



**WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

**DRAFT**

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK**

**FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**JULY 2005**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Development Framework for Wirral will comprise a series of statutory documents setting out the Council's policies for the use and development of land. It will include Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. The Local Development Framework will play a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts.
- 1.2 This consultation document sets out the Council's proposals for the appraisal of the social, economic and environmental impact of the policies and proposals to be contained within Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. It includes proposals for a common approach to meeting the new statutory requirements for sustainability appraisal and strategic environmental assessment – a Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Wirral.
- 1.3 The Council intends to use the Sustainability Appraisal Framework set out within this document to test the performance of the Council's emerging policies and proposals against the objectives of sustainable development.
- 1.4 Comments are invited on the content of this document. Comments should be made in writing, by letter, e-mail or fax, to arrive at the address below **no later than 5.00pm on 9 September 2005**, marked for the attention of:

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- 1.5 Comments submitted on this document cannot be kept confidential. The Council's Economic Regeneration and Planning Strategy Select Committee will consider the comments received before the final Appraisal Framework is approved.

## 2 BACKGROUND

### Sustainable Development

- 2.1 The Government has stated that sustainable development is the core principle underpinning the planning system<sup>1</sup>. The Council now has a legal duty to exercise its plan making function with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Planning Policy Statement 1 (2005), paragraph 3*

<sup>2</sup> *Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 39*

- 2.2 Sustainable development has not been defined in legislation but the principal objectives are set out in *Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy* and in *Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development*.
- 2.3 At the heart of sustainable development is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. This includes the need to meet international obligations in terms of biodiversity, climate change, global warming and restrictions on pollution.
- 2.4 The guiding principles for the UK include living within environmental limits; achieving a sustainable economy; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly<sup>3</sup>. The objective is to promote outcomes in which economic, social and environmental objectives are achieved together over time<sup>4</sup>.

### **Sustainability Appraisal**

- 2.5 Sustainability appraisal is a tool used to assess the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective. It is intended to provide a systematic process through which the performance of a plan can be tested against the objectives of sustainable development, while the plan is still being produced.
- 2.6 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires the Council to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the proposals in each Local Development Document and to prepare a report of the findings of the appraisal. A sustainability appraisal report must be made available at each key stage in the plan preparation process.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

- 2.7 Strategic environmental assessment is an additional requirement arising from the implementation of EC Directive 2001/42/EC, which has now been enacted through national legislation<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.8 The Council must determine, for each document, whether strategic environmental assessment is required, in consultation with four specified consultees<sup>6</sup>. If such an assessment is required, on the basis of the likely environmental effects of the policies and proposals, the Council must also report on those effects in accordance with the criteria set out in the Directive.
- 2.9 Draft national advice suggests that the requirements of strategic environmental assessment can be incorporated within the sustainability

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<sup>3</sup> *Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)*

<sup>4</sup> *Planning Policy Statement 1 (2005), paragraph 13 (i)*

<sup>5</sup> *The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

<sup>6</sup> *English Nature, the Environment Agency, English Heritage and the Countryside Agency*

appraisal process. This approach has been adopted throughout the Sustainability Appraisal Framework set out in this document.

### **Consistency**

- 2.10 Given the variety of documents likely to comprise the Local Development Framework for Wirral, the Council needs to ensure that a consistent approach is taken to the appraisal and assessment of future Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. This approach is set out in the remaining sections of this report.
- 2.11 Wherever possible, the Sustainability Appraisal Framework has been designed to maintain consistency with other national, regional and sub-regional approaches, for example, associated with the preparation and appraisal of the Regional Spatial Strategy and the plans and proposals of neighbouring authorities.

## **3 BASELINE SURVEY**

- 3.1 The Council has reviewed the available baseline data, related to social inclusion, the economy and the environment, in order to provide a picture of Wirral prior to the Local Development Framework being prepared.
- 3.2 A number of other plans, programmes and strategies will need to be reviewed for their implications as part of the sustainability appraisal process for individual Local Development Documents. This will include:
  - international treaties and obligations;
  - national policy and guidance;
  - regional and sub-regional strategies and initiatives;
  - the plans and programmes of neighbouring authorities; and
  - local area strategies and delivery programmes.

### **Summary of Baseline Findings**

- 3.3 The brief summaries below outline the general characteristics of the area and identify the main trends and influences over recent years.

#### *Social Inclusion*

- 3.4 Wirral's population has declined from over 355,000 during the 1970s to 313,800 in mid-2003. The population structure is skewed towards older age groups. The pace of decline appears to have slowed over recent years and the population is now expected to grow by 2.8% by 2028. The working age population is still, however, expected to fall, with implications for future wealth creation. The promotion of cohesive and sustainable communities is a key theme of the Wirral Community Strategy.

- 3.5 In terms of migration, the most significant recent flows are out of Wirral to Denbighshire, Flintshire and Chester and into Wirral from Liverpool and the rest of Greater Merseyside<sup>7</sup>. The largest flows are between Wirral and Liverpool. There is a consistent loss of people between 16-24 years of age seeking employment and higher education. Population stabilisation, with population growth in Liverpool, is a recognised sub-regional priority.
- 3.6 In terms of social conditions, the Borough falls within the worst 50 of the 354 English local authorities<sup>8</sup> and has a high number of localities that fall within the worst 25% of English “Super Output Areas”<sup>9</sup>. These localities, mainly concentrated in the older urban areas in the east of the Borough, score very poorly across the full range of indicators for income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; living environment; and crime and disorder. Tackling local inequalities to provide access and equity is a key objective of the Wirral Community Strategy.
- 3.7 Symptoms of low demand, including high levels of vacancy and unfit housing have led to the designation of the Newheartlands Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder Area, in April 2002, in parts of Birkenhead, Bidston, Seacombe, Tranmere and Liscard. Tackling the problems of poor and empty housing is a corporate priority and the provision of high quality homes and high quality housing services is a key theme of the Wirral Community Strategy.

#### *Economic Growth*

- 3.8 Wirral has two strategic regional sites, at Twelve Quays and at the Wirral International Business Park. Major local facilities include the Birkenhead docks system, part of the Port of Liverpool, including the Twelve Quays roll-on-roll-off ferry terminal; and the entrance to the Manchester Ship Canal. Wirral is also the home to international companies such as Lever Faberge and Federal Mogul Ignition.
- 3.9 Key sectors in the local economy include retail and distribution, public administration and business services. In manufacturing, the Borough is strongest in chemicals and food and drink, which are regional target sectors. The number of tourism-related jobs is also significant. The promotion of tourism is a corporate priority.
- 3.10 The Borough’s economic performance, nevertheless, continues to be a major concern. Although having grown strongly since 1995, the Borough’s economic output per head of population is still below the UK average<sup>10</sup>. Wirral also has fewer VAT registered businesses than many

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<sup>7</sup> NHS Central Register

<sup>8</sup> English Indices of Deprivation 2004

<sup>9</sup> a geographical area of approximately 1500 people

<sup>10</sup> measured as Gross Value Added per head

areas and a lower rate of business formation<sup>11</sup>. Providing for a thriving local economy is a key theme in the Wirral Community Strategy.

- 3.11 Although the total number of jobs in Wirral has grown from 98,500 in 1971 to 101,300 today, this is still not adequate to fully employ the working age population. Average earnings for jobs located in Wirral are also lower than the average weekly earnings of Wirral residents as a whole. These two factors continue to lead to a high number of journeys to work to Liverpool, Chester and beyond.
- 3.12 While Wirral is home to a higher than average proportion of managers and professional people, national indices continue to witness to a high concentration of income and employment deprivation. Although registered unemployment, at 3.2%, is now well below the 19% peak of September 1985, economic activity rates are still lower than regional and national benchmarks. Tackling worklessness is a key objective of the Wirral Community Strategy.

#### *Environmental Protection*

- 3.13 Wirral is an area of generally high environmental quality. The protection and improvement of the environment is a corporate priority and is a key objective of the Wirral Community Strategy.
- 3.14 Wirral has an extensive network of locally identified non-statutory Sites of Biological Importance, together with twelve Sites of Special Scientific Interest, two designated European nature conservation sites and one potential European nature conservation site. These designations cover most of the key habitats identified as priorities within the Wirral Biodiversity Action Plan. The Borough's coastline is of special importance for nature conservation.
- 3.15 There are, however, relatively few designated sites within the urban areas of east Wirral and not all aspects of Wirral's biodiversity resource are currently captured by site designations. There are also twelve locally identified non-statutory sites designated for their importance to earth science.
- 3.16 Wirral has a significant built heritage, with over 1,600 listed buildings, twenty-two conservation areas, nine scheduled ancient monuments and four sites on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.
- 3.17 No air quality management areas are currently designated in Wirral, although the continuing high level of out-commuting has major implications for travel generation and long term air quality. Car ownership is still at low levels in some parts of the Borough and

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<sup>11</sup> both measured by VAT registrations per 10,000 population

increased economic prosperity may see these levels rise, with further implications for congestion and air quality.

- 3.18 Water quality within the Dee and Mersey Estuaries and inland watercourses continues to improve, largely due to the ongoing programme of capital works undertaken by United Utilities. Wirral's beaches are also consistently among the cleanest in the North West.
- 3.19 Levels of waste recycling remain low at around 10%, some way short of national targets, although the commissioning of a new Materials Recycling Facility at Bidston will result in a significant improvement. The existing landfill site at Bromborough Dock is expected to reach capacity shortly and no other natural containment sites are currently available.

#### *Natural Resources*

- 3.20 Wirral has no significant mineral reserves apart from small amounts of winnable brick clay. Reserves of aggregates are very limited and generally constrained by nature conservation or other considerations.
- 3.21 Much of Wirral is founded on sandstone, which is a major aquifer, and groundwater provides around 13% of Wirral's water resources. Extensive low-lying areas, especially in the north of the Borough, are protected by defences from both tidal and fluvial (river) flooding. While much of the coastline is protected from erosion and/or flooding by "hard" defences, a short stretch of clay cliffs at the Thurstaston and New Ferry shorelines continue to be subject to natural erosion processes.
- 3.22 Land quality is generally good and there are significant areas of high-grade agricultural land, particularly in the south and west of the Borough. While major progress has been made on urban land reclamation, particularly in Bromborough, a number of significant sites in the east of the Borough can only be brought forward for development once contamination or other ground condition problems have been addressed.
- 3.23 The Government has identified Liverpool Bay for a significant expansion in offshore wind farm development. The construction of thirty turbines is due to start off the coastline at New Brighton and the shore connection to the national grid will take place on the north Wirral coast. There is, however, little provision of onshore renewable energy schemes.

#### *Quality of Life*

- 3.24 Wirral generally offers a very high quality of life: 45% of the Borough is open countryside, with much of high landscape quality, and the coast is a special feature of Wirral. There are also a significant number of leisure and cultural facilities in both urban and rural areas. The need to

maintain local character and distinctiveness and promote high quality design is a major local concern, especially in the lower density residential areas built during the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

- 3.25 Issues related to the prevention of crime and the promotion of sustainable travel choices will also have a significant impact on local quality of life. The promotion of safer communities is a key theme of the Wirral Community Strategy.

#### **4 SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The baseline findings have been used to identify local objectives for the delivery of sustainable development. The Council has sought to select objectives in line with national and regional priorities, which will also directly address local circumstances.

- 4.2 The following local objectives have, therefore, been identified:

##### *Social Inclusion*

- To promote a balanced population structure
- To reduce the incidence of multiple deprivation
- To promote the accessibility of jobs and services to all sectors of society
- To meet identified local housing needs & promote housing market renewal
- To promote inclusive, healthy communities

##### *Economic Growth*

- To promote improved economic performance
- To provide for employment growth and business creation
- To reduce worklessness and income deprivation
- To promote the vitality and viability of town centres
- To maximise provision for high quality tourism

##### *Environmental Protection*

- To maintain and improve biodiversity and natural habitats
- To minimise pollution to land, water or air
- To conserve local heritage
- To provide for the separation of incompatible land uses
- To reduce traffic intrusion in residential areas

##### *Natural Resources*

- To maximise the use of previously developed urban land
- To minimise reliance on non-renewable energy sources
- To promote sustainable drainage and water conservation
- To minimise waste generation and maximise recycling
- To minimise the impact of flooding and other natural hazards

##### *Quality of Life*

- To maintain and promote a locally distinctive sense of place

- To protect and improve the general attractiveness of the area
  - To maximise opportunities for culture, sport and leisure
  - To promote sustainable travel choices
  - To minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- 4.3 The individual policies and proposals within emerging Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents will be appraised against their likely performance against each of these objectives.
- 4.4 To aid consideration, a series of decision criteria have been devised to indicate the types of question that should be asked when carrying out the sustainability appraisal. The decision criteria for each objective are set out in the Appendices to this report.
- 4.5 No weighting will be attached to any of the objectives. The only intention is to inform the decision-making process by identifying areas where the intended policies and proposals may perform weakly in terms of the promotion of sustainable development.

## **5 SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS**

- 5.1 The local objectives have been used to identify a series of indicators against which progress towards local sustainability can be measured over the longer term.
- 5.2 The Council has, again, sought to select indicators that will enable comparison with national and regional data but preference has been given to indicators that can be reported at local level and which will continue to allow long term trends to be identified.
- 5.3 The list of indicators for each local objective is also set out in the Appendices. The indicators will be used to assess actual progress towards meeting the local objectives for sustainable development as part of the Council's ongoing monitoring requirements.

## **6 IMPLEMENTATION**

- 6.1 The sustainability appraisal process must be fully integrated with the statutory process for the preparation of Local Development Documents.
- 6.2 While the Local Development Regulations<sup>12</sup> only require a written sustainability report to be produced at two key stages in the production of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents, significant preparatory work and recording will need to be undertaken at each stage in the plan-making process.
- 6.3 The requirements of strategic environmental assessment will be undertaken alongside the appraisal, as an essential part of the

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<sup>12</sup> *The Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004*

appraisal process, and recorded separately as part of the sustainability appraisal reports.

### **Sequence of Events**

6.4 The Council envisages the following sequence of events:

#### *Development Plan Documents*

1. Once the need for a DPD has been identified in an approved Local Development Scheme, the Council will undertake the necessary preparatory consultations on the need for strategic environmental assessment and on the scope of the appraisal and assessment processes.
2. **Initial consultation** will be carried out to identify the range of potential options for meeting the objectives of the DPD. The potential options will then be assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework and will be published for public comment alongside a report outlining their likely performance against the objectives and indicators of the Appraisal Framework. Comments on the potential options will be used by the Council to decide upon preferred options.
3. **Preferred options** will be selected on the basis of the public comments and on the basis of their performance against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. An initial sustainability report will be prepared to document the decision-making process and to demonstrate that all the relevant alternative options have been properly appraised.
4. The initial sustainability report will be published alongside the Preferred Options Report for public consultation. Consultation responses on the Preferred Options will be used to provide further refinements in preparation for the submission of the final plan proposals to the Secretary of State.
5. **The Submission DPD** will be prepared in light of the consultation responses on the Preferred Options. A revised sustainability report will be prepared to address any changes that have been made, to ensure that the impact of any changes from the Preferred Options stage have also been fully appraised.
6. The revised sustainability report will be formally submitted to the Secretary of State alongside the Submission DPD and placed on deposit for public inspection for 6 weeks. Representations made at this stage will be able to be considered by a Government appointed inspector at an independent Public Examination.

7. Representations on the Submission DPD will be published and any site-specific representations will be advertised for public comment for a further six-week period. Representations promoting proposals that have not previously been subject to appraisal will need to be supported by a sustainability appraisal to be provided by the respondents.
8. The Inspector will consider the representations on the sustainability report, the Submission DPD and any site-specific representations and the potential impact of the proposed policies and proposals as part of the Public Examination. The Inspector's Report, following a brief fact-check, will be binding on the Council.
9. The Inspector's Report will be published, alongside notices of formal adoption. The Council may need to prepare and publish a revised final sustainability report to appraise the implications of any changes proposed by the Inspector.
10. The impact of the operation of the adopted policies and proposals will be monitored through the Council's statutory Annual Monitoring Report.

#### *Supplementary Planning Documents*

1. Once the need for a SPD has been identified in an approved Local Development Scheme, the Council will undertake the necessary preparatory consultations on the need for strategic environmental assessment and on the scope of the appraisal and assessment processes.
2. **Initial consultation** will be carried out to identify the options for meeting the objectives of the SPD. The responses submitted will be used by the Council to decide upon the content of a draft SPD.
3. A **draft SPD** will be prepared on the basis of the responses submitted and the performance against the Sustainability Appraisal Framework. An initial sustainability report will be prepared to document the decision-making process and to demonstrate that the content of the SPD has been properly appraised.
4. The initial sustainability report will be published alongside the draft SPD for public consultation. The consultation responses on the draft SPD will be used to provide further refinements in preparation for final adoption.
5. The **Adoption SPD** will be prepared in light of the consultation responses. A revised sustainability report will be prepared to address any changes that have been made, to ensure that the

impact of any changes from the draft SPD have also been fully appraised.

6. Notices of formal adoption will be published.
7. The impact of the operation of the adopted SPD will be monitored through the Council's statutory Annual Monitoring Report.

### **Production Issues**

- 6.5 Council officers will normally undertake the sustainability appraisals, to the guidelines contained within this Sustainability Appraisal Framework. External consultants may, however, be appointed to appraise complex or controversial proposals to the same guidelines.

### **Sustainability Appraisal Review Panel**

- 6.6 The Council proposes to appoint an independent review panel to safeguard the integrity of appraisal process. The independent review panel will oversee the appraisal process, to ensure that the conclusions of each appraisal are objectively and technically based and to provide external verification and quality control.
- 6.7 The review panel will be drawn from technical experts from Council Departments not directly associated with the production of the documents, from local amenity societies and the voluntary sector, and from other external advisors.

### **Reporting Arrangements**

- 6.8 The results of the sustainability appraisal process, including the views of the independent review panel, will be reported to the Council's Economic Regeneration and Planning Strategy Select Committee before Cabinet and Council take the final decisions at each phase of the plan-making process.

### **Monitoring**

- 6.9 Monitoring of the impact of plans and proposals, in terms of the indicators set out in section 5 of the Sustainability Framework, will be undertaken as part of the Council's statutory Annual Monitoring Report.

## **7 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

[Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(Chapter 5\)](#)

[Town and Country Planning \(Local Development\)\(England\) Regulations 2004 \(SI 2004, No.2204\)](#)

[Environmental Protection: Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 \(SI 2004, No.1633\)](#)

[Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks \(ODPM, 2004\)](#)

[Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPS12 \(ODPM, 2004\)](#)

[Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks: Consultation Paper \(ODPM, September 2004\)](#)

[Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development \(ODPM, January 2005\)](#)

[Securing the Future: Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy \(HM Government, Command Paper 6467, March 2005\)](#)

## **APPENDICES**

### **SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES, DECISION CRITERIA AND INDICATORS**

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## Appendix 1

<b>Social Inclusion</b>		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>To promote a balanced population structure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal retain and promote factors conducive to social regeneration</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for jobs, services and facilities that will attract and retain the working age population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population change and structure</li> <li>▪ Population forecasts</li> <li>▪ Migration rates</li> </ul>
<i>To reduce the incidence of multiple deprivation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for a service or facility that will address an identified local deficiency or inequality</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal include measures to improve economic, social and environmental conditions in areas of greatest need</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist in closing the gap between standards of living and opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indices of Multiple Deprivation</li> <li>▪ Population by socio-economic grouping</li> <li>▪ Educational attainment</li> </ul>
<i>To promote the accessibility of services and facilities to all sectors of society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal improve access to modern health and social care services</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide a service or facility that will address an identified local deficiency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population within easy walking distance of key local services</li> <li>▪ Population within easy walking distance of a bus stop or railway station</li> <li>▪ Proportion of jobs and services within easy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for access for people with restricted mobility</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote affordable transport links to areas of greatest need</li> </ul>	walking distance of a bus stop or railway station
<i>To meet identified local housing needs and promote housing market renewal</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for development that will meet an identified local housing need</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal support the provision of modern affordable housing in areas of greatest need</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal support the promotion of housing market renewal</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist in reducing the number of unfit and vacant properties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dwelling stock by size, type and tenure</li> <li>▪ Number, percentage and location of unfit and vacant properties</li> <li>▪ Average house prices by area</li> <li>▪ Progress against HMRI objectives and indicators</li> </ul>
<i>To promote inclusive, healthy communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect or improve public health and safety</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist in addressing health inequalities</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal make appropriate provision for the needs of vulnerable people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Life expectancy</li> <li>▪ Mortality by main cause (Standardised Mortality Ratios)</li> <li>▪ Other local health indicators (to be agreed)</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2

<b>Economic Growth</b>		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>To promote improved economic performance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for an increase in output and productivity and improved economic performance</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal secure adequate provision for new and emerging target sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GVA per head</li> <li>▪ GVA as percentage of regional and national performance</li> <li>▪ Economic activity rates</li> </ul>
<i>To provide for employment growth and business creation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal encourage an increase in local employment</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal secure the provision of attractive land and premises</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist business creation and support business growth</li> <li>• will the policy and proposal exploit local strengths and maximise the use of key facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Employment by sector</li> <li>▪ VAT registrations and de-registrations</li> <li>▪ Analysis of business enquiries</li> <li>▪ Rates of employment development by type and location</li> </ul>
<i>To reduce worklessness and income deprivation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal contribute towards reducing unemployment and income deprivation</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal contribute towards meeting the employment needs and aspirations of local people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unemployment by age and duration</li> <li>▪ Percentage of people in employment on social security benefits</li> <li>▪ Average earnings</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote job opportunities that will be genuinely accessible to people in greatest need</li> </ul>	
<i>To promote the vitality and viability of town centres</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal contribute to the vitality and viability of an existing centre</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the location of appropriate jobs and services within existing centres</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal restrict development that would harm the vitality and viability of existing centres</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal encourage a sequential approach to site selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Results of centre health checks</li> <li>▪ New retail, leisure and office development by type and location</li> <li>▪ Vacancy rates by centre</li> <li>▪ Retail rents</li> </ul>
<i>To maximise provision for high quality tourism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect and improve existing tourism resources</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal encourage the development of local tourism and visitor facilities</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal hinder the attraction additional visitors and tourism investment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number and type of visits by duration and location</li> <li>▪ Type, number and location of visitor facilities</li> <li>▪ Number, quality and location of bedspaces</li> </ul>

### Appendix 3

<b>Environmental Protection</b>		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>To maintain and improve biodiversity and natural habitats</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote biodiversity or contribute to habitat creation</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect sites already recognised as important for nature conservation or earth science</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist in the delivery of an approved Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number, area and condition of sites designated for nature or earth science conservation</li> <li>▪ Area and condition of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats</li> <li>▪ Progress against other Biodiversity Action Plan targets</li> </ul>
<i>To minimise pollution to land, water or air</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for the prevention or minimisation of pollution at source</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for the remedy or treatment of an existing source of pollution</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect or improve the quality of ground, surface and coastal waters</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the loss of productive land and the opportunity for land contamination</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the likelihood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Population living in Air Quality Management Areas</li> <li>▪ Number of days air pollution is moderate or high</li> <li>▪ Proportion of rivers registering good or fair for chemical and biological water quality</li> <li>▪ Number of beaches and coastal areas gaining international flag status</li> <li>▪ Number and area of Part 2A contaminated sites</li> <li>▪ Area and percentage of high quality agricultural land lost to development</li> </ul>

	<p>of light or noise intrusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect or improve air quality and serve to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases</li> </ul>	
<i>To conserve local heritage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for the conservation of designated conservation areas</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for the preservation of listed buildings and structures</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal conserve other locally important buildings or townscapes</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the protection of archaeology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number, area and condition of designated conservation areas</li> <li>▪ Number, area and condition of designated Historic Parks and Gardens</li> <li>▪ Number of Listed Buildings on English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register</li> <li>▪ Number and condition of Scheduled Ancient Monuments</li> </ul>
<i>To provide for the separation of incompatible land uses</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal protect the amenity of sensitive uses such as residential areas, hospitals and nursing homes</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal direct activities likely to cause nuisance away from sensitive uses such as residential areas, hospitals and nursing homes</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the opportunity for hazards and accidents and maximise public safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of homes falling within the consultation distance of a Part A industrial process</li> <li>▪ Number of homes falling within a major hazard consultation zone</li> <li>▪ Number of people reporting disturbance from environmental nuisance</li> </ul>
<i>To reduce the impact of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal seek to minimise the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Road accidents per 100,000 people</li> </ul>

<i>traffic intrusion in residential areas</i>	<p>impact of traffic on residential roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal route commercial and other traffic to main routes away from residential areas</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal assist in the reduction of traffic congestion and vehicle emissions</li> </ul>	
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## Appendix 4

<b>Natural Resources</b>		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>To maximise the use of previously developed urban land</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal maximise the use of previously developed urban land and buildings</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal restrict development on previously undeveloped urban land and other urban open spaces</li> <li>• will the policy restrict development in the open countryside</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of new houses built on previously developed land</li> <li>▪ Proportion of new commercial development on previously developed land</li> </ul>
<i>To minimise the reliance on non-renewable energy sources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the use of renewable energy</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the use of non-renewable energy sources, promote fuel efficiency and energy conservation</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the use of new and clean technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Average energy consumption per head</li> <li>▪ Proportion of new homes built to ECO Homes standard</li> <li>▪ Number and type of renewable energy schemes and quantity of power generated</li> </ul>
<i>To promote sustainable drainage and water conservation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the impact on the water environment</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal maximise water conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of development using sustainable drainage systems</li> <li>▪ Average water consumption per household</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for sustainable drainage systems</li> </ul>	
<i>To minimise waste generation and maximise recycling</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote waste reduction</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for an increased rate of domestic and commercial recycling</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal minimise the amount of waste going to landfill</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the use of recycled materials in construction projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Annual volume of waste arisings by type and source</li> <li>▪ Proportion of municipal waste recycled and composted</li> <li>▪ Annual volume of waste sent to landfill</li> </ul>
<i>To minimise the impact of flooding and other natural hazards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal restrict development in areas of recognised risk</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal only permit development following an appropriate assessment of flood risk</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote development that will withstand the impact of climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proportion of new development in flood risk areas</li> <li>▪ Proportion of new development in areas at risk from coastal erosion</li> <li>▪ Number of planning approvals contrary to Environment Agency advice</li> </ul>

## Appendix 5

Quality of Life		
<i>Objective</i>	<i>Decision Criteria</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
<i>To maintain and promote a locally distinctive sense of place</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for development that will respect the distinctive character of the locality</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote high quality urban design</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote the conservation of distinctive landscapes and other natural features such as, trees, hedges, ponds, rivers and coastlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Area of Green Belt</li> <li>▪ Area of woodland and tree cover lost to development</li> <li>▪ Extent of areas designated as high quality landscapes</li> </ul>
<i>To protect and improve the general attractiveness of the area</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal serve to promote the well-being of the area</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal serve to minimise any negative perceptions about the area</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal serve to promote the social, economic and environmental regeneration of areas of greatest need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents satisfaction surveys</li> </ul>
<i>To maximise opportunities for culture, sport and leisure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal retain adequate provision of facilities for culture, sport and leisure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Type, number, size and location of facilities for sport, recreation and leisure</li> <li>▪ Population within easy walking distance of sport,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote additional provision to meet identified needs</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal serve to assist in the promotion of local culture and history</li> </ul>	<p>recreation and leisure facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents satisfaction surveys</li> </ul>
<i>To promote sustainable travel choices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote easy accessibility to homes, jobs and services by alternatives to the private car</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal make appropriate physical provision for walking, cycling and the use of public transport</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote sustainable travel choices and a reduction in traffic congestion</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal encourage the greater use of rail and water for freight transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Extent of new development within easy walking distance of a bus stop or railway station</li> <li>▪ Journey to work by location, mode and distance</li> <li>▪ Location and length of designated cycle tracks</li> <li>▪ Volume of freight by mode</li> </ul>
<i>To minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• will the policy or proposal promote measures to maximise crime prevention</li> <li>• will the policy or proposal provide for measures to minimise the opportunity for anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Crime rates per 1000 people</li> <li>▪ Proportion of people reporting fear of crime</li> </ul>