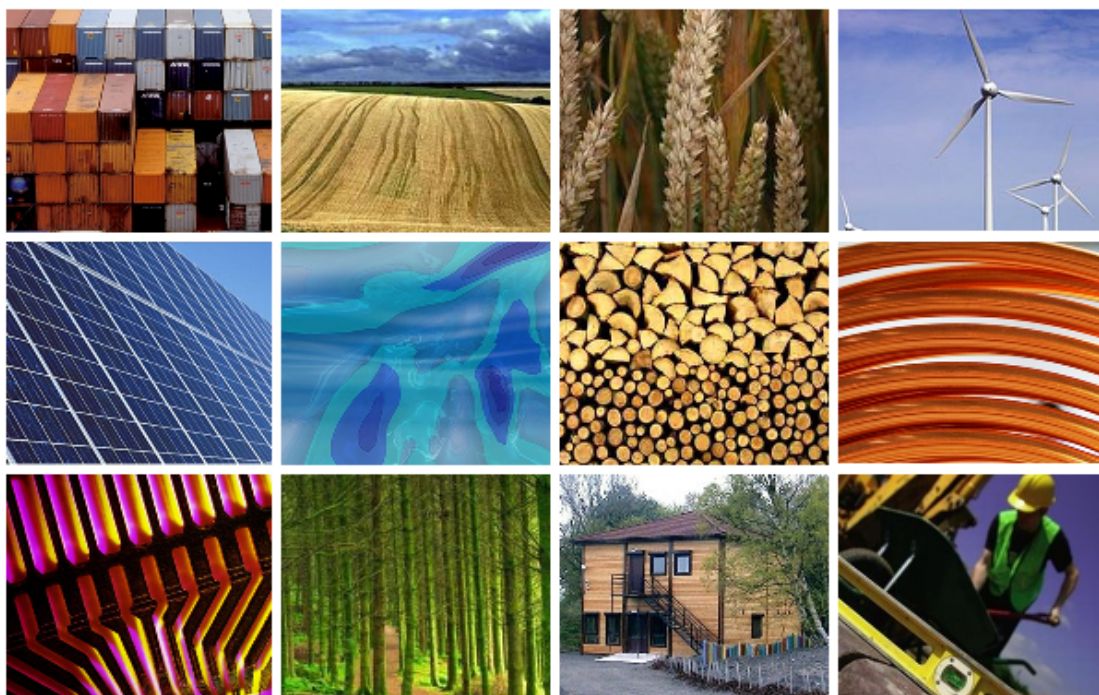


Tamworth Borough Council

Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Tamworth Local Plan

Final Report

February 2014



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Contents

1	SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES	1
1.1	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
1.2	STATEMENT ON THE DIFFERENCE THE PROCESS HAS MADE	10
2	INTRODUCTION	12
2.1	OVERVIEW	12
2.2	BACKGROUND	12
2.3	SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL	13
2.4	OUTLINE OF CONTENTS OF TAMWORTH LOCAL PLAN	15
2.5	LINKS TO OTHER PLANS AND POLICIES	15
3	METHODOLOGY	17
3.1	THE APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK	17
3.2	APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY	18
3.3	DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED	19
3.4	COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEA DIRECTIVE AND REGULATIONS	20
4	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES	22
5	STATE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TAMWORTH	23
5.1	PURPOSE	23
5.2	DIFFICULTIES IN COLLECTING DATA	23
5.3	SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED	23
5.4	CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED	28
5.5	AREAS OF PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE	28
6	APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK	31
6.1	INTRODUCTION	31
6.2	METHODOLOGY	31
6.3	OUTCOMES	31
7	APPRAISAL OF SITES	33
7.1	METHODOLOGY	33
8	APPRAISAL OF POLICY	38
8.1	METHODOLOGY	38
8.2	APPRAISAL OF VISION AND POLICIES	39
8.3	COMPATIBILITY CHECK OF OBJECTIVES	42
9	APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS	44
9.1	INTRODUCTION	44
9.2	SPATIAL OPTIONS	44
9.3	HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS	46

9.4	ECONOMIC SCENARIOS	51
9.5	AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCENARIOS	53
10	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFECTS	55
10.1	CUMULATIVE EFFECTS	55
10.2	INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFECTS	63
11	MONITORING	64
11.1	PROPOSALS FOR MONITORING	64
12	NEXT STEPS	66
12.1	OVERVIEW OF PROCESS	66

ANNEX A: REVIEW OF POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

ANNEX B: PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE SA REPORT

ANNEX C: APPRAISAL OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

ANNEX D: APPRAISAL OF EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS

ANNEX E: APPRAISAL OF VISION AND POLICIES

ANNEX F: APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

1 SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

1.1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1.1 Outline of Tamworth draft Local Plan

The Tamworth Draft Local Plan sets out the spatial planning strategy for the Borough over the period 2006-2031 in terms of the type of development required to meet local community and business needs, its scale and location as well as the policies that will apply to ensure that development is sustainable. It contains a vision and a series of strategic spatial objectives. It also includes policies to ensure that appropriate supporting infrastructure is delivered and the area's built and natural environment is protected and enhanced.

The Tamworth Local Plan has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Where considered relevant, working in partnership with neighbouring authorities to discharge the duty to co-operate has resulted in cross-boundary issues being addressed. Both Lichfield District Council and North Warwickshire District Council are also in the process of developing their own Local Plans and these have yet to be adopted.

The Tamworth Local Plan is expected to be adopted by 2015 and will replace the existing Local Plan (Adopted in 2006/07)¹. Further detailed guidance will be included in a limited number of Supplementary Planning Documents which will support the implementation of the Plan. Once it is adopted, planning applications will be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless other material considerations (including the NPPF) indicate otherwise.

1.1.2 Current State of Sustainable Development in Tamworth

The following table describes the current relevant aspects of sustainable development in Tamworth, and predicts how these might evolve without implementation of the Plan.

Table 1.1: Summary of baseline data

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution Without the Plan
Population	In 2011 the resident population of Tamworth was recorded as 76,895. It has been estimated that the population of Tamworth will increase to 81,895 by 2021, an increase of 6.5%, with most of the increase occurring among the over 64 age group.	It is uncertain how population might change without implementation of the Local Plan.
Housing	Tamworth has a high housing waiting list and a low level of affordable housing supply that has not met the backlog of housing need. More small homes are needed as are homes for the elderly.	It is less likely that housing of the right type will be delivered, or that enough affordable housing will be provided.

¹ Tamworth Borough Council - Local Plan 2006-2011 (Adopted July 2006 and Policies Saved in July 2011)

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution Without the Plan
Deprivation	There are several small areas that face issues of deprivation in Tamworth.	There may not be delivery of enough employment land to provide sufficient jobs. Employment and community facilities are unlikely to be in the right locations to address deprivation.
Health	Levels of health are similar to the national average. However, there are some small pockets of health deprivation. Adult obesity rates are high and rates of physical activity are low.	Without implementation of the Plan, it is possible that health levels will decline.
Open space	At a Borough wide level there is sufficient open space within the Borough, although certain specific parts of the Borough need better provision.	It is unlikely that additional open space will be provided where it is needed, and it is likely that more open space would be lost.
Economy	Many of Tamworth's traditional firms have closed down over the last 20 years. Still heavily influenced by the manufacturing sector, service industries now also play an important role.	There may not be delivery of enough employment land to provide sufficient jobs, and sites may not be provided in the right locations to meet sectoral needs.
Employment	Tamworth has a low unemployment rate. However, pockets of unemployment are concentrated in certain areas of the town.	There may not be delivery of enough employment land to provide sufficient jobs, and this may not be well-located for areas of higher unemployment.
Education and qualifications	Schools in Tamworth generally perform below the national average, with high levels of people having no qualifications at all and a very low percentage with high-level qualifications.	The level of education and qualifications is likely to remain unchanged. It is possible that insufficient additional school places will be provided.
Historic assets	Tamworth retains a range of important historic buildings, monuments and Conservation Areas, which need to be protected. It has high archaeological potential.	It is more likely that historic assets would be devalued or lost, and more likely that new developments would fail to incorporate measures to enhance the setting of historic assets.
Ecology	Tamworth has two Sites of Special Scientific Interest, mostly in an unfavourable condition, and there are three other SSSIs nearby in Warwickshire. There are five Local Nature Reserves, 16 Sites of Biological Importance and five Biodiversity Alert Sites. There are also three sites of international importance near Tamworth.	It is unlikely that opportunities for creating or enhancing ecological networks will be realised, and action at a landscape scale is unlikely to be taken. Designated sites are likely to come under increasing pressure from development or may be lost or devalued.
Water quality	There are high levels of nutrient pollution in the two rivers downstream of Tamworth.	Water quality is likely to continue to improve.
Water supply and wastewater treatment	There is enough water available to meet annual housing growth of 145 dwellings per annum (dpa) if fitted with water efficiency measures, but there is insufficient resource to meet higher development scenarios, namely 159.5 dpa and 188.5 dpa. Tamworth wastewater treatment works will require	The effect of not having the Local Plan on water supply and wastewater infrastructure is uncertain.

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution Without the Plan
	improvements in order to accommodate the proposed development.	
Air quality	Although Tamworth currently has no Air Quality Management Areas, nitrogen dioxide might exceed air quality standards at the A5 Dosthill, Two Gates Crossroads.	The likely future change in air quality without implementation of the Plan is uncertain.
Flood risk	Tamworth has been classified as having a high probability of fluvial flood risk and a medium probability of residual flooding from the overtopping/breaching of flood defences. A significant proportion of Tamworth's land is at risk of flooding.	The likely change in flood risk without implementation of the Plan is uncertain.
Climate change	Emissions of carbon dioxide are fairly low in Tamworth. However, the amount of renewable energy generated in Tamworth is low.	Opportunities to further reduce emissions of greenhouse gases would be lost.
Waste	Tamworth has achieved a moderately high recycling rate due to improvements in recent years.	Recycling rates are likely to rise and the amount of waste landfilled is expected to fall.
Land and soil	There is a shortage of developable open space in Tamworth. There are mineral reserves of potential value. The town is surrounded by agricultural land, much of which is of relatively poor quality but some is higher quality. Tamworth has a Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site.	Without the Plan it is possible that more developments would come forward on greenfield land than on previously developed land within the urban area.
Retail	There are concerns that the town centre's vitality and viability could decline in the short term as it faces strong competition from the retail parks	Without the Plan, it is likely that the town centre's vitality and viability will reduce further, leading to continued decline.
Leisure and culture	Existing leisure provision in Tamworth is generally adequate to meet the needs of local residents. However, there is a need for a new swimming pool and sports hall, and additional cafés and restaurants. Tamworth has a range of cultural/leisure attractions.	It is less likely that the additional sports facilities would be provided and less incentive to improve the café and restaurant provision in the town centre.
Transport	There is a dependence on the car to travel to work and a high level of out-commuting. Tamworth has good connections to the national road and rail transport networks and is well-served by a local bus network. There is congestion during the morning peak on Ashby Road heading into Tamworth.	Transport infrastructure is likely to improve through measures in the Local Transport Plan.

1.1.3 Characteristics of Areas Likely to be Significantly Affected

Tamworth is a very small borough (approximately 12 square km) compared with boroughs and districts in surrounding areas. The boundaries are fairly tightly drawn around the developed

urban area with only a limited amount of undeveloped green space around the town that sits within the Borough boundary. The draft Local Plan proposes significant amounts of non-urban green space for development, up to the boundary of Tamworth Borough, as well as policies which affect the Borough as a whole and specific parts of the Borough, such as Regeneration Priority Areas. As such, the areas likely to be significantly affected can be considered to be the Borough as a whole. The characteristics of the Borough are set out in detail in Annex B and summarised in Section 5.3. The characteristics of specific allocated sites are set out in Annexes C and D.

1.1.4 Problems Relating to Areas of Particular Environmental Importance

There are three sites of international nature conservation importance within 20km of Tamworth. These sites have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive¹ and have problems as follows:

- Ensors Pool SAC: vulnerable to pollution and non-native species;
- River Mease SAC: diffuse pollution, excessive sedimentation, invasive freshwater species and urban discharge;
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC: maintaining a balanced level of boat traffic and surface run-off.

1.1.5 The Appraisal Framework

Various environmental, social and economic issues have been identified through reviewing a wide variety of plans and strategies, collecting baseline information and identifying sustainability issues and problems. These issues have informed the development of the sustainability appraisal framework, which consists of a set of sustainable development policy objectives (sustainability objectives) as set out in **Table 1.2**.

These objectives were identified from a review of plans, strategies and sustainable development objectives established at international, national, regional, sub-regional and local levels. The sustainable development objectives identified in the review are set out in detail in Annex A. Each of these has been considered and it has been ensured that all relevant policy objectives are covered by the objectives in the sustainability appraisal framework. This framework has been used to appraise the various elements of the Local Plan, assessing the likely sustainability effects of the Local Plan by appraising the extent to which the Local Plan is consistent with or supports each policy objective.

Table 1.2: Sustainability Objectives

	Objectives
1.	To meet the housing needs of the whole community, providing affordable, decent, appropriate and sustainably constructed homes in accessible locations.
2.	To encourage the efficient use of land and soil.
3.	To reduce deprivation, including health and income deprivation.
4.	To ensure equal access to community services and facilities.
5.	To encourage equal access to education, jobs and training.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

6.	To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing accessible green infrastructure, including networks of paths and open spaces, and formal and informal sport and recreation facilities.
7.	To make communities safer by reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.
8.	To encourage a diverse and competitive economy that will provide sustainable economic growth.
9.	To protect and enhance historic assets.
10.	To encourage high quality and locally distinct places, spaces, buildings and landscapes.
11.	To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, sites of nature conservation value and ecological networks.
12.	To minimise flood risk.
13.	To reduce energy consumption by encouraging energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.
14.	To encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste and water.
15.	To protect and improve environmental quality including in relation to air, water, land and noise.
16.	To make Tamworth town centre the heart of the borough by creating a vibrant and attractive environment.
17.	To reduce the need to travel, reduce out-commuting and encourage sustainable modes of transport.
18.	To make best use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety.

1.1.6 The Likely Significant Effects of the Draft Local Plan

The Draft Local Plan has a clear and strong focus on meeting the housing needs of all sections of the community. It seeks to provide affordable, high quality homes of a mix of types to meet a range of needs, and requires these to be sustainably designed and constructed in safer communities. The Plan promotes energy efficiency and the generation of renewable and low carbon energy in new developments. Water efficiency is to be maximised in developments, and development must support the Tamworth Waste Strategy to reduce waste and increase recycling.

A clear aim is to provide homes in accessible locations to minimise the need to travel and maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport. By promoting development in the town centre, the Plan will help to make use of existing transport infrastructure, and it also seeks improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure which will help to reduce congestion and improve safety. It will also support the accessibility of community facilities and services and supports the creation of a vibrant and attractive town centre.

The Draft Local Plan encourages the creation and improvement of green and blue¹ infrastructure links to encourage cycling and walking throughout the Borough, and particularly between the town centre and other neighbourhoods and to the countryside beyond. As well as promoting sustainable transport choices to reduce reliance on the car and promote active and healthy

¹ 'Blue' infrastructure refers to water based assets such as rivers, lakes, ponds, canals, flood plains, drainage systems, important for communities, wildlife, amenity, flood risk management and climate change adaptation.

lifestyles, these networks will also contribute to strengthening a distinct identity for Tamworth, and may help to facilitate the movement of species and assist in reducing flood risk. They will also contribute to creating an attractive urban landscape. Healthy lifestyles will also be encouraged through the provision of new formal and informal recreation facilities and the protection and enhancement of open spaces.

The Plan affords strong protection to the Borough's historic assets, promotes their enhancement and requires development to be sympathetic to these assets. This will help to create an attractive urban landscape, and support the town's tourism offer, leading to increased job opportunities and a stronger economy.

The Draft Local Plan encourages economic growth, which should help to reduce deprivation by increasing job opportunities in Tamworth, particularly if done in conjunction with increasing education and training provision in deprived areas. The improvement of access to community services should assist in this. A direct aim of the Plan is to reduce out-commuting, although this may be increased by the improvement of links to Birmingham and other inter-urban routes.

By focusing development in the Borough's centres and promoting employment uses on existing employment sites, the Plan will help to promote the reuse of previously developed land and reduce the use of greenfield land and agricultural land, thereby indirectly helping to protect soils and habitats to support biodiversity. An efficient use of land will be supported by the requirement for medium-high density development. The emphasis in Tamworth has been to bring forward as much brownfield land as possible for development, nevertheless over three quarters of the area of the allocated new employment sites are on greenfield land.

The Plan explicitly requires the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity, and promotes opportunities to enhance biodiversity through habitat creation and restoration. It also requires development to create and reinforce links between existing biodiversity sites and with semi-natural habitats. By requiring the protection and enhancement of open spaces and green infrastructure including network features, the Plan may help to conserve and enhance biodiversity and ecological networks, but this is dependent on the quality of the open spaces and the nature of any enhancement work.

The Plan addresses flood risk by requiring proposals for development in flood risk areas to provide a Flood Risk Assessment and to include mitigation measures. Development will be resisted in these areas where appropriate and necessary and the Plan states that development will be expected to be located outside areas at high risk of flooding. Development must not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and a policy is included to manage and reduce flood risk. Site allocations require flood risk to be assessed and appropriately managed to reduce risk.

The Plan explicitly requires the protection of water quality and requires the quality of canals and rivers to be enhanced. The enhancement of blue infrastructure will help to support this policy. Air quality will be protected and enhanced by promotion of sustainable transport infrastructure. Improving junctions on the A5 may help to increase the flow of traffic at these junctions, which may help to reduce air pollution or may increase it if traffic levels rise as a result. By requiring the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the Plan is likely to contribute to the improvement of environmental quality in relation to air, water and land. It may also make a

contribution to reducing noise through the protection and enhancement of open spaces and reducing reliance on the private car.

1.1.7 Mitigation Measures

Through the sustainability appraisal process, a number of recommendations for mitigating the predicted significant adverse effects of the Local Plan have been implemented. These are set out in the following table. All recommendations have been accepted and there are no residual mitigation recommendations for the vision and policies contained in the Plan.

Table 1.3: Mitigation recommendations

Policy	Recommended mitigation
Vision	<p>Extend the aim to achieve safer living conditions to new housing development.</p> <p>Include a commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity in the vision.</p> <p>Include a commitment to reduce flood risk and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Include a commitment to promoting the efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Include a clearer commitment to improving the quality of the environment across the Borough.</p> <p>Include a commitment to promoting sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Include a commitment to improving infrastructure for sustainable transport modes.</p>
CP8	<p>Include a focus on areas of deprivation to address the needs of deprived areas for access to sport and recreation facilities.</p>
CP9	<p>Include requirements to support informal recreation in open spaces where appropriate.</p> <p>Promote opportunities to increase connectivity of open spaces and secure biodiversity gains.</p> <p>Promote opportunities to use open space provision to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>Require measures to promote walking and cycling in open spaces, through provision of infrastructure, improved connectivity and safety measures.</p>
CP11	<p>Require regard to be had to the findings of the Extensive Urban Survey.</p>
SP9	<p>Require developments to incorporate measures to reduce flood risk where there are appropriate opportunities.</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency measures in retro-fitting of existing development.</p> <p>Include supporting text to indicate how the efficient use of land is to be achieved.</p>
CP15	<p>Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for creating/protecting accessible recreational green space.</p> <p>Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for improvement in biodiversity value.</p>

There are a number of residual recommendations for mitigating predicted adverse impacts which have not yet been incorporated within the draft Local Plan. These relate to:

- Site allocations (recommendations set out in Annexes C and D);
- Strategic Spatial Objectives (recommendations set out in Section 8.3).

1.1.8 Alternatives

Alternatives to the proposed Local Plan have been developed, for the following policy areas:

- Spatial strategy, or directions of growth;
- Levels of housing growth;
- Amounts of employment land;
- Percentage of affordable housing required.

The alternatives, or options/scenarios, which have been developed are set out in the following table.

Table 1.4: Summary of spatial options

Spatial option	Sites to deliver option	Approximate capacity
1	Urban area and Anker Valley	900
2	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course	2000
3	Urban area, Anker Valley, green belt sites	1800
4	Urban area, Anker Valley, Dunstall Lane	1600
5	Urban area, Anker Valley, Coton Lane	1090
6	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane, green belt sites	3790
7	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane	2890

Table 1.5: Housing growth scenarios

Scenario	Dwellings per annum	Growth 2006-2031
A	264	6600
Aa	240	6000
Ab	258	6450
B	263	6575
C	249	6225
D	257	6425
E	283	7075
F	283	7075
H	248	6200
I	219	5475
J	200	5000
Draft Plan	250	6250

Table 1.6: Employment growth scenarios

Scenario	Gross employment land requirements (ha)
1) Experian Baseline	21.02
2) Regeneration/Policy On	32.91
3a) Short Term Past Take Up	48.51
3b) Long Term Completion Rates	66.49
4) Labour Supply (250 dpa)	27.82
5) Labour Supply (latest household projections)	30.16

Table 1.7: Affordable housing scenarios

Scenario	Level of affordable housing provision
1	20%
2	25%
3	30%

The reasons why these options/scenarios were selected are set out in Section 9 of this report.

1.1.9 How the Assessment was Undertaken

The sustainability appraisal determined the likely effects arising from the Draft Local Plan. This applied largely to the vision, objectives and policies, to a series of options and to the site allocations. The appraisal was done by assessing each element of the Plan against the appraisal objectives in turn and making a largely qualitative assessment, with reference also to the baseline data from the Scoping Report.

In reporting the results of the appraisal, the following symbols have been used to indicate the broad nature of the predicted effect:

- + effect likely to be positive
- effect likely to be negative
- 0 no significant effect
- ? effect unknown

If the appraisal objective was not relevant to the element of the Plan being appraised, no symbol is given.

Multiple symbols have been used (e.g. ++) to indicate a different scale of impact over time, or where the impacts of an option are *substantially* better or worse than others.

The effects were also rated for their significance in terms of the importance for achieving each appraisal objective. Effects were rated as high, medium or low significance, taking account of a number of factors. The factors were:

- the expected scale of the effects or the degree to which the effects are likely to contribute to the achievement of the sustainability objective in the Borough overall;
- the certainty or probability that the effect is likely to occur as a consequence of the Local Plan;
- whether the effects would be permanent or reversible;
- whether the effect will occur as a direct result of the Local Plan or not, in other words whether the Plan is key for achieving or controlling effects;
- whether the effect is more strongly dependent on other interventions or other factors; and
- how important the objective is to the scope of the Plan.

The sustainability appraisal has also assessed the likely significant cumulative effects of the Local Plan in its entirety and in combination with other relevant plans and projects, and considered the interrelationship between effects. The conclusions of this are set out in Chapter 10.

A number of difficulties were encountered in undertaking the appraisal:

- *Availability and reliability of data.* It is almost impossible to quantify effects with total certainty, and the quality of available data could in some situations lead to spurious accuracy, which should be avoided.
- *Uncertainty.* A number of assumptions underpin the housing growth and employment scenarios, which introduce an element of uncertainty about their likely effect if implemented.
- *Significance.* There are very few agreed sustainability thresholds or constraints, as little work has been done in the UK on this issue. Because of this, it is not always possible to assess the significance of any impacts with certainty.

Despite these limitations and uncertainties, it is still possible to draw conclusions about the overall effects that will result from the Local Plan to 2031.

1.1.10 Monitoring Recommendations

The sustainability appraisal has developed a set of recommendations for monitoring the predicted and unforeseen impacts of implementation of the Local Plan as proposed. These are set out as a series of indicators related to the sustainability appraisal framework based on the likely and possible impacts of the draft Local Plan. The recommended indicators should be incorporated into the Annual Monitoring Report for the Local Plan and are set out in Chapter 11.

1.2 STATEMENT ON THE DIFFERENCE THE PROCESS HAS MADE

To date, the sustainability appraisal has had a number of inputs into the process of developing the Local Plan. As well as informal discussions with officers of Tamworth Borough Council, the appraisal has made formal inputs into the selection and refinement of sites, development management policy for specific sites and the drafting of policy.

Chapter 7 provides more information on how the appraisal has influenced the selection of sites and drafting of development management policy for specific sites.

The following changes have been made to the vision and policies of the Local Plan as a result of the findings and recommendations of the sustainability appraisal.

Table 1.8: Changes to Vision and Policies of the Draft Local Plan

Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes a commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity. • Includes a commitment to flood risk management and reduction and climate change resilience. • Ensures that all resources are used efficiently. • Seeks to protect and improve the quality of the environment across the Borough. • Seeks to encourage sustainable modes of transport and improve transport infrastructure. • Extends the aim to create safer communities to new housing development as well as existing.
Policy CP8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a focus on need for sport and recreation in areas of deprivation
Policy CP9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes recreation for health improvement through protection and use of open spaces. • Promotes biodiversity improvement, flood risk reduction and walking and cycling in open spaces.
Policy CP11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments are required to have regard to the findings of the Extensive Urban Survey
Policy SP9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency is to be maximised in new and existing development • Development should reduce flood risk where appropriate
Policy CP15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires capitalization of opportunities to provide accessible green space and improve biodiversity in Sustainable Drainage Systems

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 OVERVIEW

This report sets out the findings and conclusions of a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the modified Local Plan for Tamworth. Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace the current Tamworth Local Plan 2001-2011 in setting out policies and proposals to guide the future development of the area.

Sustainability Appraisal is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of the Local Plan. Carrying out a Sustainability Appraisal will help Tamworth Borough Council to assess whether, and to what extent, emerging policies and proposals impact upon environmental, social and economic conditions. It also provides a means of identifying and addressing any adverse effects that draft policies and proposals might have and making recommendations for mitigating potential adverse effects or capitalising on opportunities for benefits.

2.2 BACKGROUND

The Local Plan once adopted will be an important part of the development plan; it sets out the Council's vision, strategic objectives and set out specific land use allocations for future development for Tamworth.

Tamworth Borough Council has been in the process of producing a Local Plan since November 2006. Over the subsequent six years, substantial progress was made in developing the draft Local Plan, culminating in submission of the 2006-2028 Local Plan for examination in November 2012. As an integral part of the development of the Local Plan, Council officers carried out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the emerging Local Plan, beginning with the publication of a Scoping Report in 2007 and followed by various iterations of the appraisal of effects of the Plan and publication of SA Reports at the appropriate stages in the Plan development.

The Planning Inspector appointed for the examination had several areas of concern, notably over the lack of suitable land use allocations for housing, employment and town centre uses. To address these concerns the Council proposed to modify the Local Plan by making additional allocations as well as a series of other amendments to the submission Local Plan. In February 2012 the Inspector called an Exploratory Meeting, following which he issued a note recommending that the Council withdraw the Local Plan from examination due to concerns over the potential lack of soundness. The Inspector also referenced recent legal challenges over the Greater Norwich and Forest Heath adopted development plans in relation to Sustainability Appraisal.

A resolution to withdraw the Tamworth Local Plan was made on the 19th March 2013 by decision of the Full Council. Since then, the Council has worked on a modified Local Plan to address the concerns identified through the examination process. The Council has made modifications to the previous Submission Local Plan, in part to add newly allocated sites for housing and employment development and to make amendments and additions to Plan policies. The Council intends to re-submit the Plan for examination in 2014.

The Council has commissioned URSUS Consulting Ltd to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of the modified Local Plan, including the appraisal of allocated sites. As part of the process, an updated

Scoping Report was published for consultation in September 2013¹. A number of comments were received on the content of the Scoping Report, as a result of which some additions and amendments have been made to the baseline data, the policy review, the key issues for Tamworth and the SA appraisal objectives.

2.3 SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The overall aim of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process is to help to ensure that the Local Plan makes an effective contribution to the pursuit of 'sustainable development'. The most widely used definition of this concept is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"².

SA seeks to ensure that the goal of sustainable development, as set out in the 2005 UK Strategy for Sustainable Development³, is achieved. This states that:

"The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations. For the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

2.3.1 Links between Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

In 2001 the EU adopted the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (SEA) that made environmental assessment mandatory for certain plans and programmes prepared by public authorities. This Directive applies to plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment, including issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape. The provisions of the SEA Directive apply to the Tamworth Local Plan.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local authorities to carry out an SA of all emerging Local Development Documents. As the guidance⁴ explaining this requirement makes clear, SA and SEA are similar processes that involve a comparable series of steps. The main difference is that SEA focuses on environmental effects, whereas SA is concerned with the full range of environmental, social and economic matters. The SA process takes the SEA Directive and its requirements fully into account.

2.3.2 Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal

SA forms an integral part of the preparation process of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) as the diagram below shows.

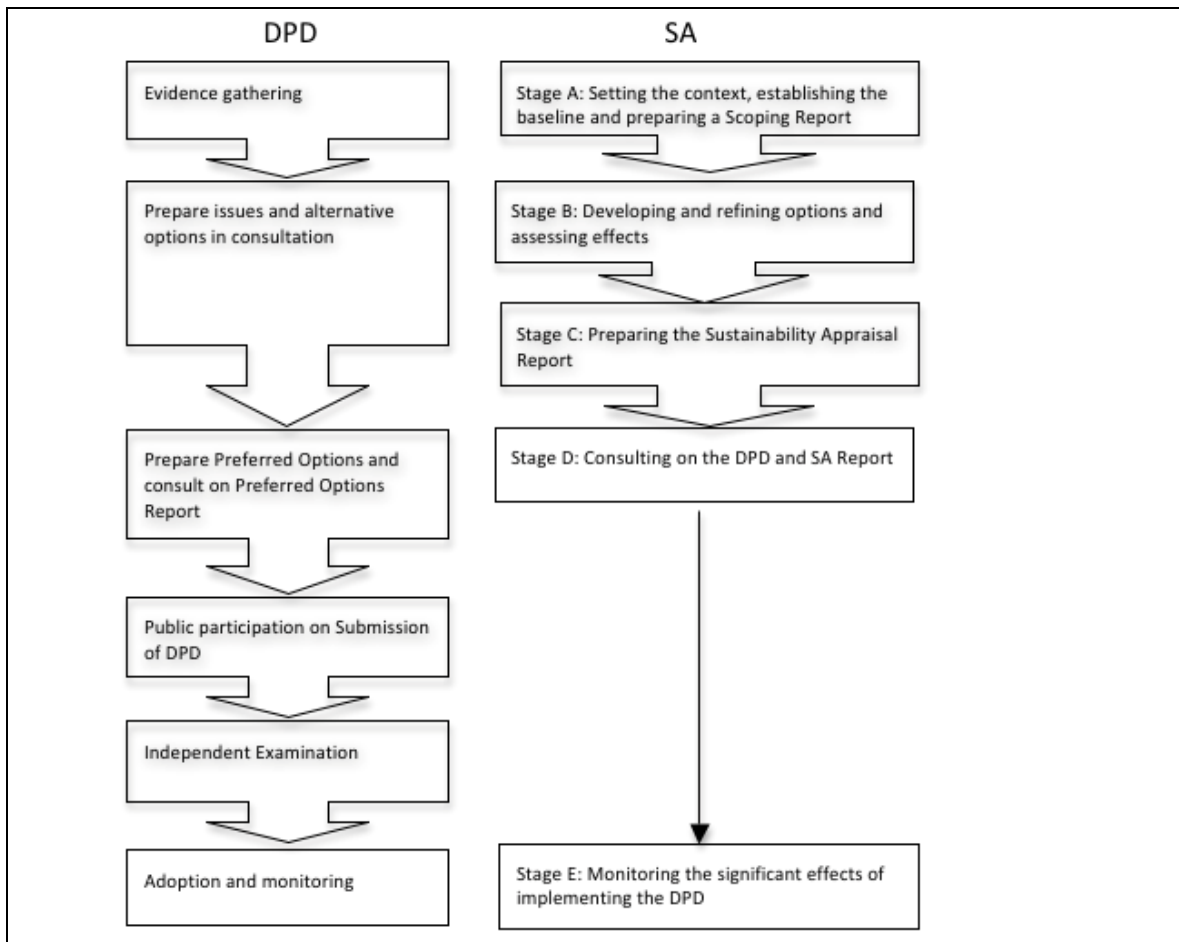
¹ Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report, Tamworth Borough Council, April 2007

² Our Common Future (Brundtland Commission, 1987)

³ Securing the Future, Defra, March 2005

⁴ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

Figure 1.1: The Development Plan preparation process



The process of preparing an SA is made up of stages and specific tasks as detailed in Government guidance¹. This SA Report covers the second two stages of the process, Stages B and C, which include the following tasks. Stage A was the scoping stage, which was undertaken from August to November 2013 and is covered in a Scoping Report² published in September 2013.

Table 2.1: Stages of SA covered by this report

Stage B	Developing and refining options and assessing effects
Task B1	Testing the Local Plan objectives against the SA framework
Task B2	Developing the Local Plan options
Task B3	Predicting the effects of the Local Plan
Task B4	Evaluating the effects of the Local Plan
Task B5	Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
Task B6	Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
Stage C	Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report
Task C1	Preparing the SA Report

¹ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

² Sustainability Appraisal of Local Plan: Scoping Report, URSUS Consulting Ltd, September 2013

This SA Report sets out the results of stages B and C, which have been carried out between October 2013 and February 2014, and includes an appraisal of the draft policies, proposed development allocations, spatial options, housing growth scenarios, employment land scenarios and affordable housing scenarios.

2.4 OUTLINE OF CONTENTS OF THE TAMWORTH DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

The Tamworth Draft Local Plan sets out the spatial planning strategy for the Borough over the period 2006-2031 in terms of the type of development required to meet local community and business needs, its scale and location as well as the policies that will apply to ensure that development is sustainable. It also includes policies to ensure that appropriate supporting infrastructure is delivered and the area's built and natural environment is protected and enhanced.

The Local Plan includes the following:

- A Spatial Portrait, a Vision and Strategic Spatial Priorities
- A Spatial Strategy for Tamworth
- Strategic Policies covering:
 - Town Centre uses including retail, and Employment including office
 - Housing
 - High quality natural and built environment
 - Sustainability
- Land use allocations:
 - Housing
 - Employment
- Proposals for monitoring and implementation

2.5 LINKS TO OTHER PLANS AND POLICIES

The government has published the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), which sets out planning policies for achieving sustainable development. Emphasis has been placed on the importance of ensuring that Local Plan policies contribute to achieving sustainable development, in terms of promoting sustainable economic growth. The Tamworth Local Plan has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

It should be noted that, as part of the Government's ongoing reform of the planning system, the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS)¹ has been revoked under the Localism Act 2011. The Local Plan reflects the NPPF requirement for a locally-derived evidence base, particularly in relation to future housing need. Where considered relevant, working in partnership with neighbouring authorities to discharge the duty to co-operate has resulted in cross-boundary issues being addressed. Both Lichfield District Council and North Warwickshire Borough Council are also in the process of developing their own Local Plans and these have yet to be adopted.

The Tamworth Local Plan is expected to be adopted by 2015 and will replace the existing Local Plan (Adopted in 2006/07)². Further detailed guidance will be included in a limited number of

¹ West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy: Phase Two Revision (2008)

² Tamworth Borough Council - Local Plan 2006-2011 (Adopted July 2006 and Policies Saved in July 2011)

Supplementary Planning Documents which will support the implementation of the Plan. Once it is adopted, planning applications will be determined in accordance with the Local Plan unless other material considerations (including the NPPF) indicate otherwise.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 THE APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

The SA has tested the draft Local Plan against a framework of objectives that reflect relevant sustainable development policy objectives. This framework was developed in the Scoping Report in September 2013, and was subsequently amended following public consultation. This was informed by a review of policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Tamworth Local Plan and by the collection of baseline data for Tamworth, building on the earlier work undertaken for the previous Scoping Report in 2007. These two activities enabled the identification of key issues for Tamworth, and the drawing up of a series of policy objectives for achieving sustainable development in Tamworth.

The review of policies, plans and programmes is set out in Annex A, and the baseline economic, social and environmental conditions in Tamworth are set out in Annex B.

Table 3.1 sets out the framework of objectives that has been used to appraise the Local Plan.

Table 3.1: Sustainability Objectives

	Objectives	Env.	Soc.	Eco.	SEA topic
1.	To meet the housing needs of the whole community, providing affordable, decent, appropriate and sustainably constructed homes in accessible locations.		✓		
2.	To encourage the efficient use of land and soil.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets
3.	To reduce deprivation, including health and income deprivation.	✓	✓	✓	Population, human health
4.	To ensure equal access to community services and facilities.		✓		
5.	To encourage equal access to education, jobs and training.		✓	✓	
6.	To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing accessible green infrastructure, including networks of paths and open spaces, and formal and informal sport and recreation facilities.	✓	✓		Human health, fauna, flora, landscape
7.	To make communities safer by reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.		✓		
8.	To encourage a diverse and competitive economy that will provide sustainable economic growth.			✓	
9.	To protect and enhance historic assets.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage
10.	To encourage high quality and locally distinct places, spaces, buildings and landscapes.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage, landscape
11.	To conserve and enhance biodiversity and	✓	✓	✓	Biodiversity,

	Objectives	Env.	Soc.	Eco.	SEA topic
	geodiversity, sites of nature conservation value and ecological networks.				fauna, flora
12.	To minimise flood risk.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, water
13.	To reduce energy consumption by encouraging energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, material assets
14.	To encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste and water.	✓	✓	✓	Soil, water, landscape
15.	To protect and improve environmental quality including in relation to air, water, land and noise.	✓	✓	✓	Air, water, soil, human health
16.	To make Tamworth town centre the heart of the borough by creating a vibrant and attractive environment.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage
17.	To reduce the need to travel, reduce out-commuting and encourage sustainable modes of transport.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, air, water, human health
18.	To make best use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, air, water, human health

3.2 APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

The appraisal determined the likely effects arising from the Draft Local Plan. This applied largely to the vision, objectives and policies, to a series of options and to the site allocations. The appraisal was done by assessing each element of the Plan against the appraisal objectives in turn and making a largely qualitative assessment, with reference also to the baseline data from the Scoping Report.

In reporting the results of the appraisal, the following symbols have been used to indicate the broad nature of the predicted effect:

- + effect likely to be positive
- effect likely to be negative
- 0 no significant effect
- ? effect unknown

If the appraisal objective was not relevant to the element of the Plan being appraised, no symbol is given.

Multiple symbols have been used (e.g. ++) to indicate a different scale of impact over time, or where the impacts of an option are *substantially* better or worse than others.

The effects were also rated for their significance in terms of the importance for achieving each appraisal objective. Effects were rated as high, medium or low significance, taking account of a number of factors. The factors were:

- the expected scale of the effects or the degree to which the effects are likely to contribute to the achievement of the SA objective in the Borough overall;
- the certainty or probability that the effect is likely to occur as a consequence of the Local Plan;
- whether the effects would be permanent or reversible;
- whether the effect will occur as a direct result of the Local Plan or not, in other words whether the Plan is key for achieving or controlling effects;
- whether the effect is more strongly dependent on other interventions or other factors; and
- how important the objective is to the scope of the Plan.

The assessment of significance is indicated in the tables in this report by colour:

	Not relevant
	No significance
	Medium significance
	High significance

The tables make an assessment of effects over short, medium and long-term timeframes. For this purpose, the SA has assumed the short term to be the first five years of implementation of the Plan, the medium term to be the remaining years of the Plan and the long term to be beyond the life of the Plan. The SA has also assessed the likely significant cumulative effects of the Local Plan in its entirety and in combination with other relevant plans and projects, and considered the interrelationship between effects. The conclusions of this are set out in Chapter 10.

3.3 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

A number of difficulties were encountered in undertaking the appraisal:

- *Data.* A common problem affecting SA is the availability and reliability of data. Although data has been collected to illustrate a number of the conditions and trends relevant to the SA of the Local Plan, some data sets are more useful than others, and some data sets are known to be old, incomplete or unreliable. In some cases, no data is available. It is therefore almost impossible to quantify effects with total certainty, and the quality of available data could in some situations lead to spurious accuracy, which should be avoided.
- *Uncertainty.* A number of assumptions underpin the housing growth and employment scenarios, which introduce an element of uncertainty about their likely effect if implemented. In particular, the type of residents (e.g. age profile) who might occupy new dwellings and the type of employment (e.g. sector) opportunities that might be created both affect the nature of impacts that might result, but are somewhat uncertain. While the Local Plan aims to influence the choices people make about where and how they live and work, ultimately it has little control over behaviours.
- *Significance.* There are very few agreed sustainability thresholds or constraints, as little work has been done in the UK on this issue, although the idea of ‘living within

environmental limits' is increasingly being operationalised. Because of this, it is not always possible to assess the significance of any impacts with certainty.

Despite these limitations and uncertainties, it is still possible to draw conclusions about the overall effects that will result from the Local Plan to 2031.

3.4 COMPLIANCE WITH THE SEA DIRECTIVE AND REGULATIONS

The Local Plan is subject to the requirements of the European Union's Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans & Programmes 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) and the domestic legislation through which the Directive has been transposed into law in England and Wales (the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004 – Statutory Instrument 2004 No. 1633).

The SA of the Local Plan was designed and undertaken so as to meet the legal requirements for the environmental assessment of plans. Throughout the report the term 'Sustainability Appraisal' should be interpreted as encompassing the SA process as required under the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Strategic environmental assessment process as required under the European Directive and domestic Regulations on the environmental assessment of plans and programmes.

The following table indicates the components of the SA Report that make up the Environmental Report, as required by domestic and European law on the environmental assessment of plans.

Table 3.2 Summary Requirements of SEA Directive and Compliance of SA Report

Requirements for Environmental Report	Component of SA Report
a) An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme, and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;	Section 2.4 and 2.5
b) The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme;	Section 5 and Annex B
c) The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;	Section 5.4 and Annexes B, C and D
d) Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC;	Section 5.5
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;	Chapter 4 and Annex A

Requirements for Environmental Report	Component of SA Report
f) The likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;	Chapter 7, Section 8.2.1, Section 9.2.2, Section 9.3.3, Section 9.4.2, Chapter 10
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;	Table 8.2, Annexes C and D
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;	Section 9.2.1, Section 9.3.1, Section 9.4.1, Section 9.5.1, Chapter 3
i) a description of measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Art. 10;	Chapter 11
j) a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings	Section 1.1

Annex A sets out the results of the review of policies, plans and programmes that are relevant to the Tamworth Local Plan. This review has identified the environmental, social and economic policy objectives that define sustainable development policy in the context of Tamworth Borough. The findings of the review have been assessed to ensure that all relevant policy objectives are covered by the SA appraisal framework, so that in undertaking the SA, the Local Plan is tested against all relevant policy objectives to appraise whether and to what extent the Local Plan will achieve or support the achievement of those objectives.

The review of the plans and strategies included in Annex A has highlighted the following issues that need to be considered when drawing up the Sustainability Appraisal framework:

- Access to opportunities, services and facilities¹;
- To protect and enhance the natural environment and biodiversity and maintain and improve landscape character;
- To protect and enhance access to open spaces;
- Limiting and adapting to climate change;
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime;
- Tackle deprivation;
- Promote a diverse and competitive economy;
- Create employment opportunities;
- Importance of education, skills and training;
- Health including such diverse issues as promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing health inequalities;
- Promote good design and local distinctiveness;
- Provide affordable, decent and sustainably constructed homes that meet the needs of all sections of the community;
- Ensure that resources including energy, water, land and soil are used efficiently;
- Protect and enhance the historic and cultural environment;
- Transport including such diverse issues as reducing the need to travel, promoting alternative modes of transport, locating development in accessible locations, reducing congestion, improving the transport infrastructure and improving road safety;
- Improve the quality of the environment including in relation to air, water, land and noise;
- Protect the vitality and viability of centres;
- Reduce waste and promote recycling; and
- Reduce flood risk

¹ Defined as services and access to venues for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community.

5 STATE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TAMWORTH

5.1 PURPOSE

This section describes the significant features and conditions within Tamworth relevant to sustainable development policy and objectives. It provides an overview of the state of the environment, society and the economy in the Borough in the period preceding the development and publication of the Draft Local Plan. The full baseline information which was used to compile this summary is given in Annex B.

The aim of this section of the report is to highlight any significant issues or problems that are affecting Tamworth's economy, its people, or its environment and to outline the way in which the state of the environment, society and the economy might change in the future. The purpose is to set the context within which activities arising out of the Local Plan will take place, so that the significant sustainability issues and the way that those activities might interact with those issues can be better understood. It also enables the SA and the process of developing the Local Plan to identify and focus on those issues that are significant. Moreover, baseline information provides the benchmark against which the effects of policies can be assessed and monitored.

This section of the report incorporates the environmental baseline information requirements that are specified in Schedule 2(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans & Programmes Regulations 2004.

5.2 DIFFICULTIES IN COLLECTING DATA

There are substantial amounts of data available to populate a sustainability baseline for Tamworth. However, in some instances specific data relating to Tamworth was not available. In such cases, where possible, data for the West Midlands region or the country as a whole have been used to indicate the likely situation in Tamworth. In some cases, no data could be found to describe the baseline situation. In particular, there is little data on likely future trends for many issues.

5.3 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

The significant issues that have been identified from a review of the baseline are summarised in the following table. The table also sets out an assessment of how these aspects are likely to evolve in the future without implementation of the Local Plan.

Table 5.1: Summary of baseline data

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution
Population	In 2011 the resident population of Tamworth was recorded as 76,895. It has been estimated that the population of Tamworth will increase to 81,895 by 2021, an increase of 6.5%, with most of the increase occurring	It is uncertain how population might change without implementation of the Local Plan. Without a 5-year supply of land for housing, fewer homes might be built in Tamworth, but it is also

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution
	among the over 64 age group.	possible that developments will still come forward to meet the need for new housing.
Housing	The housing waiting list in Tamworth has been consistently high since 1996/97, albeit with a decline over the past few years. A generally low level of affordable housing supply that has not been sufficient to address the backlog of need has accompanied this. More small homes are required in the future and consideration needs to be given to the needs of an ageing population.	It is uncertain how the provision of housing might change without implementation of the Local Plan. Without a 5-year supply of land for housing, fewer homes might be built in Tamworth, but it is also possible that developments will still come forward to meet the need for new housing. Without the Plan it is less likely that housing of the right type will be delivered, or that enough affordable housing will be provided.
Deprivation	There are several small areas that face issues of deprivation in Tamworth. A number of these areas are concentrated in the Glascote ward. Low income, education and training, lack of employment opportunities and high crime rates are the main problems.	Without implementation of the Local Plan, there may not be delivery of enough employment land to increase job opportunities in Tamworth sufficiently. It is also unlikely that employment opportunities and community facilities will be developed in locations to meet the needs of deprived communities.
Health	Levels of health are similar to the national average. However, there are some small pockets of health deprivation. Obesity rates amongst adults are estimated to be the highest in England, and rates of physical activity are lower than the national average.	Without implementation of the Plan, it is possible that health levels will fall even lower as opportunities to promote cycling and walking will be lost, and it is less likely that new recreational facilities will be delivered to support more active lifestyles.
Open space	A review of open space provision in 2011 showed that at a Borough wide level there is sufficient open space within the Borough, although certain specific parts of the Borough need better provision.	It is unlikely that additional open space will be provided where it is needed, and it is likely that more open space would be lost without the protection afforded by the Plan.
Economy	Many of Tamworth's traditional firms have closed down over the last 20 years. However, while Tamworth remains heavily influenced by the manufacturing sector, service industries such as transport, communication and distribution now also play an important role.	Without implementation of the Local Plan, there may not be delivery of enough employment land to increase job opportunities in Tamworth sufficiently. It is also less likely that the sites would be in the right place to meet the needs of certain sectors (e.g. offices, logistics)
Employment	Tamworth has a low unemployment rate. However, pockets of unemployment are concentrated in certain areas of the town which also experience other forms of deprivation, particularly Glascote and Amington.	Without implementation of the Local Plan, there may not be delivery of enough employment land to increase job opportunities in Tamworth sufficiently. It is also unlikely that employment opportunities will be

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution
		developed in locations to meet the needs of communities with higher unemployment.
Education and qualifications	Schools in Tamworth generally perform below the national average, with high levels of people having no qualifications at all and a very low percentage with high-level qualifications.	The level of education and qualifications is likely to remain unchanged without implementation of the Plan. However, it is possible that insufficient additional school places will be provided, and the opportunity to take a strategic approach to the provision of new school places will be lost.
Historic assets	Tamworth has grown rapidly since the 1960s and is now characterised by modern development. However, it is also an historic town that was once the capital of the Kingdom of Mercia. Tamworth still retains a range of important historic buildings and monuments, which need to be protected. There is also high potential for below-ground archaeological deposits to survive as well as for the extant historic buildings to retain earlier fabric. There are seven Conservation Areas within Tamworth	Without implementation of the Plan, it is more likely that historic assets would be devalued or lost, and the historic character in the Borough eroded. It is more likely that new developments would fail to incorporate measures to enhance the setting of historic assets.
Ecology	Tamworth has two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Alvecote Pools and Meadows, and there are three others nearby in Warwickshire. Most of the Alvecote Pools SSSI is categorised as having an unfavourable but recovering status. The Borough has five Local Nature Reserves 16 Sites of Biological Importance and five Biodiversity Alert Sites (BAS). There are also sites of international importance near Tamworth: Ensors Pool SAC, River Mease SAC, Cannock Extension Canal SAC.	Without the Plan, it is unlikely that opportunities for creating or enhancing ecological networks will be realised, and action at a landscape scale is unlikely to be taken. Designated sites are likely to come under increasing pressure from development or may be lost or devalued.
Water quality	Two rivers, the Tame and the Anker, flow through the borough. Within and downstream of the borough, levels of nitrates are classed as 'very high' and phosphates are 'excessively high'. There is therefore a need to improve the nutrient status of surface waters through the Borough.	Water quality is likely to continue to improve without implementation of the Plan as a result of other positive policies on water quality, most notably the Water Framework Directive.
Water supply and wastewater treatment	According to South Staffordshire Water's Final Water Resource Management Plan, there is enough water available to meet annual housing growth of 145 dwellings per annum (dpa) with efficiency measures, but there is insufficient resource within the supply area to meet the higher scenarios for development considered, namely 159.5 dpa and 188.5 dpa, especially the higher of these two scenarios. Tamworth wastewater treatment works will require quality	The effect of not having the Local Plan on water supply and wastewater infrastructure is uncertain. The most likely effect is that development will not be well-planned or well-timed, which could make it difficult to meet the infrastructure needs of new development. It is also likely that developments would come forward on sites that are not well-suited to making the best use of existing infrastructure

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution
	improvements in order to accommodate the proposed development.	or place additional strains on networks.
Air quality	Although Tamworth currently has no Air Quality Management Areas, nitrogen dioxide might exceed the standards at the A5 Dosthill, Two Gates Crossroads.	The likely future change in air quality without implementation of the Plan is uncertain. The likely location of development is unknown and therefore future travel patterns are uncertain. Improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure may still be delivered through other plans and programmes and therefore car travel may still reduce.
Flood risk	Tamworth has been classified as having a high probability of fluvial flood risk and a high consequence of fluvial flooding. The Borough is also identified as having a medium probability of residual flooding from the overtopping/breaching of flood defences, with a high predicted consequence. A significant proportion of Tamworth's land is at risk of flooding.	The likely change in flood risk without implementation of the Plan is uncertain. The NPPF contains policy guidance on managing flood risk in relation to development, although with climate change the risk of flooding is likely to increase nevertheless.
Climate change	Emissions of carbon dioxide are fairly low in Tamworth compared with the rest of Staffordshire and England as a whole, and have declined in recent years. However, the level of renewable energy generated in Tamworth is low compared to Staffordshire as a whole.	Without implementation of the Plan, opportunities to further reduce emissions of greenhouse gases will be lost, such as the creation of accessible green infrastructure networks, creation of sustainable transport infrastructure and generation of renewable energy within development.
Waste	Tamworth has achieved a moderately high recycling rate due to improvements in recent years. In 2011/12 49% of waste collected by Tamworth Borough Council was sent for recycling, compared to an average of 42% for England as a whole.	Waste management is likely to continue to improve in Tamworth, through the implementation of the Waste Strategy. Recycling rates are likely to rise and the amount of waste landfilled should fall.
Land and soil	A significant part of Tamworth Borough is already urbanised, and there is a shortage of developable open space. Tamworth has in the past been an important area for mineral extraction, and still contains mineral reserves of potential value. The town is surrounded by agricultural land, much of which is of relatively poor quality but some is higher quality. Tamworth has a Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site at Dosthill Church Quarry.	It is uncertain how land use might change without implementation of the Local Plan. Without a 5-year supply of land for housing, fewer homes might be built in Tamworth, but it is also possible that developments will still come forward to meet the need for new housing. Without the Plan it is possible that more developments would come forward on greenfield land than on previously developed land within the urban area.
Retail	Tamworth town centre consists of a large number of small retail units, which are largely	Without the Plan, it is likely that the town centre's vitality and viability will

Issue	Key Findings	Likely Evolution
	occupied by small independent or specialist retailers rather than large national multiple chain retailers. A number of out of town centre retail parks are situated close to the town centre and occupy a larger retail floor space than the town centre. There are concerns that the town centre's vitality and viability could decline in the short term as it faces strong competition from the retail parks	reduce still further, leading to continued decline.
Leisure and culture	Existing leisure provision in Tamworth is generally adequate to meet the needs of local residents. However, there is an identified requirement for a new swimming pool and sports hall. There is also a need for additional café and restaurant provision in the town centre. Tamworth has a range of attractions including the Snowdome, Tamworth Castle, the Assembly Rooms and Arts Centre and Arts Centre, and shops in the town centre and at Ventura Retail Park.	Without implementation of the Plan, it is less likely that the additional sports facilities would be provided and less incentive to improve the café and restaurant provision in the town centre.
Transport	There is a dependence on the car to travel to work. A large proportion of the workforce out-commute from Tamworth to their employment. Tamworth has good connections to the national road and rail transport networks and is well-served by a local bus network. There is congestion during the morning peak on Ashby Road heading in to Tamworth.	Transport infrastructure is likely to improve without the Local Plan through measures in the Local Transport Plan and the Town Centre Masterplan. Walking and cycling is likely to increase, and safety will improve. Schemes will encourage commuting by public transport rather than car, and the highway network will be managed to reduce congestion.

The baseline information has been analysed in order to identify a number of key sustainability issues affecting Tamworth. This has then been compared with the outcomes identified through the policy review, to ensure that the appraisal framework also covers the key sustainability issues arising from the policy review.

Table 5.2 lists the key sustainability issues that have been identified.

Table 5.2: Sustainability issues for Tamworth

1.	A growing and ageing population
2.	Lack of affordable and specialist housing
3.	Limited supply of land and buildings for future development
4.	Deprivation hotspots
5.	Inequalities including health and employment
6.	Health problems associated with obesity and low levels of physical activity
7.	Need to protect and enhance parks and open/green spaces
8.	Need to support diverse and competitive economy
9.	Below average qualifications
10.	An historic environment that needs protecting

11.	Important natural habitats and open spaces that need conserving and enhancing
12.	High flood risk in parts of the borough
13.	Need to tackle pollution, especially water quality
14.	Low levels of renewable energy generation
15.	A town centre in need of improvement
16.	Meeting the leisure, cultural, community and recreational needs of Tamworth, especially those of children and young people
17.	A high proportion of local people travel to work by car
18.	A high proportion of local people out-commute for work
19.	Localised traffic congestion
20.	Accessibility and availability of sustainable modes of transport
21.	Maintaining and enhancing landscape and townscape character

5.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF AREAS LIKELY TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED

Tamworth is a very small borough. The boundaries are fairly tightly drawn around the developed urban area with only a limited amount of undeveloped green space around the town that sits within the Borough boundary. The draft Local Plan proposes significant amounts of non-urban green space for development, up to the boundary of Tamworth Borough, as well as policies which affect the Borough as a whole and specific parts of the Borough such as Regeneration Priority Areas. As such, the areas likely to be significantly affected can be considered to be the Borough as a whole. The characteristics of the Borough are set out in detail in Annex B and summarised in Section 5.3. The characteristics of specific allocated sites are set out in Annexes C and D.

5.5 AREAS OF PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE

There are three sites of international nature conservation importance within 20km of Tamworth. These sites have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive¹ and are as follows:

- Ensors Pool SAC, which is 19.5km away from the centre of Tamworth;
- River Mease SAC, which is 4.5km from the nearest part of Tamworth Borough and 8km from the centre of Tamworth;
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC, which is 19km away from the centre of Tamworth.²

Cannock Chase SAC is over 20km from Tamworth.

5.5.1 River Mease SAC

The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site. The SSSI assessment report undertaken in 2007 notes the site's adverse condition and identifies the following issues: drainage, invasive freshwater species, water pollution – agriculture/run-off, water pollution –

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

² MAGIC Interactive Mapping, <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

discharge. Significant new development could take place within the catchment as a result of new housing and employment development in North-West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs which may impact upon water quality and quantity. The continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use.

The quality and importance of the SAC is based on the following species and habitats:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation for which the area is considered to support a significant presence
- *Austropotamobius pallipes* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.
- *Cobitis taenia* for which this is one of only four known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom.
- *Cottus gobio* for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.
- *Lutra lutra* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

5.5.2 Cannock Extension Canal SAC

The population of *Luronium natans* in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used, the abundant growth of other aquatic macrophytes may shade-out the *Luronium natans* unless routinely controlled by cutting. An increase in recreational activity would be to the detriment of *Luronium natans*. Existing discharges of surface water run-off, principally from roads, cause some reduction in water quality.

The quality and importance of the SAC is based on the following species:

- *Luronium natans* for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

5.5.3 Ensor's Pool SAC

The crayfish population has developed in a flooded brick-pit that has been abandoned for fifty years. The area was unmanaged and was used as *de facto* public open space. The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access. To address this, since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

The quality and importance of the SAC is based on the following species:

- *Austropotamobius pallipes* for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

5.5.4 Cannock Chase SAC

Much of Cannock Chase falls within a popular and well-used Country Park. Visitor pressures include dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering, all of which cause disturbance and result in erosion, new track creation and vegetation damage. Bracken invasion is significant, but is being controlled. Birch and pine scrub, much of the latter from surrounding commercial plantations, is continually invading the site and has to be controlled. High visitor usage and the fact that a significant proportion of the site is Common Land, requiring Secretary of State approval before fencing can take place, means that the reintroduction of sustainable management in the form of livestock grazing has many problems. Cannock Chase overlies coal measures which have been deep-mined. Mining fissures continue

to appear across the site even though mining has ceased and this is thought to detrimentally affect site hydrology. Furthermore the underlying Sherwood Sandstone is a major aquifer with water abstracted for public and industrial uses and the effects of this on the wetland features of the Chase are not fully understood.

The quality and importance of the SAC is based on the following species and habitats:

- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.
- European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United

5.5.5 Habitats Regulations Assessment

A Habitats Regulations Assessment was carried out in 2012¹ to investigate the potential impacts of development arising from the emerging Lichfield and Tamworth Local Plans. This concluded that no significant impacts were likely on the River Mease SAC, the Cannock Extension Canal SAC or Ensor's Pool SAC from the development of 2900 homes within Tamworth. However, it did conclude that there may be effects on the Cannock Chase SAC arising from strategic allocations within Tamworth i.e those of over 100 dwellings, and advised that these will need to incorporate a visitor impact strategy.

An email communication from Natural England to Tamworth Borough Council on 10th January 2014 advised that the updated Local plan is outside the zone of influence (15km) for Cannock Chase SAC and concluded that mitigation for recreational pressure will not be required and hence alternative recreational green space will not be necessary. It further advised that it could not be concluded that no likely significant effects will occur to the River Mease SAC and asked for a Habitats Regulations Assessment to be carried out.

The Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study has identified issues relating to the wastewater treatment works where the Mease is the receiving watercourse. However, the Mease is not the receiving watercourse for the Tamworth Wastewater Treatment Works, which discharges into the Tame. The River Tame then flows north to join the Trent about 500m upstream of where the Mease joins the Trent. An email from Severn Trent Water on 30 January 2014 confirms that the area within Tamworth Borough does not interact with the River Mease.

The HRA has been updated to reflect the changes from the withdrawn Local Plan and also the recent information and positions from Natural England and Severn Trent Water.

¹ Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough, May 2012

6 APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of developing the SA framework is to provide a means by which the sustainability of policies or proposals contained in the Local Plan can be appraised in a formal and systematic manner. The SA framework consists of a set of sustainability objectives with which the Local Plan should comply or which it should support where possible. The framework is thereby used as a tool with which assesses the likely sustainability effects of the Local Plan, by appraising the extent to which the Local Plan complies with or supports each policy objective.

6.2 METHODOLOGY

Various environmental, social and economic issues have been identified through reviewing a wide variety of plans and strategies (Task A1), collecting baseline information (Task A2) and identifying sustainability issues and problems (Task A3). These issues have informed the development of the sustainability objectives.

6.3 OUTCOMES

The sustainability objectives are listed in **Table 6.1** below. The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to ensure that the policies and proposals contained in a Local Development Document contribute to the pursuit of sustainable development. To achieve this, the sustainability objectives need to deal with environmental, social and economic issues and problems. To ensure that the sustainability objectives cover environmental, social and economic issues, they have been categorised into these three strands of sustainable development. However, many (if not most) of these objectives do not fit neatly into one category, but straddle two or all three. Each objective has also been assessed against the SEA Directive to ensure that all environmental topics referred to in the SEA Directive are covered.

Table 6.1: Sustainability Objectives

	Objectives	Env.	Soc.	Eco.	SEA topic
1.	To meet the housing needs of the whole community, providing affordable, decent, appropriate and sustainably constructed homes in accessible locations.		✓		
2.	To encourage the efficient use of land and soil.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets
3.	To reduce deprivation, including health and income deprivation.	✓	✓	✓	Population, human health
4.	To ensure equal access to community services and facilities.		✓		
5.	To encourage equal access to education, jobs and training.		✓	✓	

6.	To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing accessible green infrastructure, including networks of paths and open spaces, and formal and informal sport and recreation facilities.	✓	✓		Human health, fauna, flora, landscape
7.	To make communities safer by reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.		✓		
8.	To encourage a diverse and competitive economy that will provide sustainable economic growth.			✓	
9.	To protect and enhance historic assets.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage
10.	To encourage high quality and locally distinct places, spaces, buildings and landscapes.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage, landscape
11.	To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, sites of nature conservation value and ecological networks.	✓	✓	✓	Biodiversity, fauna, flora
12.	To minimise flood risk.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, water
13.	To reduce energy consumption by encouraging energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, material assets
14.	To encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste and water.	✓	✓	✓	Soil, water, landscape
15.	To protect and improve environmental quality including in relation to air, water, land and noise.	✓	✓	✓	Air, water, soil, human health
16.	To make Tamworth town centre the heart of the borough by creating a vibrant and attractive environment.	✓	✓	✓	Material assets, cultural heritage
17.	To reduce the need to travel, reduce out-commuting and encourage sustainable modes of transport.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, air, water, human health
18.	To make best use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety.	✓	✓	✓	Climatic factors, air, water, human health

7 APPRAISAL OF SITES

7.1 METHODOLOGY

The housing and employment sites that have been identified and allocated in the draft Local Plan have been subject to SA. The sites have been appraised against the SA objectives in the appraisal framework and an assessment made of the likely significant effects of development at each site. Recommendations have been made for ways in which the predicted negative effects could be mitigated and for capitalising on opportunities for benefits.

The SA of sites has been an iterative process. Tamworth Borough Council officers provided a long list of potential sites in August 2013 and these were appraised against the appraisal framework. A paper was prepared in October 2013 setting out the results of the appraisal and making mitigation recommendations where possible. Following this, the list of sites was refined and some sites were dropped from further consideration, either because of likely deliverability or because the SA had identified some issues which were either insurmountable or sufficiently negative as to not justify allocation of the site.

In undertaking the SA of sites, reference has been made to publicly available data on local conditions in the vicinity of sites. The SA has also drawn on representations received by Tamworth Borough Council in the recent consultation on sites with selected stakeholders including Environment Agency, Staffordshire County Council (Environmental Specialists, Education, Highways, Flood Drainage), Highways Agency, Natural England, Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and adjoining local authorities.

The remaining sites have been allocated in the draft Local Plan and development management policy has been drafted for each site to address the predicted effects. The sites have then been subject to further SA in late 2013 and early 2014 to take into account the effect that the mitigation contained within the development control policies would have on the likely significant effects to improve the impact of development. The findings of this second SA of sites are set out in detail in Annex C, and summarised **Table 7.1** and **Table 7.2** below.

Annex C also shows the results of the SA of the sites which have been dropped from further consideration, including the green belt sites. It should be noted that in Annex C, the sites which have been dropped from further consideration do not generally perform as well in the appraisal as the sites which have been allocated. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, in many cases the sites have been rejected in part precisely because they do not perform as well in sustainability terms and generally have more significant constraints on them. Secondly, development management policy has been drafted for the allocated sites to address the predicted effects and therefore mitigation has been built into the policy. No mitigation has been developed for the sites which have been rejected.

The main issues that have arisen are in relation to the historic environment, flood risk, biodiversity, water supply, loss of greenfield land and sports provision.

For almost all the allocated sites, some residual recommendations are made for mitigating adverse effects, addressing uncertainties or for capitalising on opportunities for benefits. Details of these are given in Annex C.

Colour has been used in **Table 7.1** and **Table 7.2** and in the tables in Annexes C and D. This has the following meaning:

Colour	Meaning
	Development likely to result in major positive impacts.
	Development likely to result in minor positive impacts.
	No impacts or neutral impacts
	Development could result in minor adverse impacts, or mitigation could be possible to allow development to proceed.
	Development could result in major adverse impacts and mitigation may not be possible.

Table 7.1: Summary of Sustainability Appraisal of housing sites

Site ID	341	343	344	347	348	349	357	376	377	399	405	467	488	496	507	508	509	521	541	558	DL	CL	GC	AV
Housing	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	++	+	+		++	++	++	+	++	++	++	++
Land use	++	-	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	-	++	++	+/-	++		++	-	++	++	-	-	-	-
Deprivation																								
Access to services and facilities																								
Access to education, jobs and training																								
Active lifestyles																								-
Crime																								
Diverse and competitive economy																								
Historic assets				+	+	+	+	+	+													--	-	
High quality places						+				-												-	-	-
Biodiversity										+	?											-	-	-
Flood risk		?		?		?					?		?						?	?		?	-	-
Energy																								
RRR waste and water																								--
Air, water, land, noise	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?							?	?	?	?	?	?	--
Town centre																								
Travel		++	++	++		++	++				-				++	++	++	++					-	
Transport infrastructure																								

Table 7.2: Summary of SA of employment sites

SA objective	Site ID	EMP1	EMP2	EMP7	EMP8	EMP9	EMP10	EMP26	EMP30	EMP33	EMP34
Housing											
Land use		--	--	-	--	++	-		=	--	++
Deprivation											
Access to services and facilities											
Access to education, jobs and training							+		+		+
Active lifestyles											-
Crime											
Diverse and competitive economy		++	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Historic assets		+									
High quality places											
Biodiversity		?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	-/+
Flood risk											
Energy											
RRR waste and water											
Air, water, land, noise		?	--	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Town centre											
Travel											
Transport infrastructure		?			?	?					

A number of cumulative impacts have been identified where development at two or more sites could have impacts which when acting together are likely to be significant. These are described in the following table.

Table 7.3: Cumulative impacts arising from allocated sites

Issue	Sites	Likely significant impacts
Sewage treatment capacity	All	Whilst comparison of current measured dry weather flow against the consented dry weather flow indicates that there is significant hydraulic capacity this sewage works there is some concern regarding the capacity of the filter process. However should additional treatment capacity be required to accommodate the significant levels of development being proposed to the north of Tamworth then no issues are envisaged in dealing with future growth demand.
Air quality	344, 354, 357, 504, 521, 547, 589, 600, 606, 693	Could reduce air quality at Two Gates crossroads.
Sewerage infrastructure capacity	343, 399, 344, 341, 357, 496, 507, 508, 509, 521	May have an impact on the current capacity of the sewer network. Hydraulic modelling will be required to assess the impacts of proposed developments.
	347, 348, 349, 488, 558	May affect known sewer flooding problems downstream.
Historic assets	394, 528, 529	The proposed allocations may have a cumulative impact on the Hopwas Conservation Area and two listed bridges to the south.
Biodiversity	DL, CL, GC, AV, 405, EMP1, EMP2, EM7, EMP33	Surveys should be carried out to determine whether water voles or otters are present.
Flood risk	DL, CL, GC, AV	Could collectively have an impact on flood risk through loss of large amounts of permeable land. However, there is no evidence to indicate how much greenfield land could be lost without any adverse effects on flood risk.

8 APPRAISAL OF POLICY

8.1 METHODOLOGY

The appraisal determined the likely effects arising from the draft Local Plan. This applied largely to the vision, objectives and policies and to a series of options. This was done by assessing each element of the Plan against the appraisal objectives in turn and making a largely qualitative assessment, with reference also to the baseline data from the Scoping Report.

In reporting the results of the appraisal, the following symbols have been used to indicate the broad nature of the predicted effect:

+	effect likely to be positive
-	effect likely to be negative
0	no significant effect
?	effect unknown

If the appraisal objective was not relevant to the element of the Plan being appraised, no symbol is given.

Multiple symbols have been used (e.g. ++) to indicate a different scale of impact over time, or where the impacts of an option are *substantially* better or worse than others.

The effects were also rated for their significance in terms of the importance for achieving each appraisal objective. Effects were rated as high, medium or low significance, taking account of a number of factors. The factors were:

- the expected scale of the effects or the degree to which the effects are likely to contribute to the achievement of the SA objective in the Borough overall;
- the certainty or probability that the effect is likely to occur as a consequence of the Local Plan;
- whether the effects would be permanent or reversible;
- whether the effect will occur as a direct result of the Local Plan or not, in other words whether the Plan is key for achieving or controlling effects;
- whether the effect is more strongly dependent on other interventions or other factors; and
- how important the objective is to the scope of the Plan.

The assessment of significance is indicated in the tables in this report by colour:

	Not relevant
	No significance
	Medium significance
	High significance

8.2 APPRAISAL OF VISION AND POLICIES

The findings of the appraisal are set out in detail in Annex E. The table below summarises those findings for the draft Plan’s vision and policies.

Table 8.1: Summary of appraisal of vision and policies

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
V	+	0	+	+	+	+	+/0	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	?/+	+
SP1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	+/?	+
SP2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	0	0	0	+/?	+	+/?	+/?
SP3	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	?				+		+	+
CP1	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	0	+	0				+	+	+	+
SP4		+/-	+		+	+		+	0		+	+			+	+	+/-	+
CP2	+	+	+		0	+		+	+		+	+	+	+	+		+/?	+
CP3		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0			+	+	+	+
SP7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	?		+		+		+	+
CP4																		
CP5	+																	
CP6	+	+								+								
CP7	+			+		+				0					0		+	+
SP8		+				+			+	+	+	+			+		+	
CP8		+	+	+		+												
CP9		+				+				+	+	+			+		+	+
CP10	+						+	+	+	+					+		0	
CP11								+	+	+						+		
CP12						+				+	+	+			+			
SP9	+	+	+	+	+	+		+			0	+	+	0	+/?	+	+/-	+
CP13	+					+	+	+		0					+	+	+/0	+
CP14	+	+				+							+	+	+	+	+	
CP15		+				+					+	+			+	+		
CP16			+	+	+			+									+	

8.2.1 Description of Effects

The Local Plan has a clear and strong focus on meeting the housing needs of all sections of the community. It seeks to provide affordable, high quality homes of a mix of types to meet a range of needs, and requires these to be sustainably designed and constructed. The Plan promotes energy efficiency and the generation of renewable and low carbon energy in new developments. Water efficiency is to be maximised, and development must support the Tamworth Waste Strategy to reduce waste and increase recycling. Developments must be designed to create safer communities, which should help to support a reduction in crime and may go a little way to reduce anti-social behaviour although this is also driven by a range of other factors.

A clear aim is to provide homes in accessible locations to minimise the need to travel and maximise the use of sustainable modes of transport. By promoting development in the town centre, the Plan will help to make use of existing transport infrastructure, and it also seeks improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure which will help to reduce congestion and

improve safety. It will also support the accessibility of community facilities and services through promoting development in the town centre, and supports the creation of a vibrant and attractive town centre. The provision of sustainable transport choices is also promoted in the Strategic Urban Extensions, as is the provision of community facilities and services to ensure accessibility and reduce the need to travel.

In supporting sustainable transport improvements, the Local Plan encourages the creation and improvement of green and blue infrastructure links to encourage cycling and walking throughout the Borough, and particularly between the town centre and other neighbourhoods and to the countryside beyond. Such links are also required within new developments. As well as promoting sustainable transport choices to reduce reliance on the car and promote active and healthy lifestyles, these networks will also contribute to strengthening a distinct identity for Tamworth, and may help to facilitate the movement of species and assist in reducing flood risk. They will also contribute to creating an attractive urban landscape. Healthy lifestyles will also be encouraged through the provision of new formal and informal recreation facilities and the protection and enhancement of open spaces.

The second aspect of Tamworth's distinct identity is its historic environment. The Plan affords strong protection to its historic assets and promotes their enhancement, and requires development to be sympathetic to those assets. This again will help to create an attractive urban landscape, and will support the town's tourism offer, leading to increased job opportunities and a stronger economy.

The Local Plan encourages economic growth by protecting the Strategic Employment Areas and allocating new areas for economic development that are accessible by sustainable modes of transport. This should help to reduce deprivation by increasing job opportunities in Tamworth, particularly if done in conjunction with increasing education and training provision in deprived areas. This will help to reduce income deprivation and should also indirectly support a reduction in health deprivation. The improvement of access to community services should assist in this. By targeting regeneration areas for housing and economic development, the Plan will directly address deprivation and help to improve the urban environment. A direct aim of the Plan is to reduce out-commuting, although this may be increased by the improvement of links to Birmingham and other inter-urban routes.

The Plan explicitly requires development to make an efficient use of land. By focusing development in the Borough's centres and promoting employment uses on existing employment sites, the Plan will help to promote the reuse of previously developed land and reduce the use of greenfield land and agricultural land, thereby indirectly helping to protect soils. An efficient use of land will be supported by the requirement for medium-high density development. The emphasis in Tamworth has been to bring forward as much brownfield land as possible for development, nevertheless over three quarters of the area of the allocated new employment sites are on greenfield land.

The Plan explicitly requires the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity, and promotes opportunities to enhance biodiversity through habitat creation and restoration. It also requires development to create and reinforce links between existing biodiversity sites and with semi-natural habitats. By requiring the protection and enhancement of open spaces and green infrastructure including network features, the Plan may help to conserve and enhance

biodiversity and ecological networks, but this is dependent on the quality of the open spaces and the nature of any enhancement work.

The Plan addresses flood risk by requiring proposals for development in flood risk areas to provide a Flood Risk Assessment and to include mitigation measures. Development will be resisted in these areas where appropriate and necessary and the Plan states that development will be expected to be located outside areas at high risk of flooding. Development must not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere and policy is included to manage and reduce flood risk. Site allocations require flood risk to be assessed and appropriately managed to reduce risk.

The Plan explicitly requires the protection of water quality and requires the quality of canals and rivers to be enhanced. The enhancement of blue infrastructure will help to support this policy. Air quality will be protected and enhanced by promotion of sustainable transport infrastructure. Improving junctions on the A5 may help to increase the flow of traffic at these junctions, which may help to reduce air pollution or may increase it if traffic levels rise as a result. By requiring the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the Plan is likely to contribute to the improvement of environmental quality in relation to air, water and land. It may also make a contribution to reducing noise through the protection and enhancement of open spaces and reducing reliance on the private car.

8.2.2 Mitigation

The following recommendations have been made for changes to the vision and policies in order to mitigate predicted adverse effects of the draft Plan, or to capitalise on opportunities for benefits. All these recommendations have been taken on board and incorporated into the Draft Local Plan. There are no outstanding recommendations for the vision and policies of the Plan.

Table 8.2: Mitigation recommendations

Policy	Recommended mitigation
Vision	<p>Extend the aim to achieve safer living conditions to new housing development.</p> <p>Include a commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity in the vision.</p> <p>Include a commitment to reduce flood risk and promote climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Include a commitment to promoting the efficient use of resources.</p> <p>Include a clearer commitment to improving the quality of the environment across the Borough.</p> <p>Include a commitment to promoting sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Include a commitment to improving infrastructure for sustainable transport modes.</p>
CP8	<p>Include a focus on areas of deprivation to address the needs of deprived areas for access to sport and recreation facilities.</p>
CP9	<p>Include requirements to support informal recreation in open spaces where appropriate.</p> <p>Promote opportunities to increase connectivity of open spaces and secure biodiversity gains.</p> <p>Promote opportunities to use open space provision to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>Require measures to promote walking and cycling in open spaces, through provision of infrastructure, improved connectivity and safety measures.</p>
CP11	<p>Require regard to be had to the findings of the Extensive Urban Survey.</p>
SP9	<p>Require developments to incorporate measures to reduce flood risk where there are</p>

Policy	Recommended mitigation
	<p>appropriate opportunities.</p> <p>Promote energy efficiency measures in retro-fitting of existing development.</p> <p>Include supporting text to indicate how the efficient use of land is to be achieved.</p>
CP15	<p>Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for creating/protecting accessible recreational green space.</p> <p>Require developments to capitalise on opportunities for improvement in biodiversity value.</p>

8.3 COMPATIBILITY CHECK OF OBJECTIVES

Government guidance recommends that the SA should undertake a compatibility analysis between the objectives of the Local Plan and the SA appraisal objectives. This has been done and the results are set out in Table 8.4 below.

The purpose of this exercise is to determine whether the objectives of the Local Plan will contribute to sustainable development, and to identify any potential incompatibilities between the objectives of the Plan and sustainable development policy objectives. To do this, the Plan objectives have been compared with each of the SA appraisal objectives and an assessment made of the likelihood that the Plan will contribute to the achievement of each objective for sustainable development.

Table 8.3: Strategic spatial objectives of draft Local Plan

SO1	Making the most efficient and sustainable use of the Borough's limited supply of land and recognising that an element of future development will be provided by neighbouring authorities.
SO2	To make Tamworth Town Centre a priority for regeneration to create a safe and attractive place for residents, businesses and visitors by strengthening and diversifying the town centre offer, optimising retail, leisure and housing development opportunities and increasing its liveability and by making the most of the town's tourism and cultural offer, thus creating a positive image for the borough.
SO3	Working in partnership with economic stakeholders to create a diverse local economy, including regeneration of employment areas and provide appropriate education and training that will provide local job opportunities that will reduce the need for residents to travel outside of the Borough.
SO4	To facilitate the provision of convenient and accessible services and community infrastructure across the Borough, particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods where initiatives that provide additional support, information and services to residents will be encouraged and supported.
SO5	To provide a range of affordable, adaptable and high quality housing that meets the needs of Tamworth residents.
SO6	To ensure that appropriate infrastructure, including ICT, is in place to support the delivery of development across the borough.
SO7	To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing a network of high quality, accessible green and blue linkages and open spaces and formal indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that meet identified need and link neighbourhoods to each other and the wider countryside.
SO8	To protect and enhance statutory and non-statutory areas of nature conservation, ecological networks and landscape value on the doorstep of Tamworth residents, for their biodiversity, geological, historical and visual value and for the opportunities they provide for education and

	leisure.
SO9	To protect and enhance historic assets by ensuring that proposals for change respect the historic character of the borough including street layout, surviving historic buildings, street furniture, archaeology and open spaces.
SO10	To create safe, high quality places that deliver sustainable neighbourhoods and reflect Tamworth's small-scale and domestic character using a blend of traditional and innovative design techniques.
SO11	To minimise the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change by encouraging high standards of energy efficiency, sustainable use of resources and use of low carbon/renewable energy technologies.
SO12	To promote sustainable transport modes for all journeys by improving walking, cycling and public transport facilities throughout the Borough and to neighbouring areas and beyond.

Table 8.4: Compatibility of strategic spatial priorities with SA objectives

SA Objective	Strategic Spatial Priorities											
	SO1	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12
1.					✓					✓	✓	
2.	✓	✓										
3.			✓	✓								
4.				✓								
5.			✓	✓								
6.							✓	✓				✓
7.		✓								✓		
8.		✓	✓									✓
9.									✓			
10.		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
11.							✓	✓			✓	
12.							?	?			?	
13.											✓	
14.					?					?	✓	
15.							?	✓		?		✓
16.		✓							✓			✓
17.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓
18.		✓	✓			✓	✓					✓

No incompatibilities between SA objectives and the Strategic Spatial Priorities were found. Almost all the SA objectives were addressed in the Strategic Spatial Priorities, ensuring that the Local Plan will support the SA objectives. Only in the case of the objective to minimise flood risk was there no clear indication that this would be a priority for the Local Plan. Strategic Spatial Priorities SO7, SO8 and SO11 may indirectly contribute to reducing flood risk, but there is no explicit objective to do so. Priority SO11 seeks to minimise the causes and adapt to the effects of climate change, and this could be enhanced by including a reference to the need to minimise flood risk, particularly as it is a significant issue for Tamworth.

9 APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The SA is required to appraise the impacts of the Local Plan and of reasonable alternatives to it. In developing the Local Plan, a number of different types of options have been considered. These fall into the following categories:

- Spatial options;
- Housing growth scenarios;
- Employment scenarios;
- Affordable housing scenarios

Within each group of options or scenarios, several different options/scenarios have been developed. Each of these has been appraised against the SA objectives of the appraisal framework. A description of the options/scenarios, the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with and the findings of the appraisal are set out in the following sections.

9.2 SPATIAL OPTIONS

9.2.1 Description of Spatial Options

The following options have been developed as alternatives to the proposed spatial strategy. These spatial options select different combinations of sites to deliver the new housing development, resulting in different approaches to locating development around the Borough.

Option 1: Urban area and Anker Valley

This option was chosen as it was the proposed strategy within the withdrawn Local Plan and was in line with the adopted Local Plan. This option is the 'baseline' and subsequent options for appraisal are built on this.

Option 2: Urban area, Anker Valley and the Golf Course

This builds on option 1 and is seen as expanding the borough to the east. It was agreed at a Cabinet meeting of the Council in May 2013 to look at options of disposal for the Golf Course, one option being for housing development. Therefore this is a reasonable option to consider. The Golf Course is close to existing employment areas. It is removed from the Town Centre, but sustainable transport linkages have the potential to be improved.

Option 3: Urban area, Anker Valley and green belt locations

This is seen as expanding the borough to the south. Green belt has been considered as there is active promotion of some sites from landowners. The sites are detached from the town centre and no large employment areas are close by. There are biodiversity and geodiversity sites within the Green Belt, as well as landfill and mineral safeguarding sites and in many areas the topography of the land would be very challenging to develop.

Option 4: Urban area, Anker Valley and Dunstall Lane

This is seen as expanding the borough to the west. Dunstall Lane has historic planning permission for employment use that was implemented but never completed. The NPFF states that employment land not coming forward should be considered for future housing options. This area is close to existing employment areas, retail destination and the town centre. Sustainable transport linkages have the potential to be improved by utilising existing public rights of way, cycle ways and making best use of the bus service serving the nearby retail parks.

Option 5: Urban area, Anker Valley and Coton Lane

This is seen as expanding the borough to the north west. Coton Lane is a site actively promoted and would fill the urban area to the Borough boundary. It would allow for housing development which is close to existing employment areas and also close to the town centre.

Option 6: Urban area, Anker Valley, Golf Course, green belt sites, Dunstall Lane and Coton Lane

This is seen as expanding the borough in all directions.

Option 7: Urban area, Anker Valley, Golf Course, Dunstall Lane and Coton Lane

This option would retain the green belt, as the infrastructure requirements on green belt sites are high and other sites are better located in relation to employment areas and the town centre. The green belt sites generally performed relatively poorly in the appraisal of sites.

The options are summarised in the following table.

Table 9.1: Summary of spatial options

Spatial option	Sites to deliver option	Approximate capacity
1	Urban area and Anker Valley	900
2	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course	2000
3	Urban area, Anker Valley, green belt sites	1800
4	Urban area, Anker Valley, Dunstall Lane	1600
5	Urban area, Anker Valley, Coton Lane	1090
6	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane, green belt sites	3790
7	Urban area, Anker Valley, golf course, Dunstall Lane, Coton Lane	2890

9.2.2 Description of Effects of Spatial Options

All options will result in the permanent loss of greenfield agricultural land, and some will mean the loss of green belt land, both of which are likely to affect the setting of Tamworth. Options 1, 4 and 5 would minimise the impact on landscapes.

Biodiversity is likely to be adversely affected by development. The greater the land-take, the greater the pressure on biodiversity, both through habitat loss and through the effects of human activity on habitats that are not lost. All the SUE sites have constraints and have the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity. The green belt sites have particularly significant biodiversity constraints, therefore options 3 and 6 perform particularly poorly on biodiversity.

Loss of greenfield land could also contribute to adverse effects on flood risk, by reducing the area of permeable land in Tamworth and increasing the rate of run-off from the land. With increasing land-take, it is possible that with development of more sites, adverse effects on flood risk could be experienced, but there is no data to judge this with any degree of certainty.

The development of the golf course site would involve the loss of formal recreational facilities, which does not support the objective of promoting active lifestyles. However as the decision to close and dispose of the golf course has been made, this loss is inevitable and the facilities will be lost regardless.

The higher the housing numbers, the more possible it becomes that adverse impacts will be seen on historic assets, particularly the setting of assets if not the assets themselves. There are opportunities to enhance historic assets in the urban area, but the Dunstall Lane site has the potential for adverse impacts on designated and undesignated historic assets, and the golf course has the potential for adverse impacts on undesignated industrial period assets (the Amington Colliery complex, a disused brick works site, the line of the Amington and Glascoate Colliery Railway and the line of the Coventry Canal). Options 1, 3 and 5 minimise the risk to historic assets.

Developing the green belt sites may risk further deterioration of air quality at the Dosthill Road/Watling Street junction because of the increased traffic using Dosthill Road. In addition, several of the SUE sites have the potential to affect known sewer flooding problems, and the green belt sites risk problems with capacity and pumping. For the green belt sites, major investment in water infrastructure is likely to be required. Options 1 and 5 present least risk of adverse environmental impacts while options 3 and 6 present the greatest.

The more sites that are allocated on the edge of Tamworth, the more this would lead to increased travel distances to access town centre facilities and services. Delivery of high levels of housing growth is also likely to increase the need for out-commuting. Option 6 performs least well in terms of reducing the need to travel. The green belt sites are likely to increase congestion on the A51 and a new road may be required to address this.

None of the options would deliver Tamworth's identified need for affordable housing. There is a slight difference between the options in that the higher the overall level of housing growth the more affordable housing would be provided, but the difference between the options is minimal and none of the options is significantly better than any others. The higher the overall level of housing growth, the more progress would be made towards meeting Tamworth's overall level of housing need.

9.3 HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

9.3.1 Description of Housing Growth Scenarios

Consultancy firm Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP) was appointed by the three southern Staffordshire Councils of Cannock Chase District, Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough to undertake a study into the future population, household projections and housing needs of the area.

The purpose of the study was to set out the potential scale of future housing requirements in the three local authorities, based upon a range of housing, economic and demographic factors, trends and forecasts. This sought to provide the Councils with evidence on the future housing requirements of their districts to help them plan for future growth and make informed policy choices through the development plan preparation process. NLP produced a report¹⁶ setting out the findings of the study in May 2012.

NLP developed 12 scenarios for future housing requirements according to three factors, which were agreed with the three Councils as follows:

- Demographic Factors (Scenarios A-E) – what projections of natural change, migration and headship rates will mean for future levels of household growth;
- Economic Factors (Scenarios F-H) – what levels of housing are needed to sustain different estimates of employment change; and,
- Housing Factors (Scenarios I-J) – how past trends of delivery are likely to be reflected in future household growth.

The various forecasts for Tamworth range from a low of 200 dwellings per annum (dpa) based on Scenario J (RSS Phase Two Panel Report), to a high of 507 dpa based on Scenario G (Past Trends Job Growth). There is a cluster around the 240-280 dpa mark.

The scenarios developed by NLP were as follows. These show the number of dpa which would be required to be provided, and a total for the 22-year period 2006-2028.

Demographic Factors

- **A – Baseline Scenario: 5,817 dwellings or 264 dpa**
This scenario involves projecting net in-migration across the period 2011-28 using the 2008 ONS sub-national population projections, and using the ONS 2008 vacancy rate to convert households into dwellings. This reflects trends seen in the past decade.
- **Aa - Baseline Scenario Sensitivity Test (ASMigR 5yr): 5,271 dwellings or 240 dpa**
Separate Age Specific Migration Rates were calculated for both in and out domestic migration, based upon the age profile of migrants to and from Tamworth over the previous five years.
- **Ab - Baseline Scenario Sensitivity Test (ASMigR 10yr): 5,666 dwellings or 258 dpa**
As Scenario Aa above, but using a longer time period (10 years) to calculate the Age Specific Migration Rates.
- **B - Baseline Scenario HSSA Vacancy Rates: 5,795 dwellings or 263 dpa**
Whilst the Baseline scenario used the 2008 ONS vacancy rate to convert households into dwellings, a sensitivity test was run using 2011 HSSA vacancy returns for each authority.
- **C - Zero Net Migration: 5,468 dwellings or 249 dpa**
This scenario examined the consequences of taking forward migration rates on an equalised

¹⁶ Southern Staffordshire Districts Housing Needs Study and SHMA Update Final Report, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, May 2012

basis, so that net in/out migration is zero at both domestic and international levels (i.e. an identical number of people move into the area as leave the three districts).

- **D - Changes in the Institutional Population Constant Share: 5,658 dwellings or 257 dpa**
The ONS forecasts suggest that the proportion of people in institutions (predominantly care/nursing homes in the 75+ age group) will decline, so for this option the proportion of residents 'not in households' was held constant.
- **E - 2008-based ONS/CLG Scenario: 6,231 dwellings or 283 dpa**
The ONS 2008-based sub-national population projections (SNPP) are the most recent demographic projections published by ONS. Following these, CLG have published 2008-based household estimates, which use the SNPP to estimate future household growth in each local authority.

Economic Factors

- **F - Forecast Job Growth Scenario: 6,220 dwellings or 283 dpa**
An economic-led scenario based upon the baseline forecasting models for the three districts provided by GHK. This scenario models the necessary demographic change to achieve a resident labour force in Cannock Chase, Lichfield and Tamworth to support these workplace jobs and subsequently the housing requirement associated with this.
- **G - Past Trends Job Growth Scenario: 11,150 dwellings or 507 dpa**
The past trends scenario calculated a ten year historic trend using ABI data from 1998 to 2007/08 (2 digit SIC sectors).
- **H - Static Employment Growth Scenario: 5,445 dwellings or 248 dpa**
This economic scenario examined the housing implications of a static level of job creation between 2011-2028 to reflect ongoing economic uncertainties, with migration figures adjusted accordingly.

Housing Factors

- **I - Past Dwelling Completion Rates: 4,818 dwellings or 219 dpa**
The past rate of delivery of dwellings ostensibly provides a proxy for realisable demand for housing development. Numbers are based on the past ten years of net housing delivery.
- **J - Regional Strategy Requirement: 4,400 dwellings or 200 dpa**
Although the Localism Act 2011 makes provision for the abolition of Regional Strategies, the housing requirements contained within them (and the process undertaken to arrive at them) still continue to provide a benchmark and remain, arguably, a valid indicator of local requirements. Figures are taken from the Report of the EiP Panel for the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision.

The NLP report ruled out scenarios F and G as unrealistic for Southern Staffordshire, partly because they would require a step-change in housing delivery rates over recent years, and partly because of land constraints including environmental designations, flood risk and green belt. For Tamworth, scenario F is the same as scenario E which was not ruled out as unrealistic, therefore it is prudent to retain scenario F for appraisal. However, scenario G is undeliverable due to the

lack of available sites even with the green belt sites (see option 6 of the spatial options) and therefore it is discounted as an unreasonable alternative.

In May 2013, NLP produced an update to the assessment of housing need for South Staffordshire¹⁷. This tested the ongoing validity of the housing requirements identified in the original Southern Staffordshire Housing Needs study in the light of recently released demographic data and population projections. Having modelled the latest CLG household projections and related statistics on vacancy rates, unemployment and commuting, it considered that the original ranges of between 240-265 dwellings per annum for Tamworth remain within an acceptable margin of tolerance despite changes to the growth forecasts.

The preferred option for the Tamworth Local Plan is 6250 new dwellings over 25 years or 250 dwellings per annum. This represents the total housing need for Tamworth, not the target for the Local Plan which is 4250 new dwellings within Tamworth Borough. The additional 2000 dwellings are to be sought outside the Borough.

The draft Local Plan indicates that since 2006, there have been a total of 1,347 (net) new homes delivered, an additional 29 dwellings were under construction and there is a further 371 with planning permission as of 1 April 2013. This reduces the number of homes to be delivered by 2031 by 1,747.

The options (scenarios) taken forward for appraisal are therefore as follows.

Table 9.2: Housing growth scenarios

Scenario	Dwellings per annum	Growth 2006-2031	Minus 1747	Difference from draft Plan
A	264	6600	4853	+350
Aa	240	6000	4253	-250
Ab	258	6450	4703	+200
B	263	6575	4828	+325
C	249	6225	4478	-25
D	257	6425	4678	+175
E	283	7075	5328	+825
F	283	7075	5328	+825
H	248	6200	4453	-50
I	219	5475	3728	-775
J	200	5000	3253	-1250
Draft Plan	250	6250	4503	

9.3.2 Assumptions

The draft Local Plan identifies that sites allocated within Tamworth Borough could deliver 2900 dwellings, and therefore under all the housing scenarios all allocated sites would need to be developed. The Plan identifies a need for 2000 additional dwellings to be provided outside of Tamworth Borough to meet Tamworth's needs. According to the Lichfield Plan, 1000 dwellings

¹⁷ Implications of the 2011-based CLG Household Projections: Lichfield, Tamworth and Cannock Chase Housing Requirement Update, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, May 2013

are to be provided to the north of Tamworth, of which 500 are to meet Tamworth’s needs. North Warwickshire’s Local Plan states that 500 dwellings to meet Tamworth’s needs will be provided within North Warwickshire, distributed across the borough. Both local plans are currently in examination and therefore these figures and locates are subject to possible change. It is therefore hoped that the further 1,000 dwellings to meet Tamworth’s needs will be provided within either North Warwickshire, Lichfield or within the wider Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Economic Partnership area (GBSLEP).

At this stage it is not known where any development over and above the target of 4,250 might be located within Tamworth. To meet additional housing needs above the draft Local Plan’s target for 4,250 dwellings, further land for development will need to be allocated. It is possible that the Dunstall Lane site might be extended or that the capacity of Anker Valley increased if a suitable transport package is proposed; a less sustainable option would be to release land from the green belt. Therefore no assumptions can be made about the likely location of additional growth and the likely spatial impacts are uncertain.

It is further assumed that to meet a target set by one of the other scenarios (A to J) which is lower than that in the draft Local Plan, all sites will still be developed and less housing would be sought in neighbouring authorities.

The following capacities have been assumed.

Table 9.3: Site capacities

Sites	Approximate capacities
Urban area	400
Anker Valley	500
Golf course sites	1100
Dunstall Lane sites	700
Coton Lane	190
Green belt sites	900 – split between several sites

9.3.3 Summary of Findings

All the housing growth scenarios would result in the permanent loss of greenfield and agricultural land. The higher the housing numbers the greater the area of greenfield land that will be lost. Delivering a higher target than in the draft Local Plan may result in the loss of green belt land, which would affect the setting of Tamworth. There would be the same loss of accessible green space under each of the housing growth scenarios.

Loss of greenfield land could contribute to adverse effects on flood risk, by reducing the area of permeable land in Tamworth, Lichfield and North Warwickshire and increasing the rate of run-off from the land. However, the likelihood and significance of effects are uncertain. There are various policies in the Draft Local Plan to mitigate flood risk, which will help to reduce the likelihood of any adverse effects.

Biodiversity is likely to be adversely affected by development. The higher the housing target, the greater the pressure on biodiversity, both through habitat loss and through the effects of human activity on habitats that are not lost. All the Strategic Urban Extension sites have constraints and have the potential for adverse impacts on biodiversity. The green belt sites have particularly significant biodiversity constraints. There are various policies within the Draft Local Plan that address biodiversity impacts and promote enhancements where possible, which will help to reduce the likelihood of adverse effects.

The higher the housing numbers, the more possible it becomes that adverse impacts will be seen on historic assets, particularly the setting of assets if not the assets themselves. Historic landscapes may come under pressure for development with higher housing numbers, including one of the green belt sites.

With the highest housing growth scenarios, it becomes more likely that major investment in water infrastructure will be required, and there is greater potential for adverse impacts on air quality.

Higher housing targets are likely to increase the need to travel because the additional growth could not be accommodated within the urban area. A higher housing target is also likely to increase the level of out-commuting.

None of the scenarios would deliver Tamworth's identified need for affordable housing.

9.4 ECONOMIC SCENARIOS

9.4.1 Description of Economic Scenarios

Tamworth Borough Council commissioned Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners to undertake stage 2 of their Employment Land Review for the Borough. Stage 2 specifically looks at demand for new employment land. This Employment Land Review¹⁸ developed a number of scenarios for demand, based on baseline data for Tamworth, local planning policy, past trends and economic aspirations. The following scenarios were developed.

- **Scenario 1) Experian Econometric Model Job Growth: Baseline**

The latest local area based econometric job forecasts were obtained for Tamworth Borough from Experian Business Strategies in September 2013. These are widely recognised as a valuable input and can indicate the broad scale and direction of economic growth in different sectors to help assess future employment space requirements. Experian's sub-regional economic model takes account of the existing economic structure of each Local Authority (broken down by economic sector) and the historical relationship between the regional performance of an industry and the performance observed at the Local Authority level. The forecasts of job growth by sector reflect recent trends and economic growth projections at national and regional level, and how economic sectors in Tamworth have fared relative to the West Midlands region's growth in the past. These forecasts also reflect the current post-recession economic climate. They are not constrained by either labour supply or land availability.

¹⁸ Employment Land Review – Stage 2, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, December 2013

- **Scenario 2) Job Growth: Regeneration/Policy On**

An alternative, job-based estimate of future needs was compiled which was termed the Regeneration, or 'Policy-On', scenario. Tamworth Borough Council has formed an alliance with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP. The priorities of Tamworth Borough Council reflect those of both LEPs in that there is a focus on a growth in business and professional services, environmental and building technologies and general manufacturing in order to build upon the town's employment strengths and to minimise outward commuting.

- **3a) Short Term Past Take Up Continues**

This scenario simply assumes that future development rates of employment space up to 2030 will be similar to those that have occurred in Tamworth over the last 11 years (the period for which a more detailed breakdown of B-class uses is available). As this period covered both strong economic growth and recession, it could provide a reasonable basis for future planning.

- **Scenario 3b) Long Term Completion Rates**

This demand estimate is also based broadly on past completion rates in the Borough, but with adjustments to reflect the potential for higher growth based on longer term past trends, stretching back to 1997/1998.

- **Scenario 4) Draft Local Plan Housing Target (250 dpa)**

This scenario estimates the employment space requirement that would result from anticipated housing and hence population growth in Tamworth, since this could impact upon the Borough's ability to attract businesses and future job growth.

- **Scenario 5) Labour Supply Based on CLG 2011-based (interim) household projections**

In May 2013 NLP undertook a partial update¹⁹ to the 2012 Housing Needs Study discussed above to model the implications of the latest 2011-based (interim) CLG household projections. The baseline scenario incorporated updated Sub-National Population Projections data alongside revised data on commuting, headship rates and unemployment. The revised baseline projection indicated population growth of 7,685 over the period of 2011-30; associated household growth of 4,665 and a housing requirement of 255 dpa (259 dpa 2011-28). The number of jobs associated with this growth equalled 520, or 27 per annum.

The preferred option for the Draft Local Plan for employment land requirements is 32 hectares, of which 18 hectares would be sought within the Borough boundary and 14 hectares would be sought outside the Borough. This was chosen because it was felt to provide enough employment land to be in balance with the housing growth target. Furthermore it provides a good fit with regeneration policy and allows a proactive approach to bringing new business into the Borough. This amount of employment land is considered to be sufficiently close to scenario 2 (regeneration/policy on) not to merit separate appraisal as an option.

¹⁹ NLP (May 2012): Implications of the 2011-based CLG Household Projections – Lichfield, Tamworth and Cannock Chase Housing Requirement Update

NLP estimated gross employment land requirements for offices, industry and logistics associated with each of these scenarios, and this is set out in the following table.

Table 9.4: Employment scenarios

Scenario	Gross employment land requirements (ha)
1) Experian Baseline	21.02
2) Regeneration/Policy On	32.91
3a) Short Term Past Take Up	48.51
3b) Long Term Completion Rates	66.49
4) Labour Supply (250 dpa)	27.82
5) Labour Supply (latest household projections)	30.16

9.4.2 Overall Findings of Appraisal of Employment Scenarios

By seeking higher amounts of employment land, scenario 3b, and to a lesser extent scenario 3a, will indirectly provide the greatest potential for economic growth, although achieving economic growth is also dependent on a range of other factors.

However, seeking to provide a high amount of employment land is likely to have a range of negative effects. All scenarios will result in the permanent loss of greenfield land on the allocated sites. It is likely that with a higher employment land requirement, additional sites will be needed beyond the Borough boundary. Although the location of such sites is unknown, it is possible that additional greenfield land will be lost within other local authorities. The loss of greenfield land has uncertain implications for flood risk, by reducing the amount of permeable land and increasing run-off rates. The higher the employment land requirement, the greater the pressure on biodiversity, both directly through habitat loss and indirectly through the effects of human activity on habitats that are not lost.

Scenario 2 seeks to minimise outward commuting from Tamworth, thereby reducing the need to travel. Provision of a lower employment land requirement than scenario 2 could therefore increase outward commuting. A higher employment land requirement than scenario 2 is likely to promote outward commuting as the draft Plan indicates that it is unrealistic that additional sites could be found within the Borough. The contribution to climate change and poor air quality will therefore be minimised with scenario 2.

9.5 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCENARIOS

9.5.1 Description of Scenarios

Tamworth Borough Council has developed nine different scenarios for affordable housing. These were drawn up in a client-side workshop on 20th February 2014 and are set out in a report²⁰ of a viability assessment for Tamworth including housing viability assessment. Three different levels of affordable housing are proposed, and within each of those three levels are three different proposals for the type of affordable housing to be provided. The three levels of affordable housing are 20%, 25% and 30%. The three types of affordable housing are social

²⁰ Tamworth Borough Council Whole Plan Viability Assessment, February 2014

rented, intermediate and shared ownership. The reason these scenarios were chosen is because they represent a range of viable and practical approaches to affordable housing provision.

The SA has appraised the three different scenarios of levels of affordable housing provision, but not the different types of affordable housing because this will not produce any different results when examined against the appraisal framework. The options for affordable housing appraised in the SA are therefore as set out in the following table.

Table 9.5: Affordable housing scenarios

Scenario	Level of affordable housing provision
1	20%
2	25%
3	30%

9.5.2 Overall Findings of Appraisal of Affordable Housing Scenarios

None of the scenarios would meet the identified need for 183 affordable homes per annum. Scenario 3 would provide the highest level of affordable homes per annum (83 dpa) and therefore is the best performing scenario. This will help to improve access to housing for poorer members of the community and may indirectly help to improve equality of access to employment.

10 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFECTS

10.1 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The SEA Directive requires assessment of an additional level of impacts in addition to straightforward direct impacts. These are specified as “secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative”. The following approach has been taken to identifying such impacts.

A number of different types of impact are set out in European Commission guidance:

- separate developments causing the same impact – cumulative;
- different impacts acting together on a receptor e.g. air pollution and land take – cumulative;
- plan impacts which give rise to other indirect impacts – secondary; and
- different impacts which together give rise to yet another impact – cumulative and secondary.

There is therefore a need to consider both secondary and cumulative impacts in the appraisal. Secondary impacts were considered as an integral part of the main appraisal work, and this is indicated in the appraisal matrices in Annexes C to F where impacts are either direct or indirect i.e. secondary. Certain other attributes are common to all types of impact: these are timescales (i.e. short, medium and long-term impacts), reversibility (i.e. permanent or temporary impacts) and whether the impacts are positive or negative. These attributes were also all considered as integral aspects of impact assessment, and this is similarly indicated in the appraisal matrices in Annexes C to F. Cumulative impacts are discussed in this section of the SA Report.

There are two types of situation that could give rise to cumulative impacts:

- the same effect arising from two or more different sources; and
- different effects where there is a relationship between the effects and potentially an interaction.

Synergistic effects are a type of cumulative impact. These are effects where the cumulative impact may be greater or smaller than the sum of the separate effects.

Cumulative impacts were considered in the appraisal in two ways:

- the potential for different developments to give rise to the same type of effect; and
- the potential for interaction between different types of effect.

In order to assess the cumulative impacts arising from all potential developments under the Local Plan, the appraisal considered the overall effect of the Local Plan as a whole on each of the SA objectives. The results of this are set out above in Chapter 8.

The appraisal then considered the potential for effects arising from other plans and programmes which in combination with effects arising from the Local Plan may give rise to significant

impacts. The results of the review of other plans and programmes and their potential to give rise to cumulative effects is set out below.

The six key plans/projects that could give rise to significant cumulative impacts together with the Tamworth Local Plan are:

- North Warwickshire Core Strategy
- Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy
- Local Enterprise Partnership Strategy for Growth
- High Speed Rail
- A Strategy for the A5
- Staffordshire Local Transport Plan

Each of these is summarised below, and an assessment made of the potential contribution to significant cumulative effects in combination with the Tamworth Local Plan.

10.1.1 North Warwickshire Core Strategy

The Core Strategy²¹ seeks to develop a broad distribution pattern for development, with the majority of development being directed to the Main Towns, in order to achieve vibrant sustainable communities within a sustainable pattern of development. The result is that, Atherstone with Mancetter and Polesworth with Dordon, are the Market Towns where the majority of development will be directed.

Development for employment, housing (including affordable housing), services and other facilities will be permitted within the development boundaries of the Market Towns of Atherstone with Mancetter and Polesworth with Dordon. It is expected that over the plan period, more than 50% of the housing and employment requirements will be provided in or adjacent to the Market Towns and their associated settlements.

Between 2006 and 2028 at least 3,800 dwellings (net) will be developed. The delivery of 500 units to meet Tamworth's needs from the total 3800 units will not commence until at least 75% of the 1150 proposed at Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood and 75% of the remaining Tamworth housing target are completed, or by 2022 whichever represents the later date.

Polesworth & Dordon will deliver 440 new dwellings over the Plan period. The broad location of growth will be to the south and east of the settlements subject to there being no unacceptable environmental impacts from surface mining and that viable and practicable coal reserves are safeguarded. Land to the west of Polesworth & Dordon shall remain essentially undeveloped in order to maintain the separation between Tamworth and the settlements of Polesworth & Dordon. Any proposals will be expected to be limited in size and maintain the separation between the urban area of Tamworth and the settlements of Polesworth and Dordon.

The Core Strategy also makes reference to Birch Coppice Business Park, on the site of the former Birch Coppice Colliery to the south of Dordon, which is a large logistics site. Birch Coppice Phase

²¹ Core Strategy Submission Version, North Warwickshire Borough Council, February 2013

2 is under construction, located south of the A5 near Dordon. In addition, MIRA Technology Park, an Enterprise Zone, south along the A5 will be coming on stream within the next year or so with a number of associated junction improvements on the A5. This is north of Nuneaton on the A5. There is also the Birmingham Intermodal Freight Terminal (BIFT) at Birch Coppice. It will also have a waste transfer recycling centre run by Warwickshire County Council, catering for wider than local needs.

Contribution to cumulative effects

It is likely that all the developments identified above will contribute to an increase in traffic on the A5 and using junction 10 of the M42. However, this is not predicted to give rise to cumulative effects in combination with the Tamworth Local Plan, particularly in view of the commitments in A Strategy for the A5 (see below).

10.1.2 Lichfield District Local Plan

The Local Plan: Strategy²² identifies a Broad Development Location to the north of the Anker Valley allocation, north of the B5493 and east of the railway line linking Tamworth with Burton-on-Trent. In the Broad Development Location identified to the north of Tamworth, a sustainable, safe, well designed mixed use development of approximately 1,000 dwellings will be delivered by 2029 including:

1. A range of housing in accordance with development management policies and having regards to needs arising within Tamworth Borough;
2. Provision for open space, sport and recreation facilities and incorporating playing pitches, amenity green space, equipped play, allotments;
3. Landscaping and green infrastructure provision including the retention of quality hedgerows and significant trees, and their incorporation into the landscape, and the allowance for significant tree canopy cover;
4. A clear strategy for delivering links to Tamworth, and showing how these will be incorporated into an integrated open space and green infrastructure network;
5. Protection of local areas and habitats of biological interest;
6. The provision of public transport to serve the site: all development should be within 350m of a bus stop;
7. The provision of pedestrian and cycling routes throughout the site, linking to the green infrastructure network and to settlements, services and facilities beyond the site boundaries including safe crossing points;
8. Vehicular access that is integrated with the Anker Valley and Amington links proposed within Tamworth Borough;
9. The provision and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems and flood mitigation measures;
10. Adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan.

The development shall cause no coalescence with Wigginton village and shall not commence prior to essential infrastructure being delivered at an appropriate stage.

²² Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy (EIP Changes), Lichfield District Council, January 2014

Further consideration of land to the North of Tamworth Borough will be considered through the Local Plan Allocations document.

Contribution to cumulative effects

The Sustainability Appraisal of the Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy predicts a range of effects for the development north of Tamworth which could make a contribution to cumulative effects in combination with development at Anker Valley. There will be a negative impact upon maintaining a diverse and attractive landscape with development north of Tamworth, although the policy requires the retention of significant trees and an allowance for significant tree canopy cover, and so effects should be mitigated to an extent. It is recommended that the Anker Valley site takes a similar approach to be compatible with surrounding countryside.

There is potential to positively increase the number and diversity of biodiversity habitats. However there is greater potential for harm to the watercourse. Development of the Anker Valley site is likely to result in adverse impacts on biodiversity, including on waterways. It is recommended that the policy on Strategic Urban Extensions be amended to require development at this site to protect and enhance biodiversity.

10.1.3 Local Enterprise Partnership Strategy for Growth

The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) produced a Strategy for Growth²³ in May 2013. The strategy indicates that GBSLEP wants to significantly improve the quality and reliability of connectivity both within the LEP, and from the LEP to the region/nation/world. Road, rail, air and digital connectivity are seen as being key components of the mix and there is a belief that they need to work effectively together better to connect people to jobs and businesses to markets. The strategy aims to cut congestion and uncertainty over travel times, and reduce the average time taken for people to get to their place of work, or to visit for business or leisure tourism.

To achieve this, the GBSLEP will commit to the creation of a new Strategic Alliance of local LEPs to ensure the wider travel to work area is supported by strong transport governance. Working with Birmingham Airport they will increase route development east and west. They will develop the means to ensure improved digital connectivity is available for urban and rural locations, and focus on reducing journey times for employees and businesses. Championing HS2, they will ensure a complementary package of investments to ensure the wider LEP geography will be connected to this key development.

The focus will be around targeting areas of greatest potential economic benefit, and accelerating development within them aligned to sector and skills plans; the flagship programmes being the City Centre Enterprise Zone (EZ) and Enterprise Belt (EB) with the M42 Economic Gateway (junction 6 of the M42) at its heart. EB aims to create the framework for the creation of over 25,000 jobs through the lifetime of the EB. Action for the M42 Economic Gateway include:

- Early and bold investment in local connectivity, including new modes of rapid transit to create a genuinely connected network

²³ Delivering Growth, Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, May 2013

- Investing in green infrastructure as a vital economic asset
- Targeting investment in Junction Six of the M42 to facilitate the growth of Birmingham Airport, the NEC and Birmingham Business Park.
- Delivering managed growth around four key locations, namely North Solihull, Solihull Town Centre, Blythe Valley Business Park and the Hub which includes the NEC, airport, Birmingham Business Park and the proposed High Speed Rail station.

GBSLEP will prioritise raising the quality of life for all the LEP's residents, with access to high quality and locally responsive cultural programmes, recognising and enhancing the LEP's considerable and varied natural assets and different local centres. Through the Creative City Partnership GBSLEP will encourage participation in the full breadth of the LEP's cultural offer, building a strong shared sense of identity and purpose and increasing engagement in civic life.

Contribution to cumulative effects

The improvement of transport infrastructure combined with investment enterprise in Birmingham and Solihull is likely to increase the level of out-commuting from Tamworth in combination with the Local Plan's aim to improve transport links to Birmingham. The emphasis on the difference of local centres and encouraging cultural participation will add to efforts in Tamworth to create a strong local identity and vibrant and attractive town centre.

10.1.4 High Speed Rail

The UK Government's preferred route for HS2 comes close to Tamworth on two stretches of rail. The first (Phase One) runs from near junction 9 of the M42 and travels north near Middleton, passes about 2km west of Hopwas and skirts the eastern edge of Lichfield. The second (Phase 2) broadly follows the line of the M42 from the M6 Toll towards Ashby de la Zouch, largely within a cutting. The second branches off this. The nearest stations will be at Birmingham and Birmingham Interchange.

HS2 Ltd have produced a fact sheet²⁴ for the Birmingham area, which projects travel times at 49 minutes to London, 49 minutes to Manchester and 57 minutes to Leeds. It also predicts the creation of 40,400 jobs in Phase One construction, operation and maintenance and in station development. The fact sheet predicts that HS2 will make cities like Birmingham even more attractive places to locate, with people able to live there and work in the East Midlands, Sheffield, Manchester or Leeds, or to commute to Birmingham from further away. HS2 is predicted to free up capacity on the West Coast Main Line, providing the opportunity to operate more frequent local services through Tamworth.

HS2 Ltd are working with Birmingham to ensure that HS2 generates more opportunities for people and businesses in the Midlands.

The Environmental Statement for Phase 1 of HS2²⁵ predicts a variety of impacts for the section through Drayton Bassett, Hints and Weeford. Construction and operation of the project in this area are not likely to result in any adverse residual effects on air quality, socio- economics, land

²⁴ Birmingham and Interchange: Connections to London, Manchester, Leeds and Beyond, HS2 Ltd, July 2013

²⁵ London-West Midlands Environmental Statement, HS2 Ltd, November 2013

quality or water resources and flood risk. Similarly, no likely adverse residual effects have been identified as arising during operation for agriculture, forestry and soils, community or ecology. However, there will be agricultural land lost, including high quality agricultural land. Thirteen residential properties will be demolished, and some residents will experience amenity effects during construction and operation, due to noise and visual effects. Users of the Heart of England Way, which passes through Drayton Bassett will be affected as a result of noise and visual effects and increased traffic associated with construction. In the Hints area, residents of Brockhurst Lane will be subject to an isolation effect during the construction period due to the temporary closure of the road connecting the area to the rest of the Hints community and to schools at Whittington and Lichfield. In the Weeford area, construction works at Watling Street will give rise to a temporary amenity effect on the residents of five properties, as a result of increases in construction traffic and views of construction activities. During operation, noise and visual effects will affect the setting of Hints Village, Horsley Brook Farm, Buck's Head Farm, Ingleyhill Farm, Roundhill Wood.

Archaeological assets will be permanently removed and non-designated built heritage assets will be demolished. Some historic landscape features will be severed and permanently removed including hedgerows at the Middleton Estate boundary and ancient woodland lost, primarily at the Rookery and Roundhill Wood.

The temporary presence of construction works and changes to the existing landform and vegetation patterns will significantly affect the character and appearance of the local landscape. During operation, the effect of the project on the character and appearance of the local landscape will substantially reduce over time as mitigation planting matures. Significant effects will remain in some parts of the local landscape due to the presence of engineered landforms, infrastructure and overhead line equipment. During operation the Hints cutting, Milditch Wood embankment and the Gallows Brook and Black Brook viaducts will continue to affect views in the local area. The visual effects of the project will reduce over time as planting matures.

An increase in traffic during construction will lead to additional congestion and delays at the junctions of the A38 London Road/A453 Tamworth Road/A446 London Road, the A38/A5148/A5206 London Road and the A5/A5127 Birmingham Road/A5148.

During construction, increases in traffic will affect pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders using some local roads including Drayton Lane, Watling Street, the A453 and Flats Lane. Two public rights of way will be temporarily diverted. Construction vehicles will operate alongside four public rights of way which will affect the enjoyment of these routes. Nine public rights of way will be permanently realigned, causing increases in journey times.

The Sustainability Statement for HS2 Phase 2²⁶ predicts that noise impacts are likely to affect residents at villages along the route including Kingsbury, while an estimated six dwellings would need to be demolished at Whateley. River crossings would require an elevated alignment, and at these locations impacts would be more likely. For example, the crossing of the Tame Valley near Kingsbury and of the Anker Valley near Polesworth would result in some visual impacts at country parks in these locations, although the route was aligned here to ensure that direct impacts on Alvecote Pools SSSI would be avoided.

²⁶ Sustainability Statement, Temple-ERM, July 2013

Contribution to cumulative effects

Although there will be noise, disturbance, loss of amenity, congestion, adverse impacts on historic assets and adverse impacts on landscapes and views from HS2, there is no indication that this will give rise to cumulative effects in conjunction with the Local Plan. However, by freeing up capacity on local railways, HS2 will have positive cumulative effects with the Tamworth Local Plan by making it easier to support a shift to sustainable modes of transport.

10.1.5 A Strategy for the A5

Existing levels of traffic along certain parts of the route are heavy throughout the day, particularly around Cannock, Lichfield, Tamworth, Nuneaton/Hinckley and Magna Park. Without suitable investment, planned housing and employment growth along this section of the A5 will exacerbate these congestion issues, as well as creating new pressure points.

The objectives of the strategy²⁷ are therefore:

- To ensure that the A5 is fit for purpose in terms of its capacity and safety, both now and in the future.
- To allow the A5 to play its full and proper role in supporting and facilitating economic activity and growth at a local and national level.
- To promote and facilitate access to leisure and tourism within the area covered by the strategy.
- To assist in identifying priority improvements along the A5 corridor that are needed to facilitate and enable growth, reduce congestion, improve safety, improve air quality and deliver a sustainable transport system.
- To reduce, where possible, the impact of traffic on communities along the A5.

There are known capacity issues at the Muckley Corner and Wall Island junctions to the south east of Lichfield, and in the Dordon/Grendon area between Tamworth and Atherstone. The traffic flow on the A5 to the west of junction 10 of the M42, there are in excess of 22,000 vehicles per day.

Contribution to cumulative effects

When implemented, the strategy is likely to give rise to improvements in congestion on the A5, which will support the housing and employment growth proposed in the Tamworth Local Plan, although this is not expected to lead to cumulative effects with the Local Plan.

10.1.6 Staffordshire Local Transport Plan

The Staffordshire Local Transport Plan²⁸ (LTP) has a range of objectives:

- Supporting growth and regeneration

²⁷ A Strategy for the A5 2011-2026, A5 Transport Liaison Group, February 2012

²⁸ Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011, Staffordshire County Council, March 2011

- Maintaining the highway network
- Making transport easier to use and places easier to get to
- Improving safety and security
- Reducing road transport emissions and their effects on the highway network
- Respecting the environment

It also identifies a number of challenges to achieving these objectives which the LTP seeks to address:

- Provide opportunities for residents to access jobs, training and education.
- Help businesses access suppliers, markets and a workforce.
- Enable economic growth without causing congestion.
- Maintain the current condition of the highway network and its infrastructure.
- Keep the highway safe and serviceable whilst achieving value for money.
- Reduce social exclusion faced by residents.
- Make 'access for all' a key consideration when planning new housing and employment sites, services and facilities.
- Improve the skills of all road users.
- Improve the current road safety record.
- Tackle crime, fear of crime, and anti-social behaviour on the highway network.
- Improve the resilience of the highway network to events that pose safety threats to highway users.
- Reduce emissions from road transport.
- Respond to current and future climatic conditions.
- Improving health and quality of life
- Encourage active travel.
- Maximise opportunities for transport to positively contribute towards people's quality of life.
- Minimise the impact of transport on the environment.
- Enhance the environment through the management and maintenance of the highway network.

The draft strategy²⁹ for Tamworth identifies the following priorities for the Borough:

- Accommodate development at Anker Valley
- Manage congestion, particularly at Ventura Park
- Support investment in the town centre that complements Ventura Park
- Improve public transport provision to the West Midlands
- Support A5(T) junction capacity and safety improvements
- Encourage sustainable travel

Contribution to cumulative effects

In combination with the Tamworth Local Plan, the LTP will help to improve access to education, training and jobs, will reduce congestion and improve air quality, encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of transport and support improvements to transport infrastructure, tackle deprivation and enable economic growth.

²⁹ Draft Tamworth Borough Integrated Transport Strategy 2011-2026, Staffordshire County Council, November 2011

10.2 INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFECTS

The SEA Directive requires the appraisal to consider the interrelationship between the significant effects of the Local Plan. This has been done as an integral part of the appraisal of the policies and options, and examples of this can be found throughout chapters 7 to 9 and Annexes C to F of this report. The main interrelationships found through the appraisal are highlighted below.

Protection and enhancement of green spaces and connectivity will be of benefit to human health and quality of life, encouraging active lifestyles and helping to promote sustainable travel by encouraging people to walk or cycle rather than using the car. It can also help to support biodiversity protection and improvement by ensuring connectivity and protection of green and blue infrastructure. This will also help to protect landscape quality and the setting of Tamworth.

Protection and enhancement of historic features and assets will contribute to maintaining landscape quality in Tamworth, contributing to preserving its distinctive quality and supporting tourism and the visitor economy.

Reducing the amount of waste needing treatment and disposal will help to reduce air emissions from the transport and management of waste, including greenhouse gas emissions, although it may reduce the amount of renewable energy generated from waste. It may also encourage more prudent use of natural resources by reusing waste as a resource and reducing the amount of virgin resources consumed.

Changes in air quality can have significant consequences for human health and biodiversity, and improvements in air quality arising from more sustainable transport patterns will benefit human health and vulnerable species and ecosystems. Changes in water quality also have the potential to significantly affect species and ecosystems. By promoting water efficiency, the Local Plan will help to ensure prudent use of natural resources and help to safeguard water quality, with benefits for ecosystems. It will also benefit the economy by reducing the cost of water treatment.

Flood risk reduction will help to protect and enhance water quality by reducing the risk of overload of the sewerage system. It will also have economic benefits by protecting homes and businesses from having to deal with the financial consequences of flooding.

By locating most new development near to the urban area, the Local Plan will promote the use of sustainable modes of travel, which will reduce the reliance on the private car. This in turn will have benefits in terms of improved air quality and reduced congestion, which will lead to improved health and road safety. It will also help to promote more active lifestyles with the associated health benefits, and support accessibility to services and facilities.

11.1 PROPOSALS FOR MONITORING

As required by the SEA Directive, a number of recommendations are made for indicators to monitor the likely significant impacts of the Local Plan. These are set out in Table 11.1 corresponding to the relevant impacts identified and summarised in the preceding chapters of this report.

One of the aims of monitoring as specified by the SEA Directive is to identify unforeseen adverse effects in order to be able to take appropriate remedial action. To enable this to be done, recommendations are also made in Table 11.1 for monitoring potential sustainability impacts that are not expected to occur as foreseen by the appraisal.

An Annual Monitoring Report will be produced to monitor the implementation of the Local Plan, and the recommendations given below for monitoring should be incorporated within this.

Table 11.1: Monitoring Recommendations

Sustainability Objectives	Recommended indicators
1. To meet the housing needs of the whole community, providing affordable, decent, appropriate and sustainably constructed homes in accessible locations.	Housing completions Number of affordable homes completed Building for Life assessments Net additional Gypsy and Traveller pitches Number of new dwellings suitable for elderly people
2. To encourage the efficient use of land and soil.	Total amount of additional employment land on previously developed land Housing completions on previously developed land Hectares of open space lost
3. To reduce deprivation, including health and income deprivation.	Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in health sub-domain Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in material well-being sub-domain
4. To ensure equal access to community services and facilities.	Number of people not within 1km of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP • Post office • Supermarket
5. To encourage equal access to education, jobs and training.	Unemployment rate Number of people in Super Output Areas in the lowest 20% ranked in education sub-domain
6. To encourage active and healthier lifestyles by providing accessible green infrastructure, including networks of paths and open spaces, and formal and informal sport and recreation facilities.	Length of new cycle paths Length of new public footpaths Number and type of new sport facilities Loss of playing pitches Loss of accessible open space

Sustainability Objectives	Recommended indicators
7. To make communities safer by reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.	Number of crimes, by category
8. To encourage a diverse and competitive economy that will provide sustainable economic growth.	New employment floorspace Number of visitors to town centre attractions
9. To protect and enhance historic assets.	Number of listed building and conservation area consent applications and outcome
10. To encourage high quality and locally distinct places, spaces, buildings and landscapes.	Number of planning applications in the Green Belt
11. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, sites of nature conservation value and ecological networks.	Change in areas of biodiversity importance Length of new green/blue infrastructure networks
12. To minimise flood risk.	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on flooding Number of properties flooded per annum
13. To reduce energy consumption by encouraging energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.	MW of new renewable energy generating capacity Electricity and gas consumption per capita
14. To encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste and water.	Amount of waste generated by waste stream % of municipal waste recycled Per capita water consumption
15. To protect and improve environmental quality including in relation to air, water, land and noise.	Number of AQMAs Number of planning permissions granted contrary to Environment Agency advice on water quality Hectares of agricultural land lost, by grade
16. To make Tamworth town centre the heart of the borough by creating a vibrant and attractive environment.	Total amount of completed floorspace for town centre uses in the town centre Total amount of completed floorspace for town centre uses outside the town centre Vacant retail floorspace in the town centre
17. To reduce the need to travel, reduce out-commuting and encourage sustainable modes of transport.	Number of bus routes Length of new cycle paths Length of new public footpaths Number of out-commuters Number of people travelling more than 5km to work Travel to work by mode
18. To make best use of the existing transport infrastructure and seek improvements to reduce congestion and improve safety.	Number of new bus services Number of road traffic accidents Normalised delay on key roads

12 NEXT STEPS

12.1 OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

The next stages of the process are outlined in Figure 1.1 in Section 2.3.2.

The SA forms an integral part of the preparation of the Local Plan. It will continue to be prepared alongside the Local Plan and consultation on the SA will be part of the wider consultation on the Local Plan itself.

Following receipt of consultation comments on the Draft Local Plan and the SA, any necessary amendments will be made to either document, and a submission version of the Local Plan will be produced. This will be subject to further SA. Both the submission Local Plan and the revised SA will be issued for public consultation. It is currently expected that this will be produced sometime during summer 2014.

