the current pattern of villages across South Staffordshire and in particular protect and retain the important strategic gaps between existing settlements in order to prevent the coalescence of settlements.
3. To protect and improve South Staffordshire's environmental assets.
4. To protect, conserve and enhance the countryside, character and quality of the landscape and the diversity of wildlife and habitats
5. To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and to ensure that the character and appearance of the District's Conservation Areas is improved through better-designed developments and management plans.
6. To ensure that all new development is sustainable enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

7. To reduce the effect of society on the environment, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Housing

8. To ensure the delivery of decent homes for members of the community including the provision of more affordable housing which matches in type, tenure and size the needs of the residents of South Staffordshire.

Economic Vibrancy

9. To meet local housing and employment needs consistent with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in a way that enables the existing villages within South Staffordshire to develop in a sustainable way that secures their future viability and prosperity and supports Rural Renaissance.

10. To support the Urban Renaissance of the Black Country Major Urban Area by distributing new housing and employment growth within South Staffordshire in a way that supports the 4 objectives of the Phase 1 Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy and in particular discourages out-migration of the A & B socio-economic groups from the Black Country Major Urban Area.

11. To support the growth of a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable local economy, sustain, improve and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres and promote South Staffordshire as a tourist destination.

12. To support thriving and sustainable communities by ensuring that local people enjoy access jobs and key services such as social, health care, education, open space and recreation and other facilities.

To reduce the need to travel, to secure improvements to public transport infrastructure and services and make it safer and easier for the community to travel to jobs and key services by sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.

Community Safety

14. To adopt a design-led approach to all new development to ensure that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire are maintained and enhanced and that attractive, well designed and safe places are created.

Health and Well Being

15. To improve the leisure, recreation and cultural facilities in South Staffordshire and ensure that each community has access to areas of good quality green space.

Children and Young People

16. To support the needs of children and young people in South Staffordshire, ensure that provision is made for children's play and that teenagers have access to leisure, recreation and learning opportunities.

Some 22 policies have been developed to support the implementation of the Strategic Objectives and, in turn, five key areas identified as part of evidence gathering for the preparation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Core Strategy:

- Maintaining local services

- Rural accessibility
- Ageing population
- Affordability
- Local impact of climate change

1.3 Compliance with the SEA Directive and Regulations

The Planning and Compensation Act 2004 places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to subject emerging Local Development Documents to Sustainability Appraisal (SA), and in so doing contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in a plan area. Local Planning Authorities are also required to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with EU and UK legislation¹, with due regard to guidance produced by the UK Government². The latter document advises that an integrated approach to SA/SEA should be adopted so that the SA process incorporates the requirements of SEA. In practice, this involves extending the breadth of SEA (from predominantly environmental considerations) to embrace wider social and economic concerns. The net result is an integrated process which incorporates sustainability considerations into plan-making through an iterative process which seeks to predict and evaluate the significant effects of Plan alternatives and propose measures to offset any adverse effects identified. This Report documents the implementation of the SA/SEA process and is published for consultation in alongside the Core Strategy Submission Document in accordance with SEA Regulations and SA Guidance. The following table illustrates how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been met.

Table 1.1 Compliance with the requirements of the SEA Directive

Requirements of the SEA Directive	Where met in the Sustainability Report
Preparation of an environmental report in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.	This Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Outline of plan and contents (Section 1.2) Context review (Section 3.1) Links to other plans (Section 6.1)
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without	Profile of the District (Section 3.2)

¹ EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes, and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633)

² ODPM (2005) **Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents: Guidance for Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities**

implementation of the plan or programme.	Sustainability issues facing the District (section 3.3) Comparison with 'Do-nothing' option (Section 5.4) See also baseline data published in the Scoping Report
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.	Profile of the District (Section 3.2) Sustainability issues facing the District (section 3.3)
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.	Profile of the District (Section 3.2) Sustainability issues facing the District (Section 3.3)
e) The environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or national level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental, considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.	Scoping Report (July 2006, August 2007, January 2009)
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. (Footnote: These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects).	Sustainability issues facing the District (Section 3.3) Analysis of significant effects (Section 5.5)
g) The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.	Mitigation (Section 5.5)
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.	Methodology (Chapter 2) Appraisal of plan options (Chapter 4) Uncertainties and risks (Section 5.7)
i) A description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10.	Monitoring (Section 6.2)
j) A non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	Non-technical summary
The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment (Art. 5.2).	

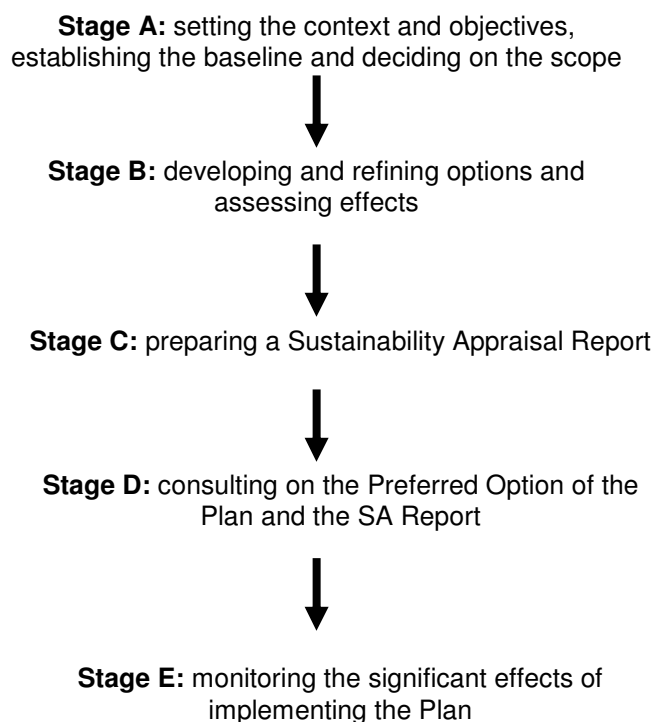
2. Appraisal methodology

2.1 Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal is a process that identifies and reports on the likely significant effects of a Plan's objectives, policies and proposals. It appraises the extent to which implementation of the Plan will achieve the social, environmental and economic objectives of sustainable development. The Government's strategy for delivering sustainable development (Securing the Future) identifies a number of guiding principles which will help meet the goal of enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations:

- Living within environmental limits
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Achieving a sustainable economy
- Promoting good governance
- Using sound science responsibly

Government guidance on undertaking Sustainability Appraisal advocates a five-stage approach:



2.2 Purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report

The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal Report is to:

- Identify environment, social and economic objectives contained in other plans and programmes that are relevant to the Local Development Framework and the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.
- Assess the broad environmental, social and economic characteristics that make South Staffordshire unique, and identify the potential impact in any change of these characteristics.
- Predict and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Preferred Spatial Strategy for the Core Strategy, and alternatives, including any cumulative effects.
- Document how Sustainability Appraisal has been used in developing the Preferred Spatial Strategy.

The SA Scoping Report covers Stage A of the SA process. Stage B consists of the following tasks:

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

Stages and tasks	Purpose
B1: Testing the DPD objectives against the SA framework	To ensure that DPD objectives are compatible with sustainability principles.
B2: Developing the DPD options	To develop broad strategic options for achieving the objectives of the DPD.
B3: Predicting the effects of the DPD	To predict the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the options being considered.
B4: Evaluating the effects of the DPD	To appraise the significance of the predicted effects of the DPD.
B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects.	To prevent, reduce or offset any significant negative effects of implementing the DPD, and identify ways to improve the positive effects.
B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD.	To compare the actual effects of implementing the DPD with those predicted in the SA, and identify any problems that may arise.

This report covers **Stage C** and sets out the findings of **Stage B** of the process as part of the development of the Preferred Spatial Strategy.

This Sustainability Appraisal Report is a consultation document for the statutory agencies with environmental responsibilities in England (Natural England, the Environment Agency and English Heritage), along with other relevant bodies with a sustainability remit or a local interest and the general public.

2.3 The Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report was produced during the summer of 2006 and issued for consultation in September 2006. Comments received were incorporated into a revised version which was published in August 2007. This document has been updated once again to accompany this Interim Sustainability Appraisal.

2.4 Core Strategy Issues and Options Interim Sustainability Appraisal

Publication of the Issues and Options Report was accompanied by an Interim Sustainability Appraisal which offered an initial view on the range of options developed.

2.5 Core Strategy Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Interim Sustainability Appraisal

An Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Paper was published in December 2008 presenting a series of more refined approaches to the potential distribution of growth across the District. These were appraised in an Interim Sustainability Appraisal (January 2008), the results of which are used in this Appraisal.

2.6 Consultation

Under the SEA Directive, there is a statutory duty to consult the three Consultation Bodies, as designated in each of the EU Member States, 'when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information which must be included in the environmental report'. For England the consultation bodies are: Natural England (previously the Countryside Agency and English Nature), English Heritage and the Environment Agency.

The SEA Directive also requires that the Consultation Bodies and the public are given the opportunity to express their opinion on a draft Development Plan Document and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal Report before the Development Plan Document is adopted.

Table 2.1 summarises the consultation process thus far.

Table 2.1 Consultation as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process

Document	When	Who consulted	How
Scoping Report	September 2006	Countryside Agency English Nature English Heritage Environment Agency	Post

		Other agencies on a statutory list of LDF stakeholders	Post
		Parish Councils	Post
		Public	Website, libraries, Council Offices
Interim SA on Issues and Options	September 2006	Countryside Agency	Post
		English Nature	
		English Heritage	
		Environment Agency	
		Other agencies on a statutory list of LDF stakeholders	Post
		Parish Councils	Post
		Public	Website, libraries, Council Offices
Interim SA on Alternative Spatial Strategy Options	January 2008	Natural England	Post
		English Heritage	
		Environment Agency	
		Other agencies on a statutory list of LDF stakeholders	Post
		Parish Councils	Post
		Public	Website, libraries, Council Offices

3. Sustainability objectives, baseline and context

3.1 Context review – other plans, programmes and objectives

The Core Strategy will set out a new planning policy and proposals for South Staffordshire, and is influenced by other policies plans and programmes. Most immediately, the Core Strategy needs to be consistent with national guidance and regional policy. In addition, it needs to contribute to the goals of a wide range of other programmes and strategies, for example relating to social policy, culture or heritage. It must also conform to environmental protection legislation and sustainability objectives established at international, European and national levels. This combination of legislation, plans and programmes can impose constraints on development across South Staffordshire. The SA Scoping Report presents a detailed analysis of the principal documents which have been taken into account when preparing the Sustainability Objectives and Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

3.2 A profile of South Staffordshire District

The following profile is reproduced from the Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy:

South Staffordshire is a rural District on the north western edge of the West Midlands Conurbation. It has an area of 101,000 acres (40,400 hectares) and has a population of just over 106,000, which results in a relatively low population density of 2.61 per hectare. Much of South Staffordshire lies within the West Midlands Green Belt – 32,310 hectares (80%) and the remainder to the north of the Green Belt boundary is defined as ‘Open Countryside’. South Staffordshire District is shown on the Spatial Diagram at the end of this chapter.

South Staffordshire is the southernmost of the nine Staffordshire districts including the City of Stoke-on-Trent, and adjoins the County Town of Stafford and the Market Town of Cannock. The district adjoins the Major Urban Area of the West Midlands Conurbation and is very close to the Black Country Towns of Dudley and Walsall and the City of Wolverhampton. The District also shares its boundaries with Shropshire and the towns of Bridgnorth and Telford to the west, and with the County of Worcestershire to the south.

Reflecting the rural nature of the District and its relationship to the Major Urban Area, the Regional Spatial Strategy recognises that South Staffordshire should be considered in relation to rural renaissance objectives and policies and that the District has an important role to play in contributing to the urban renaissance of the Black Country.

South Staffordshire is made up of 27 parishes with a dispersed and diverse settlement pattern of villages ranging from small hamlets to large villages with over 13,000 residents, each with their own distinctive character set in attractive countryside. There is no single dominant settlement and South Staffordshire can be described as a ‘community of communities’. The villages of Codsall, Bilbrook, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne are

the largest villages in the District and act as service centres for smaller villages in the surrounding rural areas. The larger villages contain a range of community facilities and services, libraries, sport and recreation including leisure centres, shopping, commercial and employment areas. A three-tier education system of primary, middle, and high schools operates in South Staffordshire, and there are currently 36 primary schools, 5 middle schools, and 6 high schools in the District. There is a network of community and village halls across South Staffordshire providing a valuable focus for social, community and recreational activities and voluntary working is a strong feature. Local residents rely on the services provided within towns and cities outside of the District to meet some of their 'higher order' needs e.g. hospitals, certain types of retail needs and employment opportunities.

South Staffordshire has seen rapid housing expansion in the last 30 years as its villages have proved attractive to people prepared to travel to work in nearby major urban areas, including the West Midlands conurbation and now contains over 44,000 households. As a result of this trend, house prices in South Staffordshire have been increasing and are now relatively high, with the average house price for the district of £223,600 at February 2008, in comparison with the West Midlands conurbation, which averaged at £178,829 at the same period. The ratio of house prices to incomes is high in regional terms, and therefore maintaining an adequate and suitable supply of affordable housing for people on low incomes and first time buyers presents a particular challenge.

South Staffordshire has an increasingly ageing population especially the very old. 20.2% of the population are of retirement age or older which compares with 18.5% in England and Wales. The most rapidly increasing sector of the population is the 75+ age group, and over the next 20 years, it is expected that this age group will more than double.

The nature and pattern of employment has also changed over this period with a decline in the traditional industries such as agriculture and coal mining, production, construction and manufacturing industries. The number of people employed in the service industries, including tourism, has grown and the service sector is now an important part of the local economy and accounts for 75.4% of economically active residents' employment. The percentage of the workforce employed in manufacturing is 14.5%. South Staffordshire is relatively prosperous with 34.9% of those economically active, employed within the top 3 professional and managerial sectors, with only 3.8% of the economically active population unemployed. Overall, the District is an attractive location for industrial development with a diverse range of small businesses as well as medium and large firms. In 2007 there was a net gain of 45 VAT registered businesses, taking the total to 3450. The development of major regional employment sites at Hilton Cross and (i54) Wobaston Road will give a valuable boost to the local economy.

There are low levels of deprivation in the District. South Staffordshire district is ranked 265 out of 354 districts in England based on the average of ward scores (it falls into the 30% least deprived districts nationally by the measure). However, as with all information that is available at district level, issues do vary considerably throughout the localities. The most deprived parts of the District are around the areas of Huntington, Essington and the Giggetty Estate in Wombourne which all fall within the 40% most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) nationally. There are no (SOAs) falling within the 20% most deprived SOAs nationally.

South Staffordshire has a rich legacy of historic landscapes and buildings with historic parklands and gardens such as Weston Park, parks and open spaces including Baggeridge Country Park, and Kinver Edge. There is an extensive network of canals running through the District with the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, Shropshire Union Canal and the

Stourbridge Canal. There are areas of national and local nature conservation importance including a national nature reserve, local nature reserves, sites of biological importance, and also Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which alone total over 370 hectares. In addition, there are also areas of heathland, commons, rivers and watercourses. The western fringe of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies within the District. Part of the District also lies within the Forest of Mercia. South Staffordshire has over 850 listed buildings and structures, and 19 Conservation areas.

The District benefits from good road and rail links with the West Midlands and other parts of the country. The West Coast main railway line runs through the District and local services are provided on the Shrewsbury to Wolverhampton, and Walsall to Rugeley lines linking with towns and cities in the Region. The M6, M6 Toll and the M54 run through the District giving access to the Midlands motorway network and beyond. Public transport in the District is not very good and transport links between the north and south are particularly poor. There is a high level of car dependence (85.6% of households have one or more cars), though continual efforts are being made to improve public and community transport provision, and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. There is an airport on the western edge of the District at Halfpenny Green, close to the Shropshire border, providing general aviation including business and recreational flying and flying training.

3.3 Sustainability issues facing the District

The SA Scoping Report discusses the principal sustainability issues facing South Staffordshire. These are summarised in **Table 3.1**

Table 3.1 Sustainability Issues in South Staffordshire

SA Theme	SA Objective	Sustainability Issue and Trend
A. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	No District-level data available
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	Recycling rates in the District are above the average for England.
B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	No District-level data available

SA Theme	SA Objective	Sustainability Issue and Trend
C. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	There is room for improvement in biodiversity provision and the standard of maintenance of nationally important resources.
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	There is a good stock of cultural and landscape assets which make a significant contribution to defining the character of the District.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Pollution levels in the District are low (there being no contaminated land, for example). South Staffordshire has relatively good air and water quality.
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	South Staffordshire has relatively good air and water quality.
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	There is currently no data on which to assess the District's performance.
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	There is a high re-use of previously developed land, assisted by the high proportion of Green Belt in the District. The proportion of new housing completions within 30 minutes of key services is relatively low.
D. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Crime rates in South Staffordshire are lower than regional and national averages.
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	The overall health of residents is broadly similar to national and regional averages, with better than average healthcare provision. South Staffordshire's rural character may cause accessibility problems for certain sectors of the community.
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Average house prices are around 30% higher than the regional figures, although on a par with the national average. Housing completion rates are below target which could have an impact on the supply of affordable housing.
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	Access to services and facilities is relatively good, although opportunities for full participation could be limited by the rural character of the District.
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	The rural character of the District means that car use is relatively high for job, service and leisure trips. Use of more sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling are commensurately relatively low. These use characteristics are likely to continue.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Sustainability Issue and Trend
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	The economic performance of the District is strong, with low unemployment, strong local business formation and access to a wide range of employment opportunities in the adjacent Birmingham conurbation.
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	The key issues affecting village vitality are not well understood in the District.
	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	Educational attainment levels are higher than the regional average, although below the national average. Unemployment is below regional and national averages.
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	The District has a strong stock of recreational and cultural assets, although the predominantly rural character of the District creates issues over accessibility.
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Participation in elections and other forms of governance, in line with regional and national patterns, is relatively low. There are nevertheless opportunities for stimulating interest through mechanisms such as Parish Planning.
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	Whilst the District is relatively prosperous, pockets of deprivation will need to be identified and addressed.

South Staffordshire clearly exhibits the characteristics of a relatively prosperous district, with a stock of environmental and cultural assets which make it an attractive place to live and work. There appear to be no significant sustainability issues relating specifically to the character of the District, although the well-documented problems associated with an affluent society do apply – separation of home and work, excessive travel for work, shopping and leisure opportunities, social exclusion for the transport-poor, and the over-loading of natural resources such as air and water. The lack of information on the economic functioning of villages and the opportunities to address climate change through greater energy efficiency, is a potential source of concern. A better understanding of these areas would require a response from the Council as a whole, although the planning function could lead this.

3.4 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

The SA Scoping Report established the rationale for, and detail of, a framework for assessing the sustainability performance of Core Strategy. This framework, reproduced in **Table 3.2**, is the centrepiece of the analysis in **Chapter 5**.

Table 3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...
A. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve design, in terms of quality and sustainability, of new developments using standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM? • Create opportunities to design out crime?
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the volume of domestic and commercial waste produced? • Reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfill? • Increase the number and accessibility of waste recycling facilities?
B. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY		
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the proportion of energy both purchased and generated from renewable and sustainable resources? • Reduce the demand and need for energy? • Promote and improve energy efficiency?
C. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT		
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve, enhance and provide for the long term management of natural habitats and species on designated sites and more generally? • Achieve Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets? • Improve access to, and contact with, the natural world? • Raise awareness and respect for biodiversity resources and promote their prudent management?
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance landscapes, sites and features of historical, archaeological and cultural value and/or potential?
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pollution from all sources? • Promote the more efficient use of resources to help avoid pollution and waste?
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve air and water quality? • Encourage the more efficient use of water resources?
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote greater local concern for, and involvement in, community management of local environments? • Encourage farming practices that are sensitive to the character of the countryside?

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable forms of development such as avoiding areas of floodrisk, and mitigating the effects of flooding? Reduce the number of vacant and derelict buildings? Promote the use of land that has been previously developed? Encourage the more efficient use of resources such as the re-use of buildings?
D. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES		
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour? Reduce fear of crime?
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce health inequalities? Improve access to high quality health facilities? Protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce homelessness? Reduce the number of unfit homes and overcrowding? Increase the range and affordability of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)? Improve the quality of housing? Provide housing that encourages a sense of community and enhances the amenity value of the community?
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote more equal access to key local services and facilities? Provide additional services and facilities were needed?
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel? Reduce the need for people to travel by improving their access to services, jobs, leisure and amenities in the places in which they live?
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve business development and its resilience? Encourage business start-ups, support their growth and prevent the loss of indigenous businesses? Encourage inward investment, innovation and help to diversify the economy?

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...
	<p>Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres</p> <p>Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encourage more shops and better services in accessible locations? ● Encourage a feeling of greater community spirit? ● Assist with matching skills and aptitudes with appropriate employment opportunities? ● Contribute to enhancing skills and meeting skill shortages?
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote social cohesion and encourage engagement in community activities? ● Promote community spirit and encourage community networks? ● Increase the quantity and quality of public open space?
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the ability of people to influence decisions? ● Support civic engagement and encourage the involvement and participation of a diverse range of stakeholders?
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas and communities most affected?

4. Sustainability Appraisal of plan options

4.1 Main strategic options identified

Strategic options to address the planning issues faced in South Staffordshire were identified in two documents: an Issues and Options Paper (October 2006) and an Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Paper (December 2008). The Issues and Options Documents was very wide-ranging and the purpose of the Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Paper was to present a more refined suite of options which would more closely address the issues specific to the District. In particular how to most efficiently and effectively allocate housing proposed for the District through the RSS process in a way which ensures the sustainable growth of the settlements across the District.

The accommodation of new housing growth is part of a range of challenges which inform spatial planning within South Staffordshire. These were identified in the Alternative Spatial Strategy Paper as follows:

Table 4.1 Main sustainability issues for the strategic options considered

Option	Character
Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	These have a population of >6,500 and are: Codsall/Bilbrook, Cheslyn Hay/Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.
Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	The main villages are as per Option 1, the smaller villages being: Wheaton Aston, Huntington, Brewood, Coven, Featherstone and Essington.
Option 3: Share development between villages across the District	This includes all the settlements in Option 2, along with the villages of Dunston, Bednall, Bishops Wood, Shreshill, Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington and Swindon.
Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations within South Staffordshire	This would steer development towards the relatively accessible villages of Codsall/Bilbrook, Brinsford/Featherstone, Cheslyn Hay/Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.
Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner throughout the 22 villages of South Staffordshire	
Option 3C: Geographic spread but within the context of a South Staffordshire Hierarchy of Settlements that determines the appropriate levels of new housing development within the existing villages of South Staffordshire	Some 70% of development could go to the 9 main service villages, 20% to the 7 local service villages and 10% to the remaining 6 small service villages.

4.2 Sustainability performance of the plan options

Table 4.2 presents a summary of the sustainability performance of the six plan options proposed in the Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Paper. The full evaluation is set out in **Appendix A**.

Table 4.2 Sustainability performance of the plan options

Option	Sustainability impacts
Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	<p>This option performs reasonably well against the 20 SA objectives. There are a number of positive relationships associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting development to use brownfield land wherever possible and limited greenfield land-take • Directing development and ensuring that its design enhances rather than compromises historic and landscape quality • Better meeting residents' needs through additional service provision • Provision of additional employment opportunities <p>There are no apparent negative impacts, although a number of measures have neutral effects, particularly associated with missing the needs of smaller villages in terms of reinforcing service provision. Much depends on local circumstances, however, including the current level of service provision and the geographical location of the settlement.</p>
Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	<p>The performance of this option closely matches that of Option 1, with the exception of potentially greater benefits accruing to smaller villages through reinforced service provision. To make the best use of growth potential, it would be important to set allocations within the context of a good understanding of settlement form and function. Consequently, there is potential overlap with Options 3, 3A and 3C.</p>
Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	<p>This Option has a mixed performance, with much depending on precisely how development is to be distributed. Thus there could be positive implications for service provision in some settlements, but where others are excluded from development then service provision (either in terms of existing or additional) could be compromised. Equally, development could be spread such that synergies in service provision are missed. This raises the importance of having a firm understanding of settlement form and function in order to help guide development to those locations which can make the best use of additional growth without undue harm to local and wider environmental quality.</p>
Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations within South Staffordshire	<p>Along with Option 3C, this is a potentially a strongly performing option. The opportunity to direct development to the most appropriate locations is important and valuable provided that appropriate criteria for those decisions can be agreed upon. A good understanding of settlement form and function and the preparation of a settlement hierarchy (as used in Option 3C) would assist this exercise.</p>
Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner throughout the 22 villages of South Staffordshire	<p>Along with Option 3 and to a lesser degree Option 3A, there are potentially most problems associated with this Option. These chiefly relate to insufficient targeting of areas for development such that there are suitably positive effects, centred on the efficient use of land (i.e. brownfield where possible), reducing commuting distances and ensuring efficient service provision.</p>
Option 3C: Geographic spread but within the context of a South Staffordshire Hierarchy of Settlements	<p>This Option is probably the strongest performer of the six offered, primarily because of the opportunity to guide development to those settlements which can best accommodate development (through brownfield availability and current service provision, for example), potential reductions in commuting distances and use of existing infrastructure, and the development of more self-contained settlements. There is also the opportunity to take advantage of economies of scale for initiatives such as renewable energy schemes. More widely, using a Hierarchy of Settlements to guide the location of development potentially assists with realising wider sub-regional priorities such as the regeneration of the adjacent Black Country MUA.</p>

The relative 'performance' of the options presented in the Alternative Spatial Strategy Options Document is generally positive, promoting the interests of sustainability across the range of topics with which spatial planning is concerned.

Overall, the approach which appears to most closely meet the sustainability aspirations for the district is Option 3C i.e. the allocation of development in the context of a hierarchy of settlements. However, the scale and type of development is critical to determining the precise sustainability impacts, hence the use of a number of question marks in the appraisal in **Appendix A** which serve to modify the overall conclusions which might be drawn. The other 5 options have a marginally worse performance in relation to some sustainability objectives, but this is only marginal and significantly dependent upon local circumstances and the true performance of particular options can only be fully judged when the detail of proposals is known and hence their likely impacts on specific locations. The importance of an up-to-date evidence base, in particular an appraisal of rural settlement character (including service provision) across the district as a basis for the development of a settlement hierarchy, cannot be over-estimated.

The potentially most significant negative impacts relate to the environmental impacts associated with options which would spread development across a number of settlements in an uncoordinated fashion. The consequences would be apparent in terms of increased commuting distances, greater use of use car transport (with impacts on air quality and noise), potential increased burdens on existing infrastructure, and impacts on the character of the smaller villages which perhaps have not experienced significant growth in the past. There is also the risk of missing areas where development is most needed, particularly for affordable housing. Uncoordinated development also runs the risk of undermining the regeneration of the MUA through providing additional commuter housing whilst securing few benefits in terms of greater settlement self-containment, for example.

5. Sustainability Appraisal of the Preferred Spatial Strategy

5.1 The key issues facing the District

The Preferred Spatial Strategy Paper identifies the following key issues facing South Staffordshire. The strategic objectives and the Preferred Spatial Strategy has been developed to address these issues.

Environmental Quality

- Protecting the Green Belt and Open Countryside.
- Determining the best way of achieving sustainable development in South Staffordshire.
- Protecting and improving the environment.
- Protecting and enhancing South Staffordshire's biodiversity.
- Maintaining the historic character of villages and enhancing the historic environment.
- Delivering affordable housing to meet local needs.
- Delivering Decent Homes.
- Meeting the Provision of Extra Care Accommodation.

Economic Vibrancy

- Ensuring that local people have access to a diverse range of employment opportunities within South Staffordshire and the Black Country.
- Supporting the development of the Black Country Economy.
- Supporting farm diversification.
- Developing tourism and raising awareness of the District.
- Ensuring that local people have access to a good range of essential facilities and services.
- Ensuring the provision of a better public transport service.

Community Safety

- Keeping the population safe.

Health and Well Being

- Meeting the needs of the elderly population in the District.
- Keeping the population healthier longer.
- Children and Young People
- Meeting the needs of children and young people in the District.

5.2 Compatibility of the Core Strategy objectives against the Sustainability Appraisal objectives

As a first step in the appraisal of the Core Strategy Preferred Strategy, the strategic objectives have been tested against the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives in order to test their

compatibility with the principles of sustainable development. The full results are presented in **Appendix B** and in summary in **Table 5.1**.

Table 5.1 Compatibility between Sustainability Objectives and Preferred Spatial Strategy Objectives

		Sustainability Objectives																			
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Preferred Spatial Strategy Objectives	1	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	?
	2	+	~	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	~	~	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
	3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~
	4	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	?	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~
	5	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	?	+	~	~	~	~
	6	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	7	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	+	?	~	~	~	~	~
	8	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+
	9	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	+
	10	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	?	+	+	?	?	?	+	~	~	+/?
	11	~	?	0	?	?	0	~	~	?	~	+	~	+	?	+	+	+	~	~	+
	12	~	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	13	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	?	+	?	?	?	?	~	?
	14	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	~	~	~	~
	15	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	~	+	?	?	?	~	+	~	~
	16	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	?	~	+	+	+

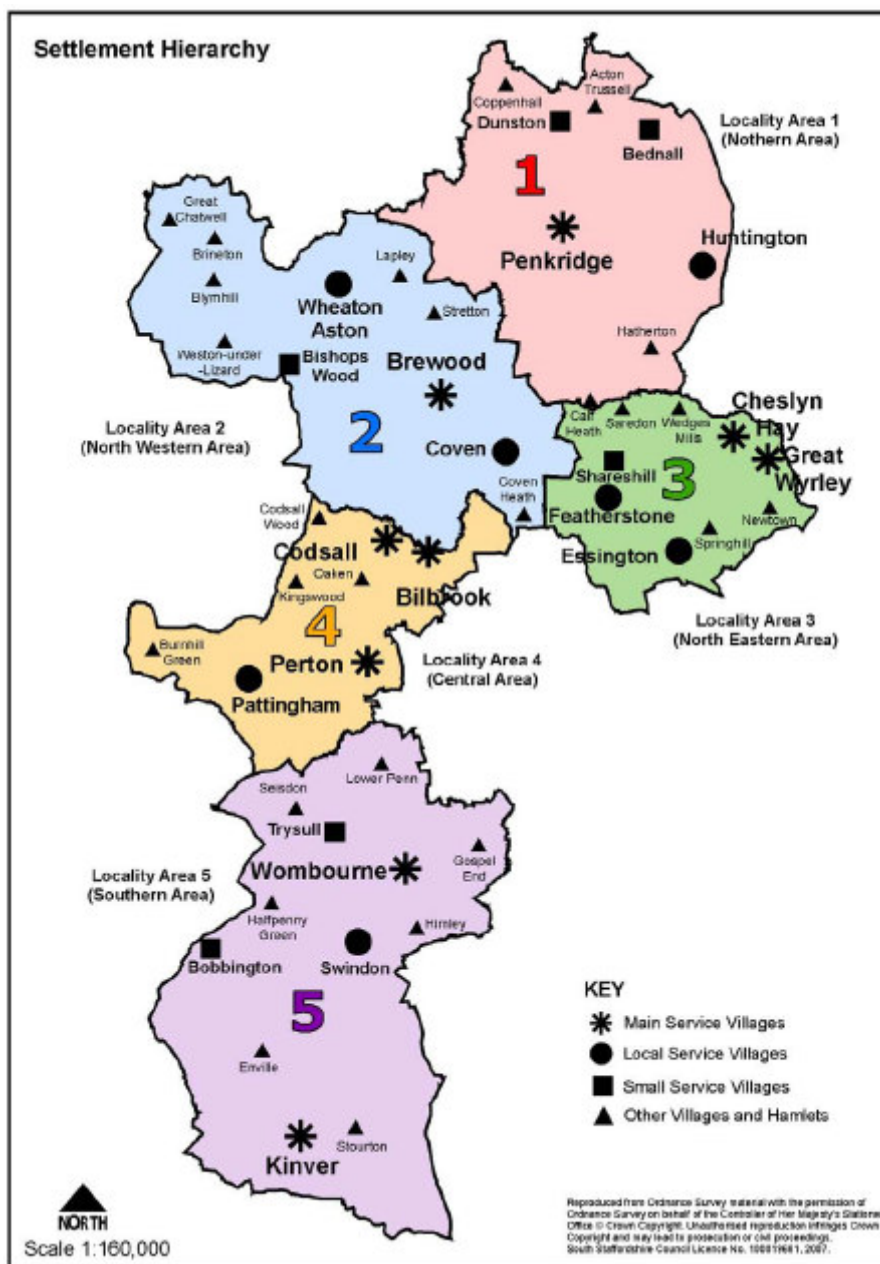
+ compatible 0 partly compatible – incompatible ~ no relationship ? uncertain relationship

The analysis reveals that there are no incompatibilities between the Sustainability Objectives and the Strategic Objectives of the Preferred Strategy, and significant degree of compatibility between the two. There are, however, a significant number of unknown impacts which will depend upon the character and use of policies which will help to implement the Strategy. These centre on Objective 2 (reinforcing and protecting the existing settlement pattern), Objective 11 (support for economic growth), Objective 12 (access to services) and Objective 13 (reducing the need to travel).

5.3 Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy Option

The Preferred Spatial Strategy for South Staffordshire seeks to spread development around the District based on a clearly defined settlement hierarchy (Option 3C of the Alternative Spatial Strategy Options). A key aim is: “to support the delivery of existing services in villages and where possible improve them”. The Strategy proposes a four-tier hierarchy of settlements based on a survey of facilities and services available. The spatial character of the hierarchy is illustrated in **Figure 5.1**.

Figure 5.1 The proposed settlement hierarchy for South Staffordshire



In order to test the performance of the components of the settlement hierarchy, the analysis in **Table 5.2** summarises their interaction with the Sustainability Appraisal objectives.

Table 5.2 Sustainability Appraisal of the components of the settlement hierarchy of Preferred Spatial Strategy

++ Major positive impact + Minor positive impact 0 Neutral impact - Minor negative impact -- Major negative impact ~ Neutral impact ? Uncertain impact

SA Objective		Main Service Villages	Local Service Villages	Small Service Villages	Other Villages and Hamlets	Comments
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	++	++	++	++	Opportunities to promote sustainable design in all locations.
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	+/?	+/?	?	?	New development will contribute to waste generation, although there could be opportunities for better waste management in the larger villages.
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	+/?	+/?	?	?	Possible opportunities for renewable energy generation in the larger settlements.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	+	+	+	+	Appropriate development control policies will be applied.
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	+	+	+	+	Appropriate development control policies will be applied.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	0	0	0	0	Additional development will add to the pollution load, although this should be proportionate to the size of

SA Objective		Main Service Villages	Local Service Villages	Small Service Villages	Other Villages and Hamlets	Comments
						the settlement receiving additional development. New development should exhibit greater efficiency standards.
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	0	0	0	0	Additional development will add to the pollution load, although this should be proportionate to the size of the settlement receiving additional development. New development should exhibit greater efficiency standards.
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	+	+	+	+	Opportunities to promote stewardship in all contexts.
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	+/?	+/?	?	?	Whilst development in larger settlements should help to secure economies of scale in service provision, land most appropriate for development (e.g. previously developed) may not be available in the right locations.
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	+	?	?	?	Potential for greater efficiency in the use of police resources in larger settlements, but smaller ones could be neglected.
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	+	?	?	?	Improved service provision could be directed toward the larger settlements, building already strong provision.
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	++	++	?	?	Opportunities for the provision of a range of housing should be secured in the larger settlements, whilst smaller ones could lose out. Strongly interventionist policy could be required.

SA Objective		Main Service Villages	Local Service Villages	Small Service Villages	Other Villages and Hamlets	Comments
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	+	+	-	-	Improved service provision could be directed toward the larger settlements, this in turn more difficult to provide for smaller settlements e.g. via public transport.
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	+	+	-	-	Better use could be made of sustainable transport modes in the largest settlements (particularly where these have rail services). Smaller settlements will probably see little or no change in provision of public transport opportunities.
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	++	++	?	?	Increased development could benefit local economic development through increased patronage, for example. There is also a risk of reinforcing unsustainable commuting and shopping patterns.
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	++	+	?	?	Increased development could benefit local economic development through increased patronage, for example. There is also a risk of reinforcing unsustainable commuting and shopping patterns, particularly in the smaller settlements.
	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	+	+	?	?	Increased opportunities for employment are likely to be associated with the larger settlements. Employment land allocations based on need may be needed to counteract this.
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	++	++	-	-	Enhanced provision, associated with increased development, could disproportionately benefit larger settlements.

SA Objective		Main Service Villages	Local Service Villages	Small Service Villages	Other Villages and Hamlets	Comments
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	+	+	?	?	Existing opportunities will not be compromised, although the provision of IT services could be compromised through limited demand.
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	+	?	?	?	Existing patterns of service provision are likely to be reinforced, potentially disadvantaging those in smaller settlements.

5.3.1 Summary of Effects

Main Service Villages

Focussing development in the main service villages is the best way of meeting the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. Here are likely to be the most significant opportunities for development on previously developed land, the provision of good cycle and pedestrian links to employment, services and facilities, the provision of education and skills training, and potential for the provision of renewable energy etc. Uncertain impacts could be associated with an inappropriate directing of development to areas which have a good complement of services at the expense of provision in smaller settlements.

Local Service Villages

Being smaller scale versions of the main service villages, the overall impacts are likely to be broadly similar, although much depends on geography (for example proximity to public transport corridors).

Small Service Villages

The smaller villages with fewer services have greater uncertainty associated with service provision. Additional development may not be on a scale to warrant the provision of more or better facilities, to the disadvantage of residents. On the other hand a smaller scale of development

results in fewer potentially negative impacts, such as through land-take or the over-loading of existing services. Overall, smaller scale developments in these villages will have a neutral impact on the Sustainability Appraisal Objectives.

Other Villages and Hamlets

There are positive impacts on the protection of the countryside arising from focussing development in the towns and larger villages. There are some negative impacts associated with the focusing of service provision in the larger settlement and a significant number of related uncertainties associated with the provision of affordable housing, jobs and services and the potential reinforcement of commuting and shopping patterns.

5.4 Comparison of the Preferred Spatial Strategy with the ‘Do-Nothing’ Option

Whilst the Preferred Spatial Strategy performs strongly on its own terms against the Sustainability Objectives, it needs to be compared to a ‘do-nothing’ option in order to gauge the likely effect of its implementation. The ‘do-nothing’ option in this case is a continuation of current policy in the District. Whilst this entails a continuation of policies such as the protection of Green Belt, there is no review of the functioning of settlements and policies relating to them become increasingly out of date. Applications for housing and employment development would increasingly have to be determined without reference to local policy.

Table 5.3 Appraisal of the Preferred Strategy and Do-nothing options

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Preferred Strategy	‘Do-Nothing’
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	Improve design, in terms of quality and sustainability, of new developments using standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM? Create opportunities to design out crime?	Opportunities to promote sustainable design in all locations.	Opportunities to promote sustainable design in all locations.
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	Reduce the volume of domestic and commercial waste produced? Reduce the volume of waste disposed of in	New development will contribute to waste generation, although there could be opportunities for waste management in the larger villages.	Current patterns of waste generation are likely to be reinforced with limited opportunities to plan for efficiencies of scale.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Preferred Strategy	'Do-Nothing'
		landfill? Increase the number and accessibility of waste recycling facilities?		
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	Increase the proportion of energy both purchased and generated from renewable and sustainable resources? Reduce the demand and need for energy? Promote and improve energy efficiency?	Possible opportunities for renewable energy generation in the larger settlements.	Current patterns of energy use are likely to be reinforced with limited opportunities to plan for efficiencies of scale.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	Conserve, enhance and provide for the long term management of natural habitats and species on designated sites and more generally? Achieve Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets? Improve access to, and contact with, the natural world? Raise awareness and respect for biodiversity resources and promote their prudent management?	Appropriate development control policies will be applied.	Appropriate development control policies will be applied, but opportunities to positively plan for management will be fewer.
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	Protect and enhance landscapes, sites and features of historical, archaeological and cultural value and/or potential?	Appropriate development control policies will be applied.	Appropriate development control policies will be applied, but opportunities to positively plan for settlement-wide character will be less.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Reduce pollution from all sources? Promote the more efficient use of resources to help avoid pollution and waste?	Additional development will add to the pollution load, although this should be proportionate to the size of the settlement receiving additional development. New development should exhibit greater efficiency standards.	Current patterns of pollution area likely to be reinforced.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Preferred Strategy	'Do-Nothing'
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	<p>Improve air and water quality?</p> <p>Encourage the more efficient use of water resources?</p>	Additional development will add to the pollution load, although this should be proportionate to the size of the settlement receiving additional development. New development should exhibit greater efficiency standards.	Current patterns of pollution area likely to be reinforced.
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	<p>Promote greater local concern for, and involvement in, community management of local environments?</p> <p>Encourage farming practices that are sensitive to the character of the countryside?</p>	Opportunities to promote stewardship in all contexts.	Limited opportunities to systematically address stewardship opportunities as part of new policy.
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	<p>Promote sustainable forms of development such as avoiding areas of floodrisk, and mitigating the effects of flooding?</p> <p>Reduce the number of vacant and derelict buildings?</p> <p>Promote the use of land that has been previously developed?</p> <p>Encourage the more efficient use of resources such as the re-use of buildings?</p>	Whilst development in larger settlements should help to secure economies of scale in service provision, land most appropriate for development (e.g. previously developed) may not be available in the right locations.	Development will not necessarily be directed to the most appropriate locations e.g. to previously developed land.
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	<p>Reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour?</p> <p>Reduce fear of crime?</p>	Potential for greater efficiency in the use of police resources in larger settlements, but smaller ones could be neglected.	Potential for greater efficiency in the use of police resources in larger settlements, but smaller ones could be neglected.
Health Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	<p>Reduce health inequalities?</p> <p>Improve access to high quality health facilities?</p> <p>Protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?</p>	Improved service provision could be directed toward the larger settlements.	Limited opportunities for systematic improvements in service provision

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Preferred Strategy	'Do-Nothing'
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	<p>Reduce homelessness?</p> <p>Reduce the number of unfit homes and overcrowding?</p> <p>Increase the range and affordability of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)?</p> <p>Improve the quality of housing?</p> <p>Provide housing that encourages a sense of community and enhances the amenity value of the community?</p>	Opportunities for the provision of a range of housing should be secured in the larger settlements, whilst smaller ones could lose out. Strongly interventionist policy could be required.	Limited opportunities for systematic provision of affordable housing where it is most needed.
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	<p>Promote more equal access to key local services and facilities?</p> <p>Provide additional services and facilities were needed?</p>	Improved service provision could be directed toward the larger settlements.	Limited opportunities for systematic improvements in service provision.
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Reduce the need for people to travel by improving their access to services, jobs, leisure and amenities in the places in which they live?</p>	Better use could be made of sustainable transport modes in the largest settlements (particularly where these have rail services). Smaller settlements will probably see little or no change in provision of public transport opportunities.	Current patterns of transport use are likely to be reinforced.
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	<p>Improve business development and its resilience?</p> <p>Encourage business start-ups, support their growth and prevent the loss of indigenous businesses?</p> <p>Encourage inward investment, innovation and help to diversify the economy?</p>	Increased development could benefit local economic development through increased patronage, for example. There is also a risk of reinforcing unsustainable commuting and shopping patterns.	Provision of employment land could be more flexible according to need and location.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Preferred Strategy	'Do-Nothing'
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	Encourage more shops and better services in accessible locations? Encourage a feeling of greater community spirit?	Increased development could benefit local economic development through increased patronage, for example. There is also a risk of reinforcing unsustainable commuting and shopping patterns, particularly in the smaller settlements.	Unsustainable commuting and shopping patterns likely to be reinforced.
	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	Assist with matching skills and aptitudes with appropriate employment opportunities? Contribute to enhancing skills and meeting skill shortages?	Increased opportunities for employment are likely to be associated with the larger settlements. Employment land allocations based on need may be needed to counteract this.	Provision of employment land could be more flexible according to need and location.
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	Promote social cohesion and encourage engagement in community activities? Promote community spirit and encourage community networks? Increase the quantity and quality of public open space?	Enhanced provision, associated with increased development, could disproportionately benefit larger settlements.	Opportunities for enhanced provision and quality improvement likely to be more opportunistic.
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Increase the ability of people to influence decisions? Support civic engagement and encourage the involvement and participation of a diverse range of stakeholders?	Existing opportunities will not be compromised, although the provision of IT services could be compromised through limited demand.	Existing opportunities will not be compromised, although the provision of IT services could be compromised through limited demand.
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas and communities most affected?	Existing patterns of service provision are likely to be reinforced, potentially disadvantaging those in smaller settlements.	Limited opportunities for systematic improvements in service provision and access to jobs.

The analysis suggests that the Preferred Spatial Strategy out-performs the ‘do-nothing’ option against the majority of sustainability objectives. A degree of uncertainty as to the effectiveness of the Preferred Spatial Strategy in addressing certain socio-economic issues is to be expected. Issues such as access to services or transport use will be tackled through the policies and programmes of a wide variety of strategies at regional and local level, as well as by more general changes in attitudes and behaviour. Whilst the ‘do-nothing’ option potentially offers flexibility to respond to local needs (notably encouraging the provision of employment opportunities), the intention of, and opportunities for, the Spatial Strategy to steer development toward certain locations helps to create the conditions for more sustainable outcomes than might otherwise be the case.

5.5 Significant social, environmental and economic effects of the Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy indicative policies

The Preferred Spatial Strategy suggests that some 22 policies will be required to support it, although final policies are not offered. The Sustainability Appraisal Framework was used to assess the likely significant social, environmental and economic effects of each Preferred Spatial Strategy policy areas. The findings are summarised in **Table 5.4** with an indication of the possible cumulative effects of all the policies combined, in turn indicating the likely impact of the Core Strategy as a whole on each Sustainability Appraisal Objective. The analysis uses the following notation in the appraisal of the Core Strategy alternative options. The notation is intended, at this stage, to provide a broad steer on the way in which the options presented perform against the sustainability objectives set. A fuller analysis of the sustainability performance of individual policies, when finalised for the Core Strategy Submission will be undertaken in the Sustainability Appraisal Report accompanying that document.

Alignment	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The proposed policy or approach contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective.	++
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed policy or approach contributes to the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	+
Neutral	The proposed policy or approach does not have any effect on the achievement of the objective.	0
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed policy or approach detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly.	-
Major Negative Impact	The proposed policy or approach detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective.	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible.	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy or approach has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made.	?

The analysis in **Table 5.4** suggests that no significant incompatibility between the SA Objectives and the proposed Core Strategy Policies. Indeed, it is likely that a significant degree of synergy exists between them, particularly through strong commitments to the protection of natural and cultural resources (CP2 – CP5) and the promotion of the District’s socio-economic health. Equally, there are significant examples such as CP15 (open space, leisure & recreation) where neutral effects are dominant, the outcomes being dependent upon the detail of policy or the way in which it is applied.

Whilst there are a significant number of unknown interactions, often dependent on the detail of policy and how it is implemented, the cumulative effect of all the policies combined is reassuringly positive in character. The most significant uncertainties relate to the impact of the spatial strategy, the scale and distribution of new housing, and Wolverhampton Airport. In the case of the airport, its rural location is not ideal in sustainability terms, particularly if further (albeit modest) development is allowed.

The major uncertainties against the SA Objectives relate to reducing the need to travel (SA14) and providing opportunities to participate in decision-making (SA18). Here, the detail of specific proposals and how policy is used to judge them will determine the quality of the outcome. The cumulative effect of the policies is generally positive in sustainability terms, with neutral or uncertain effects dependent upon the way in which policy is applied. Further details of the likely significant effects of the Preferred Spatial Strategy as a whole on each Sustainability Appraisal Objective are shown in **Table 5.5**. Potential negative impacts or uncertainties that need to be mitigated and monitored are noted.

Table 5.5 Preferred Spatial Option: cumulative appraisal of all policies combined

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects
Sustainable Design	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	Improve design, in terms of quality and sustainability, of new developments using standards such as the Code for Sustainable Homes and BREEAM? Create opportunities to design out crime?	+ }	Best practice will be encouraged and, where appropriate, be required. Through design requirements accompanying determination of applications.	Positive effects will emerge over the short, medium and longer term as better design standards are employed.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects
Waste Generation and Management	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	Reduce the volume of domestic and commercial waste produced?	-	New development will increase the volume of waste.	Additional waste generation will be an issue over the short to medium term, but additional recycling facilities and co-ordination with other strategies should over the longer term encourage better recycling rates.
		Reduce the volume of waste disposed of in landfill?	0	Potential for the extension of recycling to balance increase in volume.	
		Increase the number and accessibility of waste recycling facilities?	+	Potential for new facilities and economies of scale.	
Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Renewable Energy	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	Increase the proportion of energy both purchased and generated from renewable and sustainable resources?	0/+	Encouraged through best practice in design.	Positive effects will emerge over the medium to long-term in combination with other strategies and programmes.
		Reduce the demand and need for energy?			
		Promote and improve energy efficiency?			
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	Conserve, enhance and provide for the long term management of natural habitats and species on designated sites and more generally?	+	Through rigorous protection of designated sites. Non-designated areas could be compromised by development pressure. Contact with and appreciation of the natural work will be assisted through policies on encouraging greater access to natural resources such as through recreation.	Positive effects will be secured over the short, medium and longer term, particularly where there is strong interaction with other strategies and plans to ensure a coherent approach to protection and sustainable use.
		Achieve Local Biodiversity Action Plan targets?			
		Improve access to, and contact with, the natural world?			
		Raise awareness and respect for biodiversity resources and promote their prudent management?			

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects
	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	Protect and enhance landscapes, sites and features of historical, archaeological and cultural value and/or potential?	+	General protection of environmental and cultural assets. Possible compromise of quality through pressures for development.	Positive effects will be secured over the short, medium and longer term, particularly where there is strong interaction with other strategies and plans to ensure a coherent approach to protection and sustainable use.
	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Reduce pollution from all sources? Promote the more efficient use of resources to help avoid pollution and waste?	} 0/?	Aspirations for the reduction of pollution could be compromised by the volume and location of development e.g. extra commuting pressures.	Positive effects could be secured over the short, medium and longer term provided that there is a concerted effort across a range of strategies and plans.
	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	Improve air and water quality? Encourage the more efficient use of water resources?	} 0/?	As above	Positive effects could be secured over the short, medium and longer term provided that there is a concerted effort across a range of strategies and plans.
	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	Promote greater local concern for, and involvement in, community management of local environments? Encourage farming practices that are sensitive to the character of the countryside?	+ ?	Opportunities to encourage greater community involvement e.g. in open space management. Limited influence of spatial policy here.	Benefits could be secured over the short, medium and longer term and should be cumulative as good practice spreads.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects	
Land Use Planning	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	Promote sustainable forms of development such as avoiding areas of floodrisk, and mitigating the effects of flooding?	++	Policies aim to secure development which makes best use of land resources (e.g. in suitable densities and encouraging brownfield over greenfield development). Market forces will be influential on the extent and rate of re-use, however.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.	
		Reduce the number of vacant and derelict buildings?	+			
		Promote the use of land that has been previously developed?	++			
		Encourage the more efficient use of resources such as the re-use of buildings?	+			
Crime Reduction	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Reduce levels of crime and antisocial behaviour?	}	+	Encouraging good design will help to produce, over the longer term, environments which discourage crime.	
		Reduce fear of crime?				
Heath Improvement	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	Reduce health inequalities?	}	+	Opportunities to promote more healthy lifestyles through the provision of open spaces and recreation facilities, for example.	
		Improve access to high quality health facilities?				
		Protect and enhance open spaces of amenity and recreational value?				

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects
Access to Housing	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	<p>Reduce homelessness?</p> <p>Reduce the number of unfit homes and overcrowding?</p> <p>Increase the range and affordability of housing (taking into account different requirements and preferences of size, location, type and tenure)?</p> <p>Improve the quality of housing?</p> <p>Provide housing that encourages a sense of community and enhances the amenity value of the community?</p>	+	Policies will have varying, but in general positive, impacts on these indicators, directly affecting the provision of affordable housing, for example.	Impacts are most likely to be felt over the long term as appropriate sites are identified for the provision of affordable housing, and developments that encourage a sense of community. Provision of jobs, services and recreational opportunities are particularly important complements to this aim.
Equality of Access	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	<p>Promote more equal access to key local services and facilities?</p> <p>Provide additional services and facilities were needed?</p>	+/?	Whilst access to facilities can be promoted through co-location, for example, directly influencing provision is more difficult.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.
Prudent Transport Use	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	<p>Encourage a modal shift to more sustainable forms of travel?</p> <p>Reduce the need for people to travel by improving their access to services, jobs, leisure and amenities in the places in which they live?</p>	+/?	Policy impacts should be positive if, for example, job opportunities are provided closer to where people live. Individual behaviour will have the most significant effects, however.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects	
Economic Growth and Employment Creation	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	Improve business development and its resilience?	}	+	The protection and provision of opportunities for employment creation should be encouraged through policies, through site allocation for example. However, wider economic circumstances will dictate their success.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.
		Encourage business start-ups, support their growth and prevent the loss of indigenous businesses?				
		Encourage inward investment, innovation and help to diversify the economy?				
	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	Encourage more shops and better services in accessible locations?	+	Policies will encourage these aspects as part of wider council approaches to community vibrancy.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.	
		Encourage a feeling of greater community spirit?	?			
	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	Assist with matching skills and aptitudes with appropriate employment opportunities?	+	Provision of employment land in the right places will encourage the matching of available skills with employment opportunities.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.	
		Contribute to enhancing skills and meeting skill shortages?	+			
Participation in Culture and Recreation	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	Promote social cohesion and encourage engagement in community activities?	?	Plan policies can encourage the provision of facilities which then, over the longer term, indirectly promotes less tangible benefits such as social cohesion.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.	
		Promote community spirit and encourage community networks?	0			
		Increase the quantity and quality of public open space?	++			

SA Theme	SA Objective	Appraisal Criteria: Will the policies help to ...	Rating	Commentary / Mitigation	Timescale & cumulative / synergistic effects
Participation in Decision Making	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	<p>Increase the ability of people to influence decisions?</p> <p>Support civic engagement and encourage the involvement and participation of a diverse range of stakeholders?</p>	<p>}</p> <p>?</p>	Policies are developed and applied through a participatory process.	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.
Poverty Reduction	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	Reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas and communities most affected?	+	All policies implicitly promote equality of opportunity and in some cases direct intervention (such as the provision of affordable housing).	Opportunities exist in the short, medium and longer term to secure positive outcomes across a range of criteria, particularly where other strategies and programmes are engaged with.

The analysis shows that implementation of the Preferred Spatial Option will have a variety of positive effects, or at worst minor negative, neutral or uncertain effects. Other policies work with one another to produce synergistic effects such as reducing car travel, encouraging the use of public transport and the appropriate location of development to encourage the former.

Potential positive impacts can be observed across many aspects of the sustainability agenda. Overall the Core Strategy aims to encourage sustained economic prosperity and, where required, regeneration, paying particular attention to the interests of the village communities which characterise the District. Through the provision of affordable housing, there should be greater access to a home for local people, and for services there should be more equitable through better access, aided by a reduced need to travel. The environmental and cultural character of the District will be protected and enhanced through minimisation of the loss of greenfield land to development and improvements in air quality, for example. The net result should be positive for the functioning and perception of the District. Some impacts will be immediate (such as the protection of the natural and built environment), whilst others (such as increased employment opportunities and the delivery of more accessible and better-designed environments will take longer. The Preferred Spatial Strategy will need to act in partnership with other strategies for the District, notably the Sustainable Community Strategy, to help deliver synergistic benefits across a range of issues, adjusting the approach, if required, over time.

Whilst the Preferred Spatial Strategy overall has positive or neutral effects, there are a number of potentially unknown effects. These include the economic viability of rural settlements if housing growth is stifled, and the increase in waste generated by additional households. The degree of these impacts is particularly difficult to assess as they depend upon individuals and the wider influence of the economy. However, their effects are likely to be played out over the long term, giving the opportunity for monitoring and mitigation, such as working with service providers to offset the worst effects of change.

Monitoring the significant effects of the Core Strategy

A monitoring framework will be devised to monitor the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Core Strategy, both positive and negative. Results will be incorporated into the LDF Annual Monitoring Report.

The impact of the Sustainability Appraisal process on the preparation of the Core Strategy

Sustainability Appraisal has played an integral role on shaping the Preferred Spatial Strategy. It has proved to be useful in assessing and comparing the various options and therefore devising the Preferred Spatial Strategy, notably through mapping their performance against the Sustainability Objectives.

Sustainability Appraisal has assisted with the identification of the most sustainable option, taking into account the likely social, environmental and economic effects of implementing the different strategic alternatives. The process has helped to illustrate the areas which the Preferred Spatial Strategy intends to improve, and the difference made by that approach.

5.6 Proposed mitigation measures and recommendations

Arising from the various analyses presented above (in particular **Table 5.4**), a number of mitigation measures are proposed which should be considered in finalising the Core Strategy. These are set out in **Table 5.6**.

Table 5.6 Proposed mitigation measures for the Core Strategy policies

Policy	Recommended Mitigation
CP1. The Spatial Strategy	<p>Directing development on the basis of a settlement hierarchy, and by using small-scale extensions and a sequential approach will help to minimise loss of greenfield land and makes best use of existing assets. Mitigation of the spatial strategy is not directly required, being supported by a range of policies which seek to reinforce aspirations for sustainable development (within current societal constraints) across the District.</p> <p>Any negative impact on rural services, as a result of restricting development in rural areas, could be mitigated by close working with service providers to ensure provision of mobile services and public transport etc. Education and publicity can be used to promote healthy lifestyles and raise awareness of sustainability issues, for example to encourage use of sustainable transport and efficient use of resources. Effective promotion can also help to encourage investment and change perceptions of the District. Developers should be encouraged to help provide necessary infrastructure and services to prevent over-burdening existing provision with additional development in urban areas.</p>
CP2. Protecting and Enhancing the Environment	No recommendations for mitigation – strategy and policies allow for environmental protection and enhancement as far as reasonable in the context of growth demands, supported by robust development control policies.
CP3. Promoting High Quality Design	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP4. Sustainable Development Principles	No specific recommendations for mitigation, apart from those identified under other policies.
CP5. Use of Natural Resources	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP6. Other Environmental Matters	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP7. Scale and Distribution of New Housing	No recommendations for mitigation, apart from those identified in relation to CP1.
CP8. New Housing - Development Principles	Avoiding housing densities of below 30dph will ensure that land is used efficiently. Further mitigation not required if policy is upheld effectively in the development control process.
CP9. Managing the Release of Housing Land	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP10. Type, Size and Tenure of Housing	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP11. Affordable Housing	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP12. Rural Exception Sites	A cross-reference to CP10 and the specific needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities would be helpful.
CP13. New Employment Development	There is a need to ensure that the provision of employment opportunities is synchronised with housing provision, as far as possible matching jobs with housing

Policy	Recommended Mitigation
	types, thus helping to minimise commuting.
CP14. Supporting the Local Economy	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP15. Village Centres and Shopping	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP16. Rural Diversification	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP17. Community Facilities and Services	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP18. Development and Sustainable Transport	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP19. Wolverhampton Airport	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP20. Design and the Reduction of Crime	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP21. Open Space, Leisure, Rec'n and Culture	No recommendations for mitigation.
CP22. Services & Facilities for Children & Young People	No recommendations for mitigation.

Overall, the Core Strategy Preferred Spatial Strategy and supporting policies perform very well against the criteria of the Sustainability Appraisal framework. The proposed approach should help to improve access to a range of services and facilities by directing development according to the existing and potential service provision in settlements, according to their capacity to accept further development. In combination with employment land provision, this should create more opportunities for closer live-work relationships and choices of transport mode. However, the response of the public in taking up opportunities to live to where they work, and use local retail and community facilities, and switch to walking, cycling, and public transport is unpredictable and cannot be directly influenced by the spatial strategy.

Equally, as noted in the Core Strategy preferred Spatial Strategy document, the relatively modest housing and employment growth in South Staffordshire, and the direction of this for the benefit of existing communities, should help to promote the regeneration of the adjacent Black Country MUA.

The suite of policies to support the Preferred Spatial Strategy is comprehensive, and should assist in furthering the aspirations for sustainable development in the South Staffordshire, albeit within the constraints of current social attitudes. Thus radical measures would be inappropriate and counter-productive. Further detailed comment on potential mitigation measures could be required when detailed policies are published as part of the Core Strategy Submission Document, but the following general measures will ensure that policy is robust:

- Sites must be well located in relation to jobs, services and facilities and in the most accessible locations for transport by non-car modes
- Full regard to be made to environmental assets, constraints and opportunities for all developments.
- Existing infrastructure and services must have adequate capacity to serve the new developments, or secure arrangements for appropriate increased capacity must be made.

- The impacts of climate change should be properly accounted for, both in terms of adaptation to changing conditions and extreme events, and mitigation in terms of reducing the District's contribution to CO₂ emissions. Whilst the adoption of the principles of sustainable development are identified in Policy CP4 and in the detail of a number of other policies, specific targets for CO₂ reduction (perhaps by means of traffic reduction) should be stated.

5.7 Uncertainties and risks

The Sustainability Appraisal involves making judgements on the basis of often limited and inadequate baseline data, making it an inherently uncertain process. For example, there is a limited amount of data available on pollution across the District. The SA process has aimed to limit this risk by using and maintaining an up to date set of baseline data. Consultation with specialist organisations has been key to providing large quantities of this data. There are often a number of other varying factors that will influence the outcome. The impact of these policies may be affected by issues such as climate change, the performance of the UK and global economy and technological advances, therefore there is a degree of ambiguity in predicting the impact of these policies. In order to tackle this, a monitoring framework will be developed to provide an up to date picture of the sustainability issues enabling these uncertainties to be addressed as they arise.

5.8 Determining the need for 'appropriate assessment'

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires 'appropriate assessment' of plans and projects that are likely to have a significant impact on Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation). This Directive was passed into UK law under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, which proposed that appropriate assessment did not apply to land use plans. However, a judgement from the European Court of Justice found that this interpretation was incorrect and failed to properly transpose the European provisions into UK law, and that appropriate assessment does apply to land use plans. Therefore the 1994 Regulations have been amended to make appropriate assessment of relevant plans and strategies a requirement where a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site is likely.

Guidance on appropriate assessments states that plans should be 'screened' to determine whether appropriate assessment would be necessary. This is undertaken by assessing whether the LDF is likely to be significant effects on a Natura 2000 site through the policies and proposals contained within it. This screening determination should take into account the qualities of the Natura 2000 sites in the area, as well as the vulnerabilities.

South Staffordshire has one Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (i.e. a Natura 2000 site) within its jurisdiction – Motte Meadows National Nature Reserve – which should be subject to determination whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. This means an appraisal of whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on the site. Guidance from the European Commission³ (para 2.2) states that:

³ European Commission (November 2001) **Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites** Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

“the emphasis for assessment should be on objectively demonstrating, with supporting evidence, that:

- **there will be no significant effects** on a Natura 2000 site (Stage One: Screening); or
- **there will be no adverse effects** on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site (Stage Two: Appropriate assessment); or
- **there is an absence of alternatives** to the project or plan that is likely to have adverse effects on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site (Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions); or
- **there are compensation measures** which maintain or enhance the overall coherence of Natura 2000 (Stage Four: Assessment of compensatory measures)”.

Mottey Meadows NNR covers 44ha and comprises a series of alluvial flood meadows which have been managed as hay meadows for many centuries. The site supports a number of invertebrate species, including the rare horsetail weevil, and is home to breeding birds such as snipe, curlew and lapwing. The reserve's grassland supports over 240 species of flowering plants, including the rare snake's-head fritillary.

South Staffordshire shares a border with Cannock Chase SAC and the Cannock Extension Canal SAC (both under the jurisdiction of Cannock Chase District Council). Due regard thus needs to be had to potential impacts of policies developed in South Staffordshire on these sites. Cannock Chase DC will be a consultee on documents associated with the production of the South Staffordshire LDF, including site-specific allocations.

The Scoping Report concluded (on advice from English Nature) that Appropriate Assessment could be screened out that stage, given that the document's intention was to establish the general principles of sustainability relevant to the development of policy in the LDF (amongst which is the protection and enhancement of biodiversity resources). The high level appraisal for this document has identified that the integrity of nature conservation resources is intended to be protected over the interests of development, and that more generally there is a presumption against development in areas of open countryside.

There is a need to explore these issues in detail with the competent authority (i.e. Natural England) in order to help determine whether the proposals for development at Wheaton Aston (in the vicinity of the Motte Meadows SAC) are sufficiently detailed to trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment at this stage.

6. Implementation

6.1 Links to other tiers of plans and programmes

The South Staffordshire Local Development Framework will be made up of the Core Strategy and a number of other Local Development Documents including Development Control Policies. The policies and proposals contained in these documents will all need to comply with the Core Strategy, and will help to implement it.

Some of the potential negative effects identified in this Sustainability Appraisal report can be mitigated through careful location; for example avoiding areas of high wildlife or archaeological value or at high risk of flooding. In addition, minimum standards for the provision of affordable housing, open space and the use of renewable energy in new developments could be set, helping to deliver improvements in these areas. Sites put forward for allocation in the Site Allocations Document will be assessed against Sustainability Appraisal objectives, with the aim of identifying and minimising any negative impacts.

Sustainability Appraisal does not obviate the need for environmental impact assessments and/or retail impact assessments, if appropriate, to accompany major applications. These will still be required for major applications, and will give fuller and more detailed analysis of the likely impacts of individual development proposals.

6.2 Proposals for monitoring

Sustainability Appraisal monitoring enables the significant effects of implementing the Core Strategy to be assessed, and compared to those predicted in this Sustainability Appraisal. It helps to ensure that any unforeseen adverse effects can be identified and remedial action taken, if required. This also allows future predictions to be made more accurately. Potential indicators were identified as part of the Scoping Report and these should be taken into account in the Annual Monitoring Report, to accompany national core indicators.

Appendix A

Sustainability Appraisal of the strategic plan options (December 2007)

8 Pages

Option	Character
Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	These have a population of >6,500 and are: Codsall/Bilbrook, Cheslyn Hay/Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.
Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	The main villages are as per Option 1, the smaller villages being: Wheaton Aston, Huntington, Brewood, Coven, Featherstone and Essington.
Option 3: Share development between villages across the District	This includes all the settlements in Option 2, along with the villages of Dunston, Bednall, Bishops Wood, Shareshill, Pattingham, Trysull, Bobbington and Swindon.
Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations within South Staffordshire	This would steer development towards the relatively accessible villages of Codsall/Bilbrook, Brinsford/Featherstone, Cheslyn Hay/Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.
Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner throughout the 22 villages of South Staffordshire	
Option 3C: Geographic spread but within the context of a South Staffordshire Hierarchy of Settlements that determines the appropriate levels of new housing development within the existing villages of South Staffordshire	Some 70% of development could go to the 9 main service villages, 20% to the 7 local service villages and 10% to the remaining 6 small service villages.

Appraisal key

-- Major Negative Impact	- Minor Negative Impact	0 Neutral	+ Minor Positive Impact	++ Major Positive Impact	~ No Relationship	? Uncertain
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SA Objectives		Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Sustainable Production & Consumption	Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	+ There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible. Possible compromise of greenfield land.	0 There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible. Possible compromise of greenfield land.	0 There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible. However, possible compromise of greenfield land and implications for the provision of infrastructure.	++ There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible.	0 There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible. However, possible compromise of greenfield land and implications for the provision of infrastructure.	++ There is the opportunity to use new development to help fulfil this objective through the detailed specification of development and targeting the use brownfield land wherever possible.

Appendix A

SA Objectives		Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development
	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	+ Critical mass for the provision of renewable energy schemes could be secured through additional development in some areas.	+ Critical mass for the provision of renewable energy schemes could be secured through additional development in some areas.	- The provision of renewable energy schemes is unlikely to benefit from additional dispersed development	+ Critical mass for the provision of renewable energy schemes could be secured through additional development in some areas.	- The provision of renewable energy schemes is unlikely to benefit from additional dispersed development	+ Critical mass for the provision of renewable energy schemes could be secured through additional development in some areas.
Resource Management	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances

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SA Objectives	Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential pressure on more sensitive villages	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential pressure on more sensitive villages	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective
Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	-- Potential pressure on more sensitive villages, and increase in commuter distances travelled	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances	-- Potential pressure on more sensitive villages, and increase in commuter distances travelled	? Objective should not be compromised but dependent on local circumstances
Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	+ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	+ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential compromise of this objective through increased travel and pressure on infrastructure	+ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential compromise of this objective through increased travel and pressure on infrastructure	+ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective

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SA Objectives		Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Sustainable Communities	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development
	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	+ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential compromise of this objective through inappropriately located development	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective	- Potential compromise of this objective through inappropriately located development	++ Opportunity to direct development to avoid compromising this objective
	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	~ This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development

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SA Objectives	Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	++ Opportunity to better meet the needs of residents across the District through additional service provision	++ Opportunity to better meet the needs of residents across the District through additional service provision	? / - Absence of targeted development could exclude certain groups	++ Opportunity to better meet the needs of residents across the District through additional service provision	? / - Absence of targeted development could exclude certain groups	++ Opportunity to better meet the needs of residents across the District through additional service provision
Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	? / - Possible exclusion of those in areas outside the main villages	? / - Possible exclusion of those in the smaller villages	0 Opportunity to meet the needs of residents across the District, but opportunities targeted development at specific locations could be missed	- Likely exclusion of those outside the locations for development	? / - Absence of targeted development could exclude certain groups. Development could be insufficient to realise opportunities for affordable housing	? / - Possible exclusion of those outside the locations for development
Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	0 Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages	0 Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages	- / ? Potentially inefficient in supporting service provision	- / ? Potential detrimental impact on communities not targeted for development	- / ? Potentially inefficient in supporting service provision	0 Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergies at specific locations could be missed

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SA Objectives	Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">--</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Likely to lead to increased commuting distances and greater travel overall and inefficient in supporting service provision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Potential detrimental impact on communities not targeted for development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">--</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Likely to lead to increased commuting distances and greater travel overall and inefficient in supporting service provision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>
Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">++</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to selectively meet the needs of specific settlements</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss potential synergies at specific locations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss potential synergies at specific locations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>
Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	<p style="text-align: center;">+ / ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">+ / ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- / ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Potential detrimental impact on communities not targeted for development</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- / ?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Potentially inefficient in supporting service provision</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed</p>

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SA Objectives	Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the development of skills and support local enterprise	+	+	+	+	+	+
	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills	Additional housing development could support existing businesses and hence jobs and skills
Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local greenspace	+ / ?	+ / ?	+	- / ?	- / ?	+
	Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages	Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision but could miss the needs of smaller villages	Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed	Potential detrimental impact on communities not targeted for development	Potentially inefficient in supporting service provision	Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed
Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	~	~	~	~	~	~
	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development	This objective is not directly influenced by the spatial distribution of development

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SA Objectives	Option 1: Focus development on the main villages	Option 2: Focus development on the main villages with limited growth in the smaller villages	Option 3: Share development between the villages across the District	Option 3A: Focused development in a small number of locations	Option 3B: Geographic spread in an even manner	Option 3C: Geographic spread (Hierarchy of Settlements)
Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision and employment opportunities but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision and employment opportunities but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision and employment opportunities but could miss the needs of smaller villages</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- / ?</p> <p>Potentially inefficient in supporting service provision and job creation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <p>Opportunity to reinforce existing service provision, but opportunities for synergy at specific locations could be missed</p>

Appendix B

Compatibility between SA Objectives and Core Strategy Objectives

17 Pages

SA Objectives 1 - 9

+ compatible 0 partly compatible – incompatible ~ no relationship ? uncertain relationship

SA Objectives	Sustainable Production & Consumption			Climate Change and Energy Efficiency		Resource Management				
Core Strategy Objectives										
1. To protect and maintain the Green Belt and Open Countryside in order to sustain the distinctive character of South Staffordshire.	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	+	?
2. To retain and reinforce the current pattern of villages across South Staffordshire and in particular protect and retain the important strategic gaps	+	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	?	?
		Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime	Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management	Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy	Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity	Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance	Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil	Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources	Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources	Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land

Core Strategy Objectives	Sustainable Production & Consumption			Climate Change and Energy Efficiency		Resource Management			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Improved through management plans and better designed developments.									
6. To ensure that all new development is sustainable enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7. To reduce the effect of society on the environment, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.	?	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+

Core Strategy Objectives	Sustainable Production & Consumption			Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Resource Management				
8. To ensure the delivery of decent homes for members of the community including the provision of more affordable housing which matches in type, tenure and size the needs of the residents of South Staffordshire.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
9. To meet local housing and employment needs consistent with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in a way that enables the existing villages within South Staffordshire to develop in a sustainable way that secures their future viability and prosperity and supports Rural	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+

		Sustainable Production & Consumption	Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Resource Management														
Core Strategy Objectives Renaissance: 10. To support the Urban Renaissance of the Black Country Major Urban Area by distributing new housing and employment growth within South Staffordshire in a way that supports the 4 objectives of the Phase 1 Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy and in particular discourages out-migration of the A & B socio-economic groups from the Black Country Major Urban Area.		Objective 1: Promote high quality design of new developments, the efficient use of resources and opportunities to design out crime		Objective 2: To reduce the amount of waste generated and encourage sustainable waste management		Objective 3: To reduce energy use by improving energy efficiency and encourage the production and use of renewable energy		Objective 4: To protect and enhance biodiversity		Objective 5: To protect and enhance historic buildings, conservation areas and other features of historic, archaeological or landscape importance		Objective 6: To reduce all pollution, including noise, light, air, water and soil		Objective 7: To maintain and improve air and water quality and the efficient use of water resources		Objective 8: To promote local stewardship of natural resources		Objective 9: To promote sustainable forms of development and the efficient use of land
		+		?		?		?		?		?		?		?		+

Core Strategy Objectives	Sustainable Production & Consumption			Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Resource Management				
	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
11. To support the growth of a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable local economy, sustain, improve and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres and promote South Staffordshire as a tourist destination.	?	?	0	?	?	?	0	?	?
12. To support thriving and sustainable communities by ensuring that local people enjoy access to jobs and key services such as social, health care, education, open space and recreation and other facilities.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?

Core Strategy Objectives	Sustainable Production & Consumption			Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Resource Management					
	+	?	-	+	+	?	-	+	?	-
13. To reduce the need to travel, to secure improvements to public transport infrastructure and services and make it safer and easier for the community to travel to jobs and key services by sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.		?		+		?		+		?
14. To adopt a design-led approach to all new development to ensure that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire are maintained and enhanced and that attractive, well designed and safe places are created.	+		+			?	+	+	+	+

SA Objectives 10 – 20

+ compatible 0 partly compatible X incompatible ~ no relationship ? uncertain relationship

		Sustainable Communities										
SA Objectives	Core Strategy Objectives	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities
	1. To protect and maintain the Green Belt and Open Countryside in order to sustain the distinctive character of South Staffordshire.	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	?
	2. To retain and reinforce the current pattern of villages across South Staffordshire and in particular protect and retain the important strategic gaps between existing settlements in order to	~	~	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

		Sustainable Communities									
Core Strategy Objectives	SA Objectives										
prevent the coalescence of settlements.		Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	?								
		Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	?	+	+						
		Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	?	?	?						
		Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	?	+	+						
		Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	+	+	+						
		Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	?	+	+						
		Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	+	+	+						
		Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the	?	+	?						
		Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local	?	+	+						
		Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	?	?	?						
Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	?	?	?								
3: To protect and improve South Staffordshire's environmental assets.		?	+	+							
4: To protect, conserve and enhance the countryside, character and quality of the landscape and the diversity of wildlife and habitats.		?	+	?							
5: To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and to ensure that the character and appearance of the District's Conservation Areas is improved through management plans		?	?	?							

		Sustainable Communities										
		SA Objectives										
Core Strategy Objectives and better designed developments.		Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the	Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local	Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities
6. To ensure that all new development is sustainable enabling people to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
7. To reduce the effect of society on the environment, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.		?	+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	
8. To ensure the delivery of decent homes for members of the community including the provision of more		?	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	

		Sustainable Communities	
Core Strategy Objectives	SA Objectives		
<p>9. To meet local housing and employment needs consistent with the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in a way that enables the existing villages within South Staffordshire to develop in a sustainable way that secures their future viability and prosperity and supports Rural Renaissance.</p>	affordable housing which matches in type, tenure and size the needs of the residents of South Staffordshire.		Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer
	?		Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire
	+		Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home
	+		Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities
	+		Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport
	+		Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities
	+		Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres
	+		Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the
	?		Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local
	?		Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making
	+		Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities

		Sustainable Communities									
SA Objectives											
Core Strategy Objectives	village centres and promote South Staffordshire as a tourist destination.	Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer									
		Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire									
		Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home									
		Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities									
		Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport									
		Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities									
		Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres									
		Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the									
		Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local									
		Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making									
Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities											
12. To support thriving and sustainable communities by ensuring that local people enjoy access jobs and key services such as social, health care, education, open space and recreation and other facilities.			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
13. To reduce the need to travel, to secure improvements to public transport infrastructure and services and make it safer and easier for the community to travel to jobs and key services by			~	+	~	?	+	?	?	?	

		Sustainable Communities																		
		SA Objectives																		
Core Strategy Objectives		Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer																		
sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport, walking and cycling.		Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire																		
14. To adopt a design-led approach to all new development to ensure that the distinctive character of the villages of South Staffordshire are maintained and enhanced and that attractive, well designed and safe places are created.		Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home																		
15. To improve the leisure, recreation and cultural facilities in South Staffordshire and ensure that each community has access to areas of good quality green space.		Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities																		
		Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport																		
		Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities																		
		Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres																		
		Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the																		
		Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local																		
		Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making																		
		Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities																		
		+	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

		Sustainable Communities									
Core Strategy Objectives	SA Objectives										
16. To support the needs of children and young people in South Staffordshire, ensure that provision is made for children's play and that teenagers have access to leisure, recreation and learning opportunities.		Objective 10: To reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and make South Staffordshire safer	+								
		Objective 11: To improve the health and well-being of the people of South Staffordshire	+								
		Objective 12: To ensure that everyone has the opportunity of a decent and affordable home	?								
		Objective 13: To improve access for all to services and facilities including education and lifelong learning, health, employment and leisure opportunities	+								
		Objective 14: To reduce the need to travel, encourage walking and cycling and the use of public transport	+								
		Objective 15: To create a more vibrant and sustainable local economy, encourage rural diversification and support rural communities	?								
		Objective 16: To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of village centres	?								
		Objective 17: To encourage the provision of employment opportunities to meet the skills and needs of the local population, encourage the	?								
		Objective 18: To encourage increased participation in cultural and recreational activities for all sectors of the community and ensure access to local	+								
		Objective 19: To provide opportunities for all sections of the community to participate in decision making	+								
	Objective 20: To reduce poverty and social exclusion and close the gap between the most and least disadvantaged communities	+									

