

Stockport Local Plan

Issues Paper

Sustainability Appraisal

28th July 2017



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Non Technical Summary

This section of the report provides a clear non-technical summary of what the Stockport Local Plan – Issues Paper Sustainability Appraisal Report found, as well as why and how it was done. It also includes the areas of the Borough as well as the topics that the report covers and when the work takes place as part of the various stages of the Stockport Local Plan preparation.

Why are we doing appraisal?

International, national and local laws and policies drive the activities that take place during what is called ‘appraisal’ – another term for assessment. Stockport Council have always supported appraisal as a process given that its main aim is to make sure that a Local Plan delivers sustainable development in Stockport.

Sustainable development is all about balancing the benefits of new buildings and other types of development so that communities and neighbourhoods are protected and improved, while protecting nature and heritage, making sure rivers and air are clean and that parks and other open spaces are available to everybody. People should be able to reach the countryside easily for pleasure trips.

Peoples’ homes should be of the type and size that they need, affordably priced as well as affordable to run. Homes should be well designed and built with good space, lighting and heating that doesn’t cost the Earth! Children should be able to play outside safely either in the garden or yard, or close to home. Also people should be able to get from their home to work and school as well as local shops and centres where they can get most of what they need. They should be able to easily get to the doctors, dentists, library, bank, solicitors or a health centre in their local area. Stockport’s Town Centre should be an attractive place to visit, meet family and friends for a coffee or a meal, shop for a wide variety of items and visit museums, the cinema or other leisure services.

Sustainable development also means that people can get where they want to go by cycling or walking as well as on buses or trains if they choose to do so rather than using a car, but also that roads and parking are available as required and that air pollution and traffic are reduced as much as possible. All of this includes protecting people’s health and their income so that they become better off.

Sustainable development means that businesses can thrive in the Borough and employment at all types of skill levels is on offer, reducing the need to commute out of Stockport for work. It also means that the workforce is healthy, happy and productive including achieving a low carbon economy that benefits nature.

What is appraisal and what effect does it have on Stockport’s Local Plan?

Appraisal is another term for assessment. There are different types of assessment being done on the Stockport Local Plan not only because laws require it but also because it makes sense to make sure that any new local planning policies benefit people, nature and local prosperity.

At this early stage of the Stockport Local Plan there are no draft policies to assess. Stockport Council has taken the approach of inviting the people of Stockport to have their say on what they want to see in their Local Plan. This limits what assessment can be done at this early stage because no options or draft policies have yet been created. Later stages of assessment take into account

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health and equalities issues as well as the natural environment and a prosperous economy. The tasks completed (see 'How is appraisal done') have resulted in a list of issues that have either been added in to the final document (Stockport Local Plan Issues Paper 2017) or a note has been made of them where they are so detailed that they will be included in the next more detailed stage of preparing the Local Plan. This full list can be seen in Table 1 of this document and this includes the responses from the Planning Team on how the issues raised in assessment are being or will be addressed.

A list of issues from assessment work on earlier plans include: social inequalities; an ageing population; climate change impacts; protecting local centres; house prices; lack of lower skilled employment; quality of public service buildings; uneven distribution of green space and sports facilities; traffic congestion; people commuting out of the Borough for work; is there enough burial space in Stockport? These issues have been thought about while writing the document and during the assessment.

A summary of the issues that are included in the final Issues paper draft as a result of the assessment are: housing density (a term about how many houses or flats can be built on a site; natural capital (thinking about nature as part of the things we need for day to day living – clean air, water and managing flooding and other extreme weather); protecting soils; pollution (including contaminated land); multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure ((all the green bits that let us travel on foot or by bike, have clean air, support nature and food provision, manage flooding, etc.); energy should be considered within the Local Plan under both infrastructure and design; traffic congestion; adult training needs; home working; social enterprises.

Issues that will be dealt with in a more detailed later document are: mental health concerns; access to culture should include museums and art galleries; safety on public transport; full needs of cycle commuters include showers, clothes drying and storage not just parking and cycle routes; does the evidence exist so that policies can require 'sustainable design' (green design that reduces energy use and protects the environment); links to NERC Duty (a law that means the Council must do certain things to protect and enhance nature); noise pollution; review of parking standards (including cycle parking); flexible design especially around technology and business needs changing over time; eco-tourism; Low Carbon and Environmental Goods & Services Economic Sector. Minerals and waste are dealt with in other GM documents, however any relevant SLP considerations will be addressed.

How is appraisal done?

The Council employs an officer to undertake the various types of assessment. Details of her qualifications and experience can be found in the relevant section on 'About the Authors'.

The appraisal requirements at the earliest stages are that various information is gathered, an assessment tool is created and used to assess early versions of Stockport's Local Plan. These tasks include the following with information on what actions have been taken so far and where in this document you can find them:

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Table 1 Appraisal Tasks

Task	Action	Where
A list of other plans, policies and programmes as well as sustainability objectives that could affect or be affected by Stockport's Local Plan.	A list of international, national, regional and local documents that plan makers and assessors need to be aware of.	Appendix 1
Collect baseline information	A baseline of social, environmental and economic information has been gathered.	Annex 1
Identify sustainability issues and problems	A list of issues based on earlier planning work and commented on by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.	See Appraisal Outputs section of this document
Develop the Sustainability Appraisal Framework	This is the tool used to assess draft documents and policies. Stockport's Sustainability Wheel includes different parts that record how things were assessed and provides a footprint output – the larger the footprint the less sustainable the thing being assessed.	Appendix 2 for the Wheel structure and content; Annex 2 for the detailed outputs from using the Wheel on the draft I&O document
Consulting on the Scope of the SA	This task requires the Council to ask the Statutory Consultees to comment on the above four tasks: that is Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.	Scoping Report is available in Annex 3 and the actions resulting from their comments in shown in Section 5.2 of this report.
Test the Local Plan against Stockport's Sustainability Wheel	An early draft of the Issues & Options document was assessed using the Stockport Sustainability Wheel. Several issues were highlighted as needing to be included as an issue or to help people to think about the issues. Other items will be dealt with at later stages of the SLP. See Section on Task B1 in this document which lists the main issues.	See Annex 2 for the full outputs from the Wheel assessment.

Where does the appraisal cover?

Like the Plan itself, the report looks at impacts that could happen across the whole Borough, down to a local level such as a post code area. Appraisal also takes account of what are called trans-boundary issues. That means impacts like carbon emissions or species that are not native

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to the area can move from Stockport and can cross into or out of the Borough and affect other neighbouring areas and beyond.

When does appraisal take place?

The following stages are when appraisal happens alongside the preparation of Stockport Local Plan:

Table 2 Stages of Appraisal

Document Stage	Sustainability Appraisal
Scoping of Stockport Local Plan structure and contents – thinking about where, what, when, why and how the Local Plan should be prepared and what it should cover	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report reflecting evidence gathering for the appraisal work and creation of the main appraisal tool.
Issues / Options – what are the issues that affect the area? What options are there for policies and sites in the Borough?	Sustainability Appraisal Reports on Issues and the Options work - appraisal of issues and spatial options during preparation.
Preferred Option – which is the preferred way forward regarding both policy and sites?	Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report – including draft policy and site appraisal reporting that inform how the options were assessed and the decision reached on the preferred approach
Publication – Stockport Local Plan is publicised to the Government and other relevant contacts	Sustainability Appraisal Report – final draft which describes all the previous stages and findings.
Submission – SLP is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate	Accompanied by the SA Report
Examination in Public – An inspector is appointed to examine the plan which involves several weeks of listening to concerns raised through a formal process	SA Report informs the examination
Adoption of Stockport's Local Plan	Monitoring – the appraisal work will include ideas about what to monitor when the local plan is applied to the planning process in Stockport.

Introduction

Sustainable Development

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them."
 Albert Einstein

2.1 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, waste management and restrictions on pollution, whilst improving health, delivering social equity and enhancing prosperity levels in society.

2.2 The guiding principles of Sustainable Development were outlined in Securing the Future, the UK Sustainable Development Strategy produced in 2005. They include: living within environmental limits; achieving a sustainable economy; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; promoting good governance and using sound science responsibly. The objective is to promote outcomes in which economic, social and environmental objectives are achieved together over time.

2.3 The Shared Priorities for immediate action were identified in Securing the Future as:

- Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Climate Change and Energy
- Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement
- Sustainable Communities

Purpose of Stockport's Local Plan Issues Paper Sustainability Appraisal Report

2.4 This document is a report on the methodologies and tools being used to deliver the various forms of mandatory and best practice appraisal of Stockport's Local Plan (SLP). It also records the findings and recommendations of the Appraisal including any resulting changes to the SLP as a result of the SA/SEA. According to guidance and best practice on appraisal processes, there was consultation on the scope of the appraisal information, techniques and tools with the Statutory Consultees (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency).

2.5 Further consultation will allow other agencies and individuals to comment on the appropriateness of the appraisal, suggest potential changes and additions to the appraisal process and content, as well as informing preparation of the Local Plan itself. The Issues Paper SA Report accompanies this stage of consultation. Further SA Reports will also accompany the subsequent stages of consultation with a finalised Sustainability Appraisal Report for the final submission.

Questions

Throughout this document there are questions which aim to prompt consultees to comment on the Issues Paper Sustainability Appraisal Report of the appraisal requirements, processes and findings. Commentators should follow the instructions on Stockport's Consultation Portal to comment on this Report or email local.plan@stockport.gov.uk

Introduction

Stockport's Local Plan (SLP)

2.6 Stockport's Local Plan (SLP) sets out the Council's policies for the use and development of land in the Borough. It is part of the wider suite of documents that comprise the Stockport Development Plan which is made up of several statutory documents including Stockport's Proposals Map, the Greater Manchester joint Minerals and Waste Plans. The SLP plays a major role in the determination of individual planning applications and in other decisions taken under the Town and Country Planning Acts. The SLP covers the period from its adoption to an end date yet to be formally decided but probably in line with Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF)⁽¹⁾ in 2035.

2.7 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority⁽²⁾ are working to produce a joint plan to manage the supply of land for jobs and new homes across Greater Manchester (including Stockport). The GMSF will ensure that the right land is available in the right places to deliver the homes and jobs needed up to 2035, along with identifying the new infrastructure (such as roads, rail, Metrolink and utility networks) required to achieve this. It will be the overarching development plan within which Greater Manchester's ten local planning authorities can identify more detailed sites for jobs and homes in their own area. As such, the GMSF will not cover everything that a local plan would cover and individual districts will continue to produce their own local plans. The GMSF Integrated Appraisal will inform work on Stockport's SA and the SLP.

2.8 The Greater Manchester Waste Development Plan Document⁽³⁾ was adopted in 2012 and together with the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan Development Plan Document⁽⁴⁾ forms part of the current suite of planning documents in Stockport.

2.9 Stockport's Local Development Framework⁽⁵⁾ is made up of the above GM documents but also includes the Core Strategy⁽⁶⁾ (adopted March 2011) and the retained policies from Stockport's Unitary Development Plan⁽⁷⁾ as well as the Proposals Maps⁽⁸⁾. The Stockport documents will be superseded by Stockport's Local Plan forming part of the wider Stockport Development Plan as it will now be referred to.

2.10 The SLP will lay out why change is needed; what should be done; and where, when and how it is going to happen, including the provision of supporting infrastructure. The document will identify the land use and development issues confronting the Borough by considering a range of social, economic and environmental characteristics of the Borough.

2.11 The Borough's Local Plan must conform with national and regional planning policies such as the National Planning Policy Framework, the National Planning Practice Guidance⁽⁹⁾ and the Greater Manchester documents outlined above. The SLP should also reference and reflect Stockport's Borough Plan 2015-2020⁽¹⁰⁾ and a range of other plans and strategies of the Council and its partners, informed by the Other Plans List in 'Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans'. These also help to identify the issues that the SLP needs to address.

1 <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/GMSF>

2 https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/info/20018/greater_manchester_spatial_framework

3 <http://www.gmwastedpd.co.uk/>

4 <http://www.gmmineralsplan.co.uk/>

5 www.stockport.gov.uk/ldf

6 www.stockport.gov.uk/corestrategy

7 www.stockport.gov.uk/udp

8 www.stockport.gov.uk/proposalsmap

9 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

10 <http://www.stockportpartnership.org.uk/>

2.12 The SLP will be made up of strategic policies and site relevant policies as well as site allocations which will allocate land for a range of uses to support the spatial vision, objectives and strategic policies of the SLP. It will cover the whole Borough and set out the Council's proposals for land and buildings on significant sites which are likely to be subject to major development proposals during the lifetime of the SLP.

2.13 The allocations element will contain sites for development including housing, employment, services and transport infrastructure and site designations for environmental as well as heritage protection. In addition there will be specific site policies; "A site allocation policy means a policy which allocates a site for a particular use or Development"⁽¹¹⁾ .

2.14 The SLP may also set out further detail of policy context and criteria, as well as guidance for development of sites, including setting out other objectives to meet local needs and wider area requirements. These allocations will need to reflect the SLP strategic objectives and should set out the justification for the inclusion of sites. It should demonstrate that the sites and buildings included are available and deliverable.

2.15 The allocations element will generally set out a preferred use or mix of uses for a specific site. These sites will eventually update, replace or introduce new development sites from those in the existing Proposals Map within the adopted Unitary Development Plan. The SLP will allocate sites and apply relevant policies to those sites and, once adopted, the SLP will become an important factor with regards to reaching decisions on future planning applications. This means that planning applications should be assessed in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise.

Appraisal - About the Authors

2.16 The Appraisal work and documentation is being co-ordinated by the Technical Policy & Planning Specialist responsible for health and environment advice to Stockport's Planning Teams and applicants. The officer is working with the policy writers and other colleagues and partners, who will be detailed in the various reports.

2.17 Angie Jukes BSc, MSc, has provided health and environment advice to the Planning departments at Stockport Council since April 2008. This is a non-planner role co-funded by Stockport's Director of Public Health and the Technical Policy & Planning function of the Council to facilitate appraisal and advice on health and environmental issues, delivering sustainability in planning policy. Based within the Planning Policy function this role assists with policy development through delivery of the various aspects of sustainability appraisal, alongside the emerging policy. Angie has both a BSc and an MSc in environmental subjects, with nearly twenty years experience working across sustainable development sectors including energy, health, green infrastructure and biodiversity, sustainability appraisal, sustainable design and construction as well as policy.

Why do Appraisal?

Why do Appraisal?

3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework drives the need for achieving sustainable development through a sound plan. Various other legislative drivers also contribute to the need to ensure spatial planning documents deliver sustainable development. Details of these various drivers are listed below.

Achieving Sustainable Development

3.2 The Ministerial statement in the Foreword to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁽¹²⁾ states that ‘The purpose of planning is to help to achieve sustainable development.’ It also goes on to state: ‘Sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don’t mean worse lives for future generations. Development means growth.’ However it also says ‘So sustainable development is about positive growth – making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations.’

3.3 The following aspects of the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), referencing relevant paragraphs in the NPPF, are critical in interpreting what specifically is meant, in national planning policy and guidance terms, by achieving sustainable development.

3.4 The opening paragraph of NPPF states:
‘Achieving Sustainable Development: International and national bodies have set out broad principles of sustainable development. Resolution 42/187 of the United Nations General Assembly defined sustainable development as **meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy Securing the Future set out five ‘guiding principles’ of sustainable development: living within the planet’s environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.’

3.5 National Planning Practice Guidance

Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 12-011-20140306

How should a Local Plan reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development?

Paragraphs 14 and 15 of the National Planning Policy Framework indicates that Local Plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This should be done by identifying and providing for objectively assessed needs and by indicating how the presumption will be applied locally.

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Web link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-plans--2>

3.6 National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 14

At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-taking.

3.7 For plan-making this means that:

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- local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area;
- Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs, with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change, unless: **any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits**, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole; or specific policies in this Framework indicate development should be restricted.

3.8 National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 15

Policies in Local Plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development so that it is clear that development which is sustainable can be approved without delay. All plans should be based upon and reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development, with clear policies that will guide how the presumption should be applied locally.

Biodiversity Duty

3.9 As a public authority the Council has to have a regard to the Biodiversity duty with particular emphasis on conserving biodiversity (and geodiversity), including managing the planning system⁽¹³⁾. The National Planning Policy Framework is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution⁽¹⁴⁾. Ensuring that Green Infrastructure is delivered is one clear way of enhancing and conserving biodiversity⁽¹⁵⁾ whilst also achieving sustainable development.

Historic Environment

3.10 The conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and effective conservation delivers a wide range of benefits. There are several legislative drivers that seek to ensure planning protects and enhances heritage assets⁽¹⁶⁾.

Soundness

3.11 Paragraph 182 of the NPPF lays out the processes that occur to inform the decision by an Inspector in terms of finding a plan sound. The Local Plan will be examined by an independent inspector whose role is to assess whether the plan has been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, legal and procedural requirements, and whether it is sound. A local planning authority should submit a plan for examination which it considers is “sound” – namely that it is:

- Positively prepared – the plan should be prepared based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and **consistent with achieving sustainable development**;
- Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;

13 www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-duty-public-authority-duty-to-have-regard-to-conserving-biodiversity

14 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/biodiversity-ecosystems-and-green-infrastructure/>

15 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/green-infrastructure/>

16 www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment#non-designated-heritage-assets Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 18a-002-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014

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- Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
- Consistent with national policy – the plan should **enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.**

3.12 In order to ensure a robust and sound SA (including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) and in line with the legislative requirements detailed in the following sections, it is determined that the following elements of appraisal, whether mandatory or not, be included under the umbrella of the SA, taking note of specific guidance and statutory requirements where applicable. The drivers for using these appraisal approaches are detailed in the following specific sections:

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)
- Appropriate Assessment / Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Rural Proofing

Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.13 Mandatory under Section 39(2) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Sustainability Appraisal⁽¹⁷⁾ forms part of the SLP development process.

3.14 Strategic Environmental Assessment is required by the SEA European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment". SEA has been transposed into UK legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁽¹⁸⁾. The Council must determine for each document whether an SEA is required, in consultation with specified statutory consultees (the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England)⁽¹⁹⁾.

3.15 This document provides the results of the initial appraisal of Stockport Local Plan Issues Paper laid out in government Guidance⁽²⁰⁾. Stages A and B are outlined below but it should be born in mind that, as laid out in the Methodology and Outputs sections, not all of the tasks have been undertaken given that spatial options have not yet been considered and that, at this stage, there are no draft policies or sites to appraise.

3.16 Stages A and B:

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

- A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives
- A2: Collecting baseline information
- A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems
- A4: Developing the SA framework
- A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

17 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

18 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/pdfs/ukxi_20041633_en.pdf

19 www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance

20 http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/#paragraph_013

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3.18 Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

- B1: Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
- B2: Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
- B3: Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
- B4: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- B5: Proposed measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

3.19 Whilst the requirement to carry out an SA and an SEA are distinct, it is possible to satisfy both through a single appraisal process. The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance states that Sustainability Appraisal incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements as laid out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004⁽²¹⁾.

3.20 The archived detailed Government guidance from 2005 on undertaking SA/SEA in tandem has also informed this work to ensure a robust outcome, in terms of appropriate SEA within SA.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Compliance

Strategic Environmental Assessment or SEA compliance is required in line with the above legislation. Throughout this document wherever that is achieved, a box such as this one will indicate compliance for ease of information.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) & Appropriate Assessment

3.21 European Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a designated habitats site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives⁽²²⁾. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

3.22 Part IV of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994 implements the HRA requirement for specified planning and other similar consents. In October 2005 the European Court of Justice ruled that this requirement extended to land use plans.

3.23 This was set out in the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 which inserts a new Part IVA into the 1994 Regulations and came into force on 21 August 2007.

21 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/docs/default-source/planning-guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal-how-to-do-it/strategic-environmental-assessment/>
 22 www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69580/pb13809-habitats-guidance.pdf

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SEA Compliance

“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC” (Annex I (d)).

3.24 A full HRA screening exercise was undertaken for the Core Strategy and initial Allocations DPD work and will be revisited as part of the appraisal work on the SLP – separate Habitats Regulations Assessment reports will be available alongside the Preferred Options documents when draft policies are available.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

3.25 An Equalities Impact Assessment is a systematic analysis of a proposed (or substantially amended) policy, whether it is written or unwritten and irrespective of its scope. EqIA methodology developed in response to the following legal duty in the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act 2005: ‘Assessing and consulting on the likely impact of proposed policies on the promotion of equality’.

3.26 The primary function of an EqIA is to determine the extent of a policy’s different impacts on specific groups of people and in turn whether that impact is adverse. ‘Specific groups of people’ include those that are known to experience a range of social and economic inequalities. Whilst there is a wide range of such specific groups, Stockport Council EqIAs focus on those groups characterised by gender including transgender, disability, race, sexual orientation, age, belief, socio economic status and carers. EqIA has been undertaken on earlier versions of the Local Plan which will inform work on this current SLP development. Stockport Council’s own Equalities Impact Assessment tool will also inform this work at the Preferred Option stage, when draft policies are available.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

3.27 Health Impact Assessment, whilst not mandatory, can help inform policy development by predicting the health consequences when a plan or policy is implemented⁽²³⁾. In addition to assessing the health consequences it also produces recommendation as to how the good consequences for health could be enhanced and how the bad consequences could be avoided or minimised.

3.28 The principles and methods of HIA can be used to assess health consequences as part of another impact assessment such as SEA or SA. Whether the health consequences of a proposal are assessed with an HIA or as part of some other assessment is unimportant. The important thing is that they are thoroughly assessed⁽²⁴⁾. HIA can be a valuable tool for helping to develop policy and take account of health determinants, outlined by health professionals, in terms of social, economic and environmental criteria (see Figure 1). HIA can help to ensure that the social implications are fully considered as part of the SA/SEA process.

²³ www.who.int/hia/about/why/en/

²⁴ www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=44530

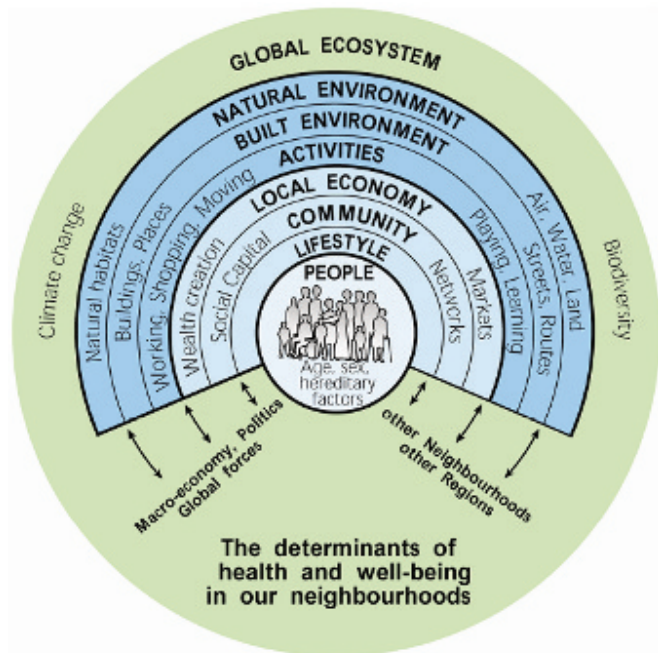
Why do Appraisal?

3.29 The NPPF and NPPG⁽²⁵⁾ include specific elements on health in planning policy. Paragraph 171 of the NPPF states ‘Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship), including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.’

3.30 Also one of the NPPF Core Planning Principles which underpin plan making is outlined in NPPF: ‘... take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.’ HIA enables this to happen in a structured and informed way.

3.31 The NPPG contains a section on Health and Wellbeing. It covers the need for Local Planning Authorities to take account of health and wellbeing, as well as health infrastructure in Local Plans. The information highlights that the built and natural environments are determinants of health and wellbeing. This includes aspects such as sustainable transport modes (including active travel options), protecting the natural environment, tackling climate change and promoting quality housing and good design. There is also mention of how planning can help to tackle health inequalities and ensure health care facilities where they are needed. The guidance also outlines the need to deliver inclusive communities and healthy lifestyles (including provision of Green Infrastructure, recreational / sport facilities and access to healthy food choices).

Figure 1 Dahlgren & Whitehead Social Determinants of Health



Rural Proofing

3.32 Rural Proofing is not mandatory as an appraisal requirement for spatial plans. However, it is determined as useful in terms of the SLP since discussions have taken place in the past on whether or not Stockport has any classified rural areas and identifying the associated needs of such areas. Rural Proofing guidance is promoted by the Government⁽²⁶⁾ and reflects a commitment to ensure that all policies take account of rural circumstances and needs

3.33 Earlier rural proofing work identified that 8.55% of the population are classed as living in rural areas, as designated by Defra definitions based on population density. Current data is not comparable with past data since measurement processes have changed. An updated assessment will be prepared to inform the next stage of appraisal.

25 <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/health-and-wellbeing/what-is-the-role-of-health-and-wellbeing-in-planning/>
 26 www.gov.uk/guidance/rural-proofing-guidance

Appraisal Methodology

Appraisal Methodology

4.1 This section of the Report lays out the required tasks and the methodologies used to achieve them. It should be noted that not all of the tasks in Stage B have been undertaken given the proposed approach to the Stockport Local Plan Issues Paper (see section from the draft Issues document below).

4.2 *'A number of challenges and opportunities face the borough now and in the years to come and this is your chance to start influencing how we address these. We know that people are concerned about the delivery of housing, both in terms of the numbers and where they are built, and how we deal with the fact that despite being a well-connected borough, our roads are often very congested. It is not just about houses, jobs and transport, people rely on a variety of services, whether that is health, education, other community facilities, shops, open space and so on. Therefore the Local Plan needs support to deliver the right services in the right place for the right people.'*

4.3 *The Local plan will look at these issues, alongside many others, but we would like to know what other issues we may have missed in this document, which you think the Local Plan should do. The Local Plan is a plan for the future, we therefore need to be sure that we are considering all the issues you think will affect you. All residents will have views on this, from young people who are still in education to those who are not retired. We would like to hear from people across all the different parts of the population in Stockport so that we get the best range of views possible.'*

4.4 *The Council is keen to support a transparent public debate to inform the preparation of sound, deliverable plans to meet Stockport's needs and aspirations towards 2035. We understand that the issues in one area of Stockport may not be the same as in others, so we want to hear from you about the place you live - what works, what does not, what you need, and what you want to protect. That is why it is important for the public to get involved at the earliest possible stage to help shape how the Local Plan develops. '*

4.5 Given that there are no options to appraise at this time an adapted approach to appraisal methodology for this stage has been devised. This is laid out in response to the various Stage A and B tasks below.

4.6 The processes and findings of the Integrated Assessment on the GMSF inform the appraisal work on Stockport's Local Plan.

Stage A Tasks

4.7 Within Stage A of the appraisal process are five tasks which have to be undertaken and reported on in a Scoping Report (and subsequent reports as deemed useful):

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

A2: Collecting baseline information

A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

A4: Developing the SA Framework

A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

Below are each of these tasks outlined for consultation and comment.

A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives

4.8 Guidance recommends that the Local Planning Authority must take account of relationships between the Local Plan and other relevant policies, plans, programme and sustainability objectives. The SEA Directive specifically requires environmental protection objectives, established at international, European or national levels, to be taken into account.

4.9 Information on these relationships allows potential combined effects (whether positive or negative) to be identified, as well as any inconsistencies and constraints to be addressed. Guidance recommends regular review of these lists of other plans etc., at key stages of appraisal.

SEA Compliance

The Report shall include information on the 'relationship [of the plan or programme] with other relevant plans and programmes.' (Annex1(a)). The information to be given shall include '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.' (Annex 1(e)).

4.10

A comprehensive list of other plans etc., was established for earlier SA, SEA and HRA work on planning documents and was revised and updated to inform the SLP SA Scoping Report. An up to date version is available in 'Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans' to inform the appraisal work at all subsequent stages.

Question 1

Are there any other plans or strategies that should be taken account of during the appraisal process?

A2: Collecting baseline information

4.11 Baseline information provides the basis for predicting and monitoring effects and helps to identify sustainability problems and alternative ways of dealing with them. Baseline information can consist of both qualitative and quantitative information. Planning Authorities are advised to collate baseline information during the survey and evidence gathering phase of the Local Plan development and good practice guidance suggests that this is kept up to date throughout the plan making process. This should include consideration of existing information and data, as well as identifying gaps in information.

Appraisal Methodology

4.12 Previous monitoring reports provide useful information for baseline. Guidance suggests that sufficient social, economic and environmental information about the current and likely future state of the area covered by the Local Plan needs to be collected to allow effects to be adequately predicted.

4.13 The baseline has been updated from that used for earlier planning documents given the passage of time, changes in Government as well as the Council and therefore changes in data availability and type. In addition data from the GMSF and associated appraisal will inform baseline revision. The baseline is available in Annex 1 (see separate PDF).

SEA Compliance

The Environmental Report shall include 'relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme' and 'the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly effected' (Annex 1 (b), (c)).

4.14 In order to address the above SEA requirements and to ensure a robust appraisal, the baseline information in Annex 1 of this document includes:

- Outline of categories and objectives used within the SAF
- Baseline information
- Do Nothing Scenario - what would be likely without a Plan in place
- Information Sources
- Data Limitations

Question 2

Is there any additional baseline information that should inform the appraisal processes being undertaken on the SLP?

A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

4.15 The processes that informed the SA etc., of earlier plans enabled the identification of the following sustainability issues and problems which are being considered for continued relevance with regards to the SLP - some of these are updated in light of recent information. Also account is being taken of the findings of the GMSF and its assessment – in particular the outputs in Table 8 in the IA Report dated 24th October 2016 which inform the current and later stages of the SLP:

- Pockets of deprivation versus areas of affluence, resulting in inequalities including in health;
- Levels of domestic carbon emissions, third highest after Manchester and Wigan within the Greater Manchester area;
- Levels of transport carbon emissions have not reduced at the same rate as domestic or commercial levels – other pollutants such as NO_x are of concern;
- The Town Centre requires further improvement across a range of uses in a coherent and comprehensive manner;

- Issues of cross linkages and opening up river frontage must be considered within the Town Centre;
- A need to safeguard and enhance the vitality and viability of the Town Centre, District and Local Centres;
- Ageing population – 20% of residents are over 65;
- House prices are generally high and there is significant local need for affordable housing;
- Accessibility of some services, especially to the more deprived areas of the Borough;
- Quality of school buildings and issues of provision;
- Quality of other community facilities including health care facilities;
- Employment sectors are predominantly in the highly skilled range with 20.6% of the workforce (16 to 74 year olds) with no qualifications;
- Formal sports provision and accessibility needs improvement;
- Uneven distribution of greenspace;
- Traffic congestion in the more heavily populated areas and along major road routes, despite there being comparatively good public transport availability in many areas;
- Out-commuting levels are high and for every 6 who commute out 4 commute in; and
- Provision of cemeteries, in light of predicted need.
- Fragmented ecological corridors.

SEA Compliance

The Environmental Report shall contain 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds) AND 92/43/EEC (Habitats)' (Annex 1(d)).

Question 3

Are there any other sustainability or environmental issues which should be considered as part of the appraisal of the Local Plan? Please clarify any evidence which supports the additional issues being proposed.

4.16 The consultation with the Statutory Consultees on the SLP SA Scoping Report informed the review of these issues for clarification, amendment and addition. Any further issues will be added at later Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment stages.

A4: Developing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework (SAF)

4.17 The SAF is central to the SA process and provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. It should consist of sustainability objectives (which can include targets), which should be manageable and developed from Stakeholder input. The SAF should be used as a methodological yardstick against which the social, environmental and economic effects of a plan can be tested.

Appraisal Methodology

Policy Assessment

4.18 The SAF tool is principally used on topics, options and policies – see 'Development & Allocations Site Appraisal' for details of how sites will be assessed.

4.19 The following characteristics of plans and programmes are considered throughout use of the SAF:

- The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
- The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
- The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
- Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
- The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

4.20 Appraisal also requires consideration of the following aspects in terms of the nature of the area and the nature of possible effects, whether positive or negative:

4.21 Nature of the area:

- The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected);
- The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected;
- The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

4.22 Nature of the effects:

- The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- The cumulative nature of the effects;
- The trans-boundary nature of the effects;
- The risks to human health or the environment.

Stockport's Sustainability Wheel

4.23 Stockport's Sustainability Wheel (the Wheel) is the SAF for Stockport's local plan appraisal and includes guidance on how to use it. It is a foot-printing tool whereby the output shows a footprint which is less sustainable the greater the area covered – see Figure 2.

4.24 The Wheel has the following scoring system; the Wheel output is created in an Excel spreadsheet using the results of a series of agreed 'Decision Making Criteria' (questions) within each sustainability objective, which have the response options of:

++ Very Positive Impact - the policy will deliver against this criteria

+ Slightly Positive Impact - the policy will mainly deliver against this criteria

\ Neutral Impact - policy could have either a negative or positive impact

- Slightly Negative Impact - the policy could potentially impact negatively

- - Very Negative Impact - direct negative impact of policy

? Unknown - its unclear what the impact might be, if any

NA Not applicable - some decision making criteria are not relevant to a specific policy

4.25 The Unknown response is not an ideal final response and it was designed to identify areas where an appraiser would need to consult experts on a particular area to clarify a response.

Figure 2

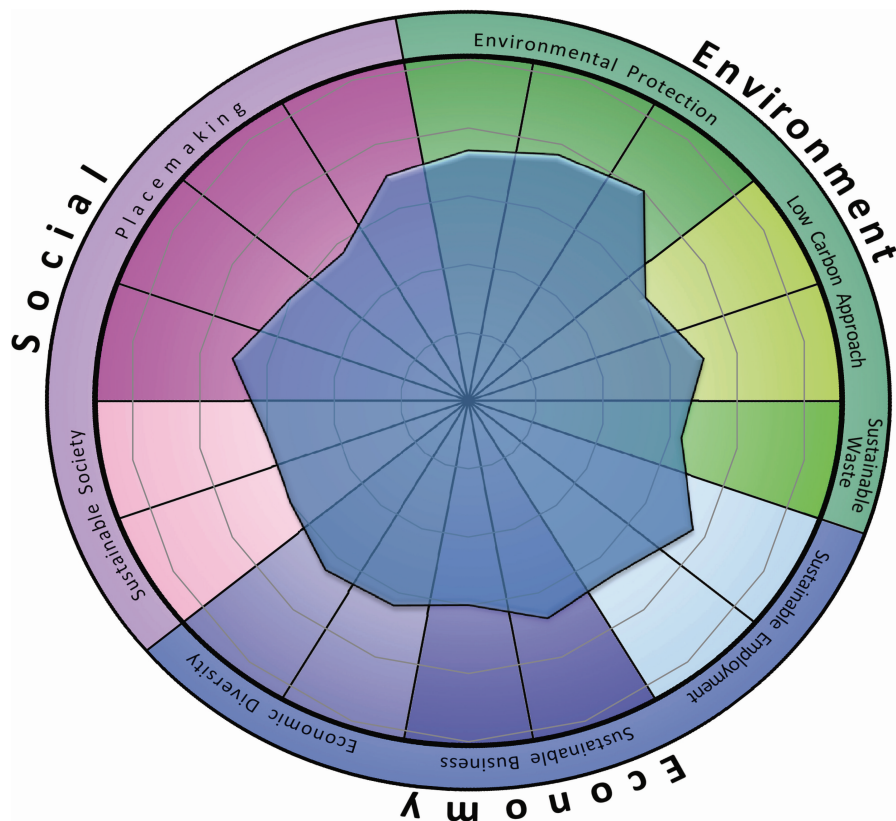


Figure 2 Stockport Sustainability Wheel Example

4.26 The Wheel is the main tool for appraising the likely significant effects of policies in the SLP. It should be noted that the Wheel has a 'not applicable' response option which allows for flexibility when appraising policies which are not as strategic as others, such as site allocation related policies.

Appraisal Methodology

SEA Compliance

An environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated" (Article 5.1).

4.27

Stockport's Sustainability Wheel was developed in its original format to be the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for the Core Strategy and was also used in the early stages of developing the Allocations DPD policies before work on that document was halted. Since 2006, the Wheel has been commented on by a wide range of stakeholders as part of consultation requirements, including the statutory consultees but also Council officers and community representatives.

4.28 The content of the Wheel has informed the appraisal work undertaken on the GMSF in terms of all ten GM authorities' SAF content was used to inform the eventual structure of the SAF used on the GMSF.

4.29 In the interim period an assessment was made of the efficacy of the Wheel and several aspects were highlighted for improvement. In particular there was no record made of the consideration of the nature of the area or effects so an additional section has been added to the Wheel to ensure an auditable record of information informing the scoring can be recorded. In addition some of the Decision Making Criteria were revised and amended to avoid duplication or to clarify the specifics of an issue. Further amendments were made as a result of the scoping stage of work and comments from the Statutory Consultees – see Table 1).

Question 4

Are there any additions or amendments you would suggest to Stockport's Sustainability Wheel?
If there are any proposed additions or changes what additional information, such as evidence resources, supports the suggestions?

Development & Allocations Site Appraisal

4.30 For the Site Allocations process there is a need to appraise sites for various reasons including sustainability. Officers worked to develop a site appraisal proforma document for use on Stockport's abandoned draft Site Allocations DPD in 2012/13 shown in Appendix 3.

4.31 Certain of the SAF Sustainability Objectives are reflected in this process through the guidance document which has been prepared to advise officers on completion of the proforma.

A5: Consulting on the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal

4.32 To meet the requirements of the SEA Directive the LPA sought the views of the statutory consultation bodies listed below, on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information

to be included in the SA Report. It is also desirable for other bodies to be consulted as the LPA considers appropriate, reflecting a balance between social, economic and environmental agencies.

- Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Natural England

4.33 In addition the views of the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit were sought in terms of likely changes they suggested or any additional information that had not yet been identified.

SEA Compliance

The report shall include the information that may reasonably be required taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment, the contents and level of detail in the plan or programme, its stage in the decision-making process and the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in that process to avoid duplication of the assessment. (Article 5(2)).

LPA's shall consult with 'The authorities with environmental responsibility, when deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report.' (Article 5(4)).

'The Environmental Report . . . the opinions expressed [in responses to consultation] . . . and the results of any transboundary consultations . . . shall be taken into account during the preparation of the plan or programme and before its adoption. . . ' (Article 8).

4.34 There is a comprehensive database of contacts which has been established to inform consultations during the preparation of Local Plan documents in Stockport. This database informs requests for comments from consultees. In addition the Council has an adopted Statement of Community Involvement⁽²⁷⁾ which includes a framework of usual activities for planning consultation that is publicly consulted upon.

4.35 The comments received as a result of the consultation on this SA Scoping Report informed the subsequent stages of appraisal on the SLP, as well as the content of the SLP itself. The specific outcomes from the statutory consultee comments on the Scoping Stage of the SA Report can be found in Table 2.

Stage B Tasks

4.36 Stage B tasks are concerned with developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects deals with the aspects of appraisal where objectives, issues, spatial options, policies and sites are assessed. As stated earlier, given the approach to the SLP there are no draft policies etc., to appraise as yet. This work will be undertaken once early drafts of policies are prepared.

Appraisal Methodology

B1: Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework

4.37 The next iteration of the SLP may contain objectives and draft policies / sites that will have undergone appraisal. What has been appraised at this stage are the issues identified within the broad background information on the current circumstances in the Borough.

4.38 Stockport's Sustainability Wheel was applied to early drafts of the Issues document to highlight areas that may have needed to be reflected or addressed directly. This helped to identify key issues that need including for consideration at this early strategic stage of plan making. It also helped to highlight where specific areas of policy will be addressed at later plan making stages. The outputs from this can be seen in Table 2.

B2: Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives

4.39 Task B2 will be undertaken once spatial and policy options have been developed. This will be reported on in later versions of the SA Report.

B3: Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives

4.40 Task B3 will be undertaken once a more detailed version of the plan is prepared. This will be reported on in later versions of the SA Report.

B4: Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects

4.41 Task B4 will be undertaken once a Local Plan has been further developed and any potential adverse effects have been identified. This will be reported on in later versions of the SA Report.

B5: Proposed measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

4.42 Options for monitoring will be examined as policies are developed. This work will be informed by the monitoring undertaken to date and will be reported on in later versions of the SA Report.

Appraisal Outputs

5.1 The methodology is laid out in the previous section. The following outputs have informed SLP and appraisal document preparation to date. Some further tasks preparing for later stages of appraisal have also commenced:

SA Scoping Report Outputs

5.2 All of the Statutory Consultees provided comments on the Stockport Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (see Annex 3 for a copy of the Scoping Report). The following specific items from each consultee were actioned as laid out in Table 6.

Table 5 Statutory Consultee Comments and Actions

Statutory Consultee	Comment	Action
Environment Agency	Site Appraisal Proforma – please consider adding that checks should be made with the LLFA drainage team for areas within the borough which have suffered surface water flooding, fluvial flooding from ordinary watercourses or have known surface water flooding issues as the EA flood map would not show this information.	Site Appraisal tool to be updated with input from LLFA drainage team from within Stockport Council.
Environment Agency	The Council will need to consider the latest evidence in relation to climate change for the Local Plan, in particular what this means for updating the flood risk policy and further considerations for the proposed allocations (particularly where the Exceptions Test is required as NPPF requires development to be 'safe' over its lifetime.	Flood risk evidence to be updated in line with these requirements.
Environment Agency	The appraisal should take account of the North West River Basin Management Plan.	Added to the list of other plans etc.
Environment Agency	The appraisal should consider strategic green and blue corridors/infrastructure. This is supported in the NPPF. It should also consider Water Framework Directive (WFD) actions which are required to be undertaken within the next ten years. Please see attached table summarising the improvements required on the waterbodies which fall within Stockport.	Green and blue strategic infrastructure and WFD data are informing the SA Baseline and the SLP preparation. The Stockport WFD data is reflected in the baseline.
Environment Agency	We would like to add [to the Sustainability Wheel] 'will it contribute towards WFD	The DCM 'Will it maintain and improve the quality of ground and

Appraisal Outputs

Statutory Consultee	Comment	Action
	objectives or as a minimum ensure no deterioration'.	surface waters?' has been amended to include WFD objectives.
Historic England	Referred to guidance on SEA from HE.	Guidance has been read and taken account of in appraisal work. It has also been added to the list of 'Other plans . . '.
Natural England	Ecological networks should be reflected in Sustainability Appraisal Framework.	Sustainability Wheel adapted to include reference to ecological connectivity.
Natural England	Best and most versatile agricultural land should be included in SAF.	Adapted existing DCM on agricultural land to reflect 'best and most versatile'.

Stockport Local Plan Issues Paper SA Report – Task B1 Outputs

5.3 Stockport's Sustainability Wheel was applied to early drafts of the Issues Paper to highlight areas that may not have been considered. This helped to identify the following issues that needed either including for consideration at this early strategic stage of plan making or could be addressed at a later stage of Local Plan preparation. The full outputs from the Sustainability Wheel are available in Annex 2 to this SA Report.

5.4 The table below summarises the issues raised during completion of the Wheel and how they are being or will be addressed:

Table 6 Stockport Sustainability Wheel Outputs / Actions

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
Improve equitable access to a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle	Are mental health issues being considered and if so how has this informed issues?	Public Health issues are already recognised within the document, informed by Stockport's JSNA. Specific mental health considerations will need to be taken account of – application of a Health Impact Assessment on the subsequent policy stages of Local Plan production will help to ensure that mental health is considered and, where possible, addressed within all policy areas. Public Health

Appraisal Outputs

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
		colleagues have been contacted for involvement during Local Plan preparation, including co-working on the Health Impact Assessment of emerging policies.
Improve equitable access to a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle	Access to culture including libraries is mentioned – does this specifically include museums and art galleries?	They are reflected in the term ‘community buildings’ within the finalised text and will be specifically addressed at later stages.
Achieve a safe and just community	Are safety and perceptions of safety on public transport and other sustainable transport modes being considered?	Draft transport and design policies being developed at the next stage will take account of public transport safety.
Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well	Housing density – could a question on this issue be asked at this early stage to facilitate understanding of the issue of numbers of housing in appropriate densities and the options for achieving this?	Housing density is reflected in the text. Consultees’ opinions on solutions to achieving appropriate housing density can be offered through answering the question ‘What should the balance of new housing types, sizes, design and density be?’
Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well; Mitigate and adapt to climate change; Minimise car use & encourage walking and cycling; Improve the options to achieve satisfying and rewarding work and reduce unemployment; Assist and encourage sustainable business practices including creating future sustainable citizens; Encourage innovation and new business development particularly in the sustainability sector	Where cycling and walking are considered have the full needs of users been taken account of, especially the need for showers and clothes drying and storage not just cycle parking and routes, in new employment and retail developments? Also has the opportunity for new development to deliver such requirements for existing employment / retail areas been considered?	Evidence will need to be established including the economic opportunities for supporting such approaches in design and wider policy.

Appraisal Outputs

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well	What evidence is being assembled to inform any potential for sustainable design requirements in policies (e.g. not just low carbon, but green roofs, biodiversity in design, sustainable drainage, showers in employment / retail design, etc.)? Would such evidence include full economic assessment of the benefits of such design approaches (e.g. including how increased sales values can offset the costs of sustainable design through marketing low running costs and the business benefits of evidencing corporate responsibility)?	All evidence briefs will be taking account of relevant considerations around support for sustainable design and marketing including in terms of viability.
Protect Biodiversity, Habitats and Species	How will the work of the Planning Teams contribute to wider NERC Duty activities across the Council?	Discussions have started with colleagues across the Council on how NERC Duty is being addressed across work streams including through Planning activities.
Conserve and improve Green Infrastructure and other natural capital	How will the concept of natural capital inform the Local Plan?	The term is reflected in the final draft of the Issues document and the concept informs all considerations of biodiversity and other natural resources. The Government's Natural Capital Committee work informs Local Plan production.
Conserve and improve Green Infrastructure and other natural capital	How will the Plan protect and/or enhance soil resources?	Soils will be considered within the relevant policy structure at a later stage of production.
Conserve and improve Green Infrastructure and other natural capital	How will minerals resources be affected by the Local Plan?	The SLP will dovetail with the requirements of the GMJMDDP.
Reduce emissions	Will contaminated land issues be considered at a strategic or site level?	Contaminated land will be considered at a strategic and

Appraisal Outputs

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
		site level whilst policies are drafted and sites assessed.
Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well; Mitigate and adapt to climate change; Reduce emissions	How will the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure (biodiversity; open space; climate change; urban heat island; flood risk; air quality; physical activity / active travel; mental health; food growth) be demonstrated?	Natural England's definition is recognised which reflects multi-functional nature of GI. Table 1 in the SLP lays out multiple benefits that will inform policy evolution.
Reduce emissions / Mitigate and adapt to climate change; Invest in people, equipment, infrastructure and other assets	Given that some aspects will fall under infrastructure and others under design, how will the complex issues of mitigating / adapting to climate change, sustainable energy (including heat), building more efficient buildings, sustainable drainage (including permeable paving and green roofs), moving away from fossil fuels to low carbon energy, promoting sustainable transport and fostering a low carbon economy be dealt with in terms of document structure?	Final structure reflects energy (including low carbon energy) under both infrastructure and design considerations in the document taking account of the wide ranging issues around climate change, low carbon energy and heat, as well as sustainable design. This effort will continue in later documents.
Reduce emissions	Will noise pollution issues be dealt with?	Considerations of noise will be dealt with through specific relevant policies at the later stages of SLP production including site assessment work.
Mitigate and adapt to climate change; Minimise car use & encourage walking and cycling	Will design policies take account of the need for ICT options to accommodate reducing the need to travel (e.g. enabling video and telephone conferencing)?	Yes subject to appropriate evidence to support their inclusion and determine the strength of policy included.
Minimise car use & encourage walking and cycling	Are the Council's parking standards (especially cycle parking) going to be reviewed?	Parking standards will be addressed at a later stage. Future consideration of cycle

Appraisal Outputs

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
		parking will feature as part of the SLP.
Minimise car use & encourage walking and cycling	Emissions from transport are being considered including support for electric vehicles, but how will congestion be addressed in the Local Plan?	Congestion has been considered alongside emissions in the final draft.
Minimise waste, re-use or recover through increased recycling and/or composting	How will waste issues be addressed in the Local Plan?	The SLP will dovetail with the requirements of the GMJWDPD. Design policy evidence will examine options for supporting / requiring Site Waste Management Plans given recent changes to policy on them at a national level and Stockport's historically high levels of sustainable waste management.
Invest in people, equipment, infrastructure and other assets; Assist and encourage sustainable business practices including creating future sustainable citizens	Given the issue of low skills for some residents, how will adult training needs be considered within the Local Plan?	The final draft reflects wider education needs than just the traditional age ranges. Higher education establishments can provide adult training. Further discussions with relevant colleagues around adult skills training needs and current provision will inform future work on this issue.
Invest in people, equipment, infrastructure and other assets; Deliver a spread of business types by sector and geography	Given the need to grow the Small to Medium Enterprise sector in Stockport, will housing design policies take account of home working?	An assessment as part of housing and design policy evidence will need to assess this specific issue to inform how far policy could go on home working space in housing.
Support sustainable local business start up and retention	Have social enterprise needs in terms of affordable and appropriately scaled and located venues been taken account of?	Basic evidence of the numbers of social enterprises has been established, however further discussion is needed in terms of demand by and specific requirements of such enterprises.

Appraisal Outputs

Sustainability Objective	Issues Queries	How has or will this be addressed?
Support sustainable local business start up and retention	Given the inclusion of the need for support of the SME sector would it be useful at this early stage to ask a question about the need for flexibly designed venues that could accommodate a variety of business sizes and types, including flexibility to adapt employment and community spaces to suit changes in such enterprises?	The baseline identifies proportions of SMEs in Stockport's businesses, noting that levels are good. Later policy stages of the SLP will need to take account of this issue in terms of identifying if there are needs that the Local Plan can and should address.
Encourage innovation and new business development particularly in the sustainability sector; Deliver a spread of business types by sector & geography	Is the need for the Local Plan to support Stockport's strong Low Carbon & Environmental Goods and Services Sector (LCEGS) fully understood?	A low carbon economy is considered within the document but more evidence will be necessary to ensure appropriate and relevant low carbon economy policies.
Encourage innovation and new business development particularly in the sustainability sector	Have the opportunities for eco-tourism been examined in Stockport? This could establish if there are opportunities for growth in this sector including contributing to an increase in SME start ups.	Further discussions of the opportunities around eco-tourism are required to establish if this sector does offer future potential to SMEs and the Borough.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

Below are two tables listing other plans, programmes and strategies across a variety of geographies that will be considered during preparation, appraisal and assessment of Stockport's Local Plan. This list was originally compiled in November 2016 – any potential further additions are welcomed – email planning.policy@stockport.gov.uk.

Table 7

International	European	National	Regional	Sub-Regional
UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda	The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive: 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment	See separate listing below	North West Landscape Character Framework	Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework
United Nations Environmental Programme Annual Report 2016			North West Green Infrastructure Guide	Stronger Together: Greater Manchester Strategy 2013
UN (Bern) Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive)		North West GI Partnership Forum	Taking Charge of Health and Social Care 2015
UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992	Birds Directive: Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds		The Mersey Forest Plan	GM Growth and Reform Plan 2014
UNEP Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets	European Convention on Landscape 2000		Northern Powerhouse: One Agenda, One Economy, One North	GM Waste Plan (2012)
UN Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971	EU Renewable Energy Directive 2030		Trans-Pennine Tunnel Study - Stage 3 Report	GM Minerals Plan (2013)
			Manchester North-West Quadrant Study (M60)	GM Strategic Housing Market Assessment
			North West River Basin Management Plan	GM Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan 2016-2020

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

International	European	National	Regional	Sub-Regional
UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	EU Air Quality Directive 2008			Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992	EU Waste Framework Directive 2008			GM Low Emission Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan 2016
UN Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979	EU Water Framework Directive 2000			SEMMMS (South East Manchester Multi Modal Strategy) & Review
	EU Directive on Environmental Noise 2002			Greater Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)
UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948	European Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020			GM Green Infrastructure Framework
Constitution of the World Health Organisation 1946	EU Transport, energy and the environment legislation			GM Urban Historic Landscape Characterisation - Stockport District Report
Living Planet Report 2016 (WWF)	EU Charter of Fundamental Human Rights (2010)			Manchester Airport Masterplan to 2030
Kyoto Protocol 1997	Europe 2020 Strategy			Outline Growth Strategy to support the development of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail proposals at Manchester Airport.
	EU Environment Action Programme to 2020			
	The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1987			

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

International	European	National	Regional	Sub-Regional
	The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage 1992			Greater Manchester Rail Policy 2012 – 2024 Greater Manchester Directors of Public Health – Key Priorities for Health & Spatial Planning

Table 8

National				
Sustainable Development Strategy - Securing the Future	Public Health Outcomes Framework 2016	Habitat Regulations (The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 (Amended 2007)	National Renewable Energy Action Plan	
Localism Act 2011	PHE Healthy People; Healthy Places Briefing: Obesity and the environment – regulating the growth of fast food outlets 2014	DEFRA Rural Development Programme for England	Anaerobic Digestion Strategy & Action Plan 2011	
National Planning Policy Framework 2012	Children Act 1989 Guidance & Regulations Volume 5: Children's Homes	Water Act 2014	Climate Change Act 2008	
National Planning Practice Guidance 2014	Human Rights Act 1998	Water Resources Planning Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (DEFRA)	Fuel Poverty Strategy (March 2015)	
National Planning Policy for Waste 2014	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006	Waste Policy Review 2011	Road Investment Strategy	
Planning Policy for Traveller Sites 2012	- Local Authority Biodiversity Duty of Care	Waste Management Plan for England 2013		
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Noise Policy Statement for England (2010)		

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

National		
<p>Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979</p> <p>Good Practice Advice in Planning & Historic England Advice Notes</p> <p>Planning Act 2008</p> <p>Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</p> <p>Housing and Planning Act 2016</p> <p>Housing Strategy for England 2011</p> <p>Growth & Infrastructure Act 2013</p> <p>Fair Society, Healthy Lives (Marmot Review 2010)</p>	<p>Biodiversity 20:20 - A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</p> <p>Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework (building on England's Biodiversity 2020 Strategy)</p> <p>Biodiversity Indicators 2015</p> <p>National Pollinator Strategy</p> <p>Natural Environment White Paper 2011 (DEFRA)</p> <p>White Paper - The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature (DEFRA) 2011</p> <p>Natural Capital Committee third report: The state of natural capital</p>	<p>Government Information: Artificial Light Nuisances</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act 1990; Environment Act 1995</p> <p>Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration 2013</p> <p>Energy Act 2011</p> <p>Energy Act 2013</p> <p>Energy Act 2016</p> <p>Community Energy Strategy 2014 (& updates)</p> <p>Renewable Energy Roadmap 2013</p> <p>Rural England - State of Rural Services 2016</p> <p>Road Investment Strategy</p>

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

Table 9

Local	Cross Boundary Issues	Other Local Plans
Stockport Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2011-2026	The Manchester Way - Community Strategy 2006-2015	Manchester - Core Strategy
Stockport's Borough Plan 2015-2020	Manchester Airport Masterplan to 2030 (incorporates Ground Transport, Environment, Land Use & Community Plans)	Derbyshire County Council Minerals & Waste Plans
Stockport Council Plan 2017-18	Cheshire East Community Strategy 2010-2025	Peak District National Park - Core Strategy 2011
Stockport: Investing in Growth - range of development projects	Peak District Partnership Statement of Priorities 2015-19	Cheshire East - Core Strategy Consultation
Stockport 22nd Annual Public Health Report	Tameside Community Strategy 2012-22	Tameside - Draft Core Strategy
Stockport Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016-19	Peak District National Park Strategies & Action Plans	High Peak Local Plan 2016
Stockport Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020	Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy	Trafford Core Strategy 2012 (in the same housing market area as Stockport)
Stockport Physical Activity Strategy 2015-19	United Utilities: Water Resources Management Plan	
Stockport Town Centre Green Infrastructure Enhancement Strategy 2015	Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy	
Stockport Tree Policy		
Stockport Walking Strategy 2010 & Review 2017		
Stockport Rights of Way Improvement Plan		
Stockport Station Master Plan		
A6 Corridor Study		

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

Local	Cross Boundary Issues	Other Local Plans
<p>A34 Corridor Study</p> <p>Stockport Transport Asset Management Strategy 2015 -2034</p> <p>Stockport Town Centre Parking Study (expected 2017)</p> <p>Stockport Highway Investment Plan / Programme</p> <p>Stockport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2016</p> <p>Stockport Housing Strategy 2016-2021</p> <p>Stockport Draft Housing Strategy for Older People 2012-15</p> <p>Stockport Homelessness Strategy 2016-21</p> <p>Stockport Extra Care Housing Strategy 2013/29</p> <p>Stockport Economic Development Strategy 2012-17 (and action plans)</p> <p>Stockport Conservation & Heritage Strategy 2008 & Article 4 Directions</p> <p>Stockport Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plans</p> <p>Stockport Historic Environment Database</p>		

Appendix 1 - List of Other Plans

Local	Cross Boundary Issues	Other Local Plans
Stockport: Neighbourhood Management Stockport Mills Strategy 2005-15 Stockport Retail Study 2009 & 2014 update Faith: summary of faith facilities in Stockport Stockport Children Centre Reach Areas Mapping Towards a Country City		

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Stockport's Sustainability Wheel outputs are created using the following tool which is usually used as an Excel spreadsheet to facilitate the Wheel image.

For ease of replication and legibility in this document format the Stage 1 and 2 advice is included at the top of the table rather than throughout as it is laid out originally. The Considerations tab is shown below the tool for clarification. The guidance on how to use the tool follows after that.

Stage 1 advice: See the 'Considerations' tab to help inform this aspect of the work. State the likely magnitude of the impact / benefit as outlined in the Considerations Tab. Also note the value of the area affected. Note any specific considerations in terms of the vulnerability of affected groups. Are there any designations of note in the area (e.g. Heritage or Environmental designations)? Are there any other factors to consider?

Stage 2 advice: See the 'Considerations' tab to inform this aspect of the work. For each 'Objective' and their DCMs include notes on how considerations of probability, duration, frequency, reversibility and the cumulative nature of impacts have informed the assessment. In addition note if there are any transboundary aspects of the Objective and its DCMs and what the levels of risk to both human health and the environment might be.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Table 10

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
Social	Sustainable Society	Protect and enhance human health	Will it improve human health?					
			Will it reduce death rates?					
			Will it reduce and/or manage limiting long term illnesses?					
			Will it reduce smoking, alcohol use and obesity?					
			Will it reduce accidents?					
			Will it foster a healthy environment for residents at work and at rest?					
			Will it reduce health inequalities?					
		redress inequalities related to age, gender, transgender, race, disability, sexual orientation, faith, deprivation, locality	Will it reduce poverty?					
			Will it help to create a cohesive community?					
			Will it protect and improve existing community services and facilities?					
			Will it offer opportunities for residents to interact?					
			Will it ensure access to an affordable & decent home?					
			Will it improve equitable access to employment, particularly for low income families?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	Stage 1 Advice
Placemaking		improve equitable access to a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle	Will it encourage independent living?					
			Will it improve access to health & welfare services and information?					
			Will it ensure access as determined by Disability Discrimination Legislation?					
			Will it encourage healthy lifestyles, including sustainable transport options?					
			Will it improve and increase access to leisure, physical activity & sport, cultural and arts facilities?					
			Will it maintain and where possible increase the area and quality of green belt and green chain in Stockport?					
			Will it improve access to wildlife, wildlife sites and local green space?					
			Will it ensure access to local shops with supplies of locally and/or organically sourced healthy food?					
			Will it maintain or improve access to and provision of allotments?					
		Achieve a safe and just community	Will it help to create communities where people feel safe?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
			Will it promote design that discourages crime / anti-social behaviour?					
			Will it promote a safe public transport system?					
			Will it promote safe cycling and pedestrian routes?					
			Will it promote opportunities for reducing re-offending rates?					
			Will it promote use of environmental and other design standards?					
		Create places, spaces and buildings that work well, wear well and look well	Will it promote provision of appropriate housing dwelling mix and tenure?					
			Will it respect, protect and enhance existing sites, areas and settings of historical, archaeological, architectural or cultural interest?					
			Will it encourage design that enables active travel opportunities?					
			Will it encourage the use of innovative design including ideas such as passive solar, green roofs or creative use of space?					
			Will infrastructure be designed to promote development of such places, spaces and buildings?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	Stage 1 Advice
		enhance rural and urban local character and protect local distinctiveness	Will it promote the sensitive re-use of historic or culturally important buildings where appropriate?					
			Will it conserve and enhance local landscape character?					
			Will it protect and enhance the uniqueness of places and spaces?					
			Will it ensure local environmental quality is maintained and/or improved?					
Environment	Environmental Protection	Protect Biodiversity, Habitats and Species	Will it avoid damage to nationally and locally designated sites of nature conservation or geological interest?					
			Will it create any new wildlife sites?					
			Will it help protect any species at risk?					
			Will it minimise fragmentation of habitats and address ecological connectivity?					
			Will it ensure protection against climate change impacts?					
			Will it enhance biodiversity and / or geodiversity?					
			Will it maintain or improve the quantity and quality of Green / Blue Infrastructure?					
		Conserve & protect natural resources	Will it protect and enhance natural capital?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
			Will it maintain and improve the quality of ground and surface waters?					
			Will it ensure sustainable management of water courses?					
			Will it protect soil resources?					
			Will it ensure efficient use and re-use of land and protect agricultural land including the best and most versatile?					
			Will it protect and enhance the natural environment resource of Stockport Borough?					
			Will it ensure sustainable management of our mineral resource?					
			Will it reduce contamination and pollution of land?					
			Will it reduce pollution of water systems?					
			Will it help maintain and improve local air quality?					
			Will it minimise the environmental impact of travel (e.g. noise, air pollution, congestion)					
		Reduce emissions	Will it minimise or promote alternatives to the use of fossil fuels?					
			Will it help to minimise carbon emissions?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	Stage 1 Advice
	Low Carbon Approach	Mitigate and adapt to climate change	Will it minimise excessive noise?					
			Will it encourage water efficiency, including recycling and re-use, through efficient building design and construction (including promotion of SUDS)?					
			Will it minimise risk to people, property and ecosystems from flooding?					
			Will it encourage energy efficient buildings and the efficient use of energy?					
			Will it encourage low carbon technologies?					
			Will it reduce Urban Heat Island effects?					
			Will it encourage use of non-hard surfaces and reduce loss of permeable surfaces?					
			Will it encourage the use of innovative design (e.g. passive solar or green roofs)?					
			Will it reduce the need to travel?					
			Will it facilitate reduction of the distances needed to travel?					
			Will it help to reduce the reliance on the private car?					
			Will it promote sustainable transport options?					
			Will it help reduce traffic congestion?					
		Minimise car use & encourage walking & cycling						

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
			Will it ensure adequate provision of facilities for cyclists and pedestrians?					
			Will it facilitate prevention, re-use and recycling of waste?					
			Will it facilitate community waste management schemes?					
			Will it encourage appropriate design to facilitate Sustainable Waste Management by local agencies?					
			Will it encourage Site Waste Management Plans?					
			Will it promote sustainable consumption and production?					
			Will it encourage the disposal of waste as close to point of origin as possible?					
			Will it facilitate an increase in sustainable employment?					
			Will it reduce unemployment, underemployment & worklessness?					
			Will it improve access to sustainable transport options specifically for commuting?					
Economy	Sustainable Employment	Improve the options to achieve satisfying and rewarding work and reduce unemployment	Will it promote creation of a healthier working environment and workforce?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria				Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification			
		Invest in people, equipment, infrastructure and other assets	Will it improve sustainable access to education and training?					
			Will it improve the level of investment in community services and infrastructure?					
			Will it facilitate a low carbon economy?					
			Will it facilitate businesses to take up ICT options before travel options?					
			Will it support home working?					
			Will it assist organisations to implement green travel plans?					
	Sustainable Business	Assist and encourage sustainable business practices including creating future sustainable citizens	Will it encourage businesses to invest in sustainable practices including improving efficiencies?					
			Will it encourage development which ensures businesses can operate more sustainably?					
			Will it enable businesses to support active travel options for employees?					
			Will it encourage the provision of education & training facilities which promote the ideals of sustainable development?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
		Support sustainable local business start up and retention	Will it offer the opportunity to improve the skills of employers and employees in sustainable business practices?					
			Will it support sustainable business development?					
			Will it assist with business retention where appropriate?					
			Will it encourage the development of social enterprise?					
			Will it support small & medium business development?					
	Economic Diversity	Encourage innovation and new business development particularly in the sustainability sector	Will it encourage innovation in existing business and new business development?					
			Will it encourage development of businesses serving a sustainable lifestyle?					
			Will it increase access to facilities and services which offer opportunities for a more sustainable lifestyle?					
			Will it facilitate an increase in the number of businesses working in the sustainability field?					
			Will it promote local sustainable tourism (e.g. EcoHotels, Farm B&B)?					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

SD Issue	CAT	Objective	Stage 3 - Decision Making Criteria				Stage 2 - Nature of the Effect(s)	Stage 1 - Nature of the Area(s)
			Decision Making Criteria	Score	Justification	Stage 1 Advice	Stage 2 Advice	
		Deliver a spread of business types by sector & geography	Will it contribute to the vitality and viability of an existing centre, including sub-urban economic sectors?					
			Will it encourage the diversification of employment in the Borough?					
			Will it foster the establishment of local businesses with skills to further enhance a sustainable Stockport?					
			Will it increase businesses set up by Female / Younger and Older / BME / Disabled Business People					

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Considerations for Stages 1 to 3

SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment require consideration of issues including:

Table 11

Stage 1 Nature of Area(s)	
Aspect	Things to Consider
Magnitude	Size of population affected: note if any specific cohorts (age groups) or genders are affected and where available put population number in brackets e.g. (280K)
Spatial Area affected	Spatial extent - state if likely effects would be local (e.g. post code), SOA, Ward, Area Committee(s), Borough, Region, National, International
Value of area affected	Note any values that may be relevant to the assessment - can be monetary, Social Return on Investment or ecological values
Vulnerability of area affected	Are any environmental / population vulnerability issues of note? For example an endangered species or vulnerable cohort (e.g. young children / old people) or pollution history
The effects on areas of landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	Note any and all statutory designations

Table 12

Stage 2 Nature of Effects	
Aspect	Things to Consider
Probability of effects	Is it highly likely or highly unlikely for an effect to manifest and would the effect be positive or negative
duration of effects	Is the effect likely to be long term, medium term or short term? If you are unsure then please note the reasons for lack of clarity.
frequency of effects	Consider if effects are likely to be ongoing; regularly intermittent; irregularly intermittent; infrequent; rare; unlikely
reversibility of effects	Consider if effects are irreversible; limited mitigation; good mitigation; reversible; no impact.
the cumulative nature of effects;	Guidance suggests that we note any likely clustering of likely cumulative impacts - this will be specific to the likely impact of a policy or site and can be positive or negative in nature

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Stage 2 Nature of Effects	
Aspect	Things to Consider
trans-boundary nature of effects;	Note if the effects could be locally trans-boundary (e.g. impacts between wards) or wider in nature e.g. affect GM or other neighbours; the North West or other neighbouring English regions; the UK; Europe; global.
risks to human health	If unsure refer to the HIA or ask Public Health colleagues - are the effects likely to impact on or benefit the health of the local populace?
risks to the environment	If unsure refer to the HRA and ask the Nature Officer or GMEU or statutory consultees - are the effects likely to impact on biodiversity?

Sustainability Wheel - Completion Guidance

Aims: Stockport's Sustainability Wheel is the Sustainability Appraisal Framework for Stockport Council's spatial planning work. The aim of the Wheel is to offer a tool which produces a graphic output clearly showing a rating for the sustainability of an emerging policy or strategy - there is no expectation that the score will be good for all users. In fact the tool is designed to show where a policy or strategy could be improved as much as is feasible, but it is accepted that in the real world compromises are often required. The Wheel is designed to consider the three cornerstones of sustainability - Economy, Social and Environmental issues - in light of objectives which were determined and agreed by a stakeholder steering group in September 2008. Detailed instructions on how to use the tool are laid out below.

Considerations: Sustainability Appraisal offers a comprehensive methodology for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of emerging policies, strategies, etc. There are other forms of appraisal that you might like to think about in terms of assessing a policy, strategy, programme or project. Equalities Impact Assessment is mandatory on most strategies, policies and programmes - you can contact Stockport Council for more advice and guidance. Health Impact Assessment is a further option for appraisal and Stockport Council's Public Health Team have a pro-forma document which facilitates a simple process and they offer guidance. Rural Proofing might not seem an obvious option for Stockport but according to Government statistics, more than 8.5 percent of Stockport's population (Census 2011) live in rurally defined areas. Age proofing is becoming more and more common - Stockport has a increasingly ageing population which could impact on the policy or strategy.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment require consideration of various issues with regards to likely impacts of policy or strategy. To enable a record to be created of how these considerations have informed the appraisal (and policy development) the Wheel has three stages. The Sustainability Objectives are the main themes for consideration at Stages 1 and 2. Stage 1 of the tool looks at the nature of the area or areas affected by the policy or strategy and particularly requires consideration of the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected); the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected; the effects on areas of landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. Stage 2 looks at the nature of effects (both beneficial and harmful)

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

including considering the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects; the cumulative nature of effects; the trans-boundary nature of effects; any risks to human health or the environment. Stage 3 allows for a more detailed assessment within each Objective using Decision Making Criteria to inform a more specific assessment including a score to inform the Wheel output. Stages 1 and 2 should inform the more detailed assessment at Stage 3. There is a hidden column on the Detailed Breakdown tab which details the data resources available to inform decisions.

How to use the tool: For Stage One on the Detailed Breakdown tab of this tool you will see the various Objectives listed on the left and on the far right the Stage 1 boxes to be completed. Working from right to left use the information on the 'Considerations' tab to inform Stages 1 and 2 to provide an overall assessment of your policy, strategy or programme against each Objective. This overview assessment will inform later work at Stage 3 to answer the Decision Making Criteria. Make notes in the boxes provided to explain your considerations. For Stage 3 look at each Decision Making Criteria within each Objective and score each as suggested below, using the 'Justification' box to record any reasoning behind your scores. The scoring will calculate the Wheel output automatically.

Scoring

Much like any "Footprint" system the Wheel is simple to understand in terms of the larger the area covered on the Wheel the less sustainable is the policy. A smaller footprint means the policy is tending towards delivering more sustainable outcomes.

Scoring System:

Scoring has been devised to offer a choice of symbol for the following potential responses:

- Very positive impact (++) - means the policy will deliver against this criteria
- Slightly positive impact (+) - means the policy will mainly deliver against this criteria
- Neutral impact (\) - policy implementation could have either a negative or positive impact
- Slightly negative impact (-) - means there are potential slight impacts if the policy is implemented
- Very negative impact (--) means the policy implementation could have a direct negative effect
- Unknown (?) - it is unknown what the impact might be (e.g. lack of evidence etc)
- Not applicable (NA) - in certain specific policies not all questions will be applicable.

The scoring is achieved through a numeric calculation from the symbol entered which allows for zero responses for not applicable outputs, however unknown will return a negative response - if evidence is lacking for example this should highlight a need to better inform appraisal and policy development. Also the unknown option may have been used due to lack of knowledge highlighting a need to engage with other experts to inform policy development.

Further Guidance on Appraisal: Completion of the Wheel can be undertaken by several individuals completing their own copies then amalgamating responses onto one single document after discussion of the preferred responses. It can also be achieved by a group working at a computer - the choice is up to you!

Using your own area of knowledge and expertise undertake to answer the questions to the best of your knowledge. If you feel that further expertise is needed seek stakeholders and partners who could further comment on your policy or strategy using the Wheel, either by adding to your comments or completing their own version of the Wheel. You can then produce a finalised output

Appendix 2 - Sustainability Appraisal Framework

based on everyone's input to support a report or as basic evidence of a sustainability appraisal of the policy.

The justification element of the tool should be used to make comments on the reasons for the selected responses and can also inform discussion or direct users to areas for further enquiry or where more evidence might be needed.

Ask for help if you need it by contacting the Technical Policy & Planning Team at planning.policy@stockport.gov.uk or by telephoning 0161 474 4385.

Appendix 3 - Site Assessment Pro Forma User Guide

Appendix 3 - Site Assessment Pro Forma User Guide

The following is the original tool devised for use on the halted Site Allocations Development Plan Document for Stockport and will form the basis of a Site Appraisal and Assessment methodology for the SLP. Further discussion will take place both within the team and at later consultation stages about the appropriateness of the tool – but broadly the structure and aims are still relevant.

Appraisal Background Information

The following selected Sustainability Objectives have been taken from the sustainability appraisal processes of options and policies and should inform appraisal of sites:

- Protect and enhance human health
- Improve equitable access to a healthier, happier and more sustainable lifestyle
- Protect biodiversity, habitats and species
- Minimise car use and encourage walking and cycling
- Improve the options to achieve satisfying and rewarding work and reduce unemployment
- Support sustainable local business start up and retention

There is a baseline of data which is used to inform appraisal – see the Annex to the Sustainability Appraisal Reports.

Methodology

It is good practice to use a 'strategic sift' to ensure those sites which breach higher level policies are identified as non-compliant options. The factors used in the strategic sieving process will be clearly recorded in SA reporting.

Each key location or site considered for inclusion in the SLP will be progressively filtered until a list of reasonable sites is generated. Sites will be appraised non-specific to their proposed use to enable full consideration of a site's potential. A pro-forma has been produced which should be completed for each site. This includes a map of the site and the sets of criteria outlined below. Completion of the proforma will help to ensure a rigorous and consistent approach to appraising site options.

The majority of the criteria used for appraisal of the sites has mapped GIS data available to inform them. A constraints map will be prepared using these GIS layers and this will be consulted during appraisal. It is envisaged that the following stages of appraisal will be undertaken for each site, with the aim of undertaking appraisal in small teams with constraints mapping available to inform decision making:

1. A pro-forma will be created for each site, including a site plan and unique reference number
2. The Technical Policy & Planning Team will undertake group appraisal of the sites including:
 - a. Housing, employment and services Policy Officers will perform an initial appraisal for their area of expertise using the pro-forma
 - b. Environment (etc.) Policy Officer will appraise all sites via the pro-forma sheets
 - c. Transport Policy Officers will appraise all sites via the pro-forma sheets

Appendix 3 - Site Assessment Pro Forma User Guide

- d. Officer responsible for health & environment advice will provide overview comments of each site pro-forma
 - e. Technical Policy & Planning Manager will provide overview comments of each site pro-forma
3. Summary of findings should be finalised for each site
 4. Banding exercise

Appraisal is an 'iterative' process therefore it will be crucial to revisit the site pro-forma regularly to review comments and responses in light of each expert's comments.

Other colleagues can and should be consulted on those sites where queries might arise around sustainability, conservation, regeneration, housing, biodiversity, etc.

A traffic light classification for overall site performance is used. However, this is *indicative* and does not represent the final decision on whether or not the site will be taken forward for consultation / allocation. Each pro-forma will be marked using colour coded responses as follows:

Table 13

		The site has negative impacts with regards to this criteria
		The site has elements which mark negatively to this criteria but there are mitigation options
		The site does not impact on the criteria or offers positive opportunities with regards to criteria
	N/A	This criteria is not applicable to this site

The approach will be to use Primary and Secondary colour coded criteria to appraise sites as well as a series of options with yes / no answers to inform the overall assessment. Colour coding allows for those sites where mitigation of certain criteria may exist.

Ultimately the sites will be banded reflecting those sites which are marked predominantly green through to those sites which are marked mostly amber through to sites which are predominantly red, especially if the primary criteria are all red. The not applicable option is available for circumstances where criteria are not applicable and no colour code is therefore required, which helps to avoid skewing overall results.

The final section of the pro-forma allows appraisers to state mitigation requirements and any other considerations that should be included for this site. During completion it is recommended that officers use their initials to identify comments included in this box. The use of initials will assist with discussion during the appraisal process and can be removed once the pro-forma is finalised. Comments can inform a final summary in this box.

Banding

Once all of the sites have been appraised then each site will be given a band rating as follows:

Appendix 3 - Site Assessment Pro Forma User Guide

Table 14

Band	Rating
A	The site is acceptable
B	The site considerations of concern could be mitigated
C	The site is unacceptable

Strategic Environmental Assessment: When undertaking appraisal for the sites it is important to identify the cumulative effects of all the sites (assuming that all the sites are developed). The statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requires appraisal to ensure consideration of the following issues with regards to the plan etc., being appraised:

- probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects;
- the cumulative nature of effects;
- trans-boundary nature of effects;
- risks to human health or the environment;
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected);
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected;
- the effects on areas of landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protected status.

Assumptions made during Appraisal

- Policies will be fully implemented
- Highlight areas where 'priority' discussions are key i.e. which issue is of priority?
- Sites do not come forward in isolation, they have associated infrastructure including community and Green Infrastructure.
- The baseline is a snapshot in time therefore future prediction of impacts is not absolute
- If a site performs well now it should theoretically perform well in the future
- Monitoring of Sites: appraisal cannot assess possible mitigation through design as there is insufficient detail at this strategic level. Poor scoring should not preclude a site from adoption but may raise further issues to be addressed at the appropriate level.

Criteria Guidelines

Table 15

Criteria	Considerations
Primary Criteria	
SLP Policy Conformity	If there are any obvious non-conformities then these should be stated initially. Otherwise this criterion can be returned to later in the process to provide a response. Green if policies are complied with, amber if there are areas of concern, red if there are absolute non-conformities.

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Criteria	Considerations
Flood Risk	If the site is in Flood Risk Zones 2 or 3 then the site should be marked red for housing but might be marked amber for warehousing or other uses where flood impacts would not be as much of an issue. Flood Zone 2 is a zone which provides land for flood storage which should be taken into consideration for relevant sites. When they are available from AGMA, Critical Drainage Areas will also need to be identified and noted. If the site is in Flood Zone 1 then it should be marked amber and state mitigation requirements pertinent to the site; if the site is not in a flood zone then it should be marked green.
Green Belt	Red = yes it is in the Green Belt; Green = no it is not in the Green Belt; Amber = are there exceptional circumstances or is it Appropriate Development (PPG2 Para 3.4) or is there existing built development on the site? Explanations should be stated in the summary box.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (Triple SIs)	If the site is within 1 km of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) then the response should be red, unless mitigation opportunities exist when the response can be amber. If there are no SSSIs on or near the site then the response should be green.
Sites of Biological Interest	If the site is within 1 km of a Site of Biological Interest then the response should be red unless mitigation opportunities exist when the response can be amber. If there are no SBIs on or near the site then the response should be green.
Secondary Criteria	
Local Nature Reserve	If the site is within 1 km of an LNR then it should be marked red, unless mitigation opportunities exist when the response can be amber. If there are no LNRs on or near the site then the response should be green.
Natura 2000 Sites	<p>If the site lies within any of the buffer zones of any of the designated sites then the response should be amber, taking into account the following mitigation requirements identified in the Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with Core Strategy policies on Safeguarding & Improving the Environment • Compliance with Core Strategy Climate Change policies • Compliance with Core Strategy Sustainable Transport policies <p>If the site does not lie within a buffer zone then it should be marked green.</p>

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Criteria	Considerations
Protected Species	If the site contains one or more protected species indicators then mark it red. If the site is within 1km of a protected species indicator then mark it amber. If there are none of the above mark it green.
Local Wildlife Sites	If the site is within 1 km of an LWS then it should be marked red, unless mitigation opportunities exist when the response can be amber. If there are no LWSs on or near the site then the response should be green.
Woodlands	If the site has woodland on it then mark it red. If the site is within 1 km of a woodland mark it amber. If there is no woodland on or within 1 km of the site mark it green.
Ancient Woodland	If the site has an ancient woodland on it then mark it red. If the site is within 1 km of an ancient woodland mark it amber. If there is no ancient woodland on or within 1 km of the site mark it green.
Tree Preservation Order	If an TPO is within 10m of the site mark it red. If a TPO is within 500m mark it amber and note the factor. If there are no TPOs on or near the site mark it green.
Highway Trees	If a highway tree is located within the site then mark it red, if a highway tree is within 10m of the site mark it amber and if there are no highway trees within the designated proximities then mark it green.
Conservation & Heritage	If the site is within 250m of a site or building with a recognised designation (Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings (including locally listed) and Registered Parks and Gardens) then mark it amber. If the conservation element will considerably enhance the site then mark it green. If there is no conservation element then use the N/A option.
Landscape Character Area	If the site is not in an LCA then mark the response green and if it is in an LCA mark it amber and note any considerations. Knowledge of damage/ enhancement will only be available with knowledge of development specifics so there is no need to use red.
Green Field / Previously Developed Land	If the site is Green Field then mark it red. If it is on PDL mark it green and if it is in active use include a Y in the response box, if it isn't mark it N. Clarify the status in the summary box.
Agricultural Land	There are currently no Grade 1 or 2 sites in Stockport. If the site is Grade 3 mark it amber, but if its 4 or higher mark it green.

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Criteria	Considerations
Open Space	If the site is open space then mark it red. If it is open space with mitigatory circumstances then mark it amber and note the circumstances in the commentary box. If it is not open space then mark it green.
Green Chain / Green Corridor	If it contains no green chain / corridors then mark it green. If it would be possible to develop and maintain the minimum 15m width (30m if a water course exist) then mark it amber. If it is not possible to develop it in that way, mark it red.
Public Footpaths / Rights of Way	If there are public footpaths and/or rights of way which might preclude the site from going forward then mark it red. If there are public footpaths and/or rights of way which may have considerations for the site then mark it amber and note the considerations. If there are no public footpaths or rights of way then mark it green.
Water Bodies	If the site contains or is within 8m of a water body then mark it amber. If the above does not apply then mark it green. Flood risk criterion will identify those areas most at risk of flooding.
Air Quality Management Area	If the site is not within an AQMA then mark it green. If the site is within an AQMA then mark it amber and note the considerations in the summary box. Sites that are adjacent to AQMAs or likely to contribute to increased emissions should be noted in the summary as 'AQMA sensitive areas'.
Noise	The data required to assess this is currently held by DEFRA and is not yet available to Local Authorities. Appraisal will take account of this issue as soon as the data is available.
Minerals	If the site is not in a Minerals Safeguarding Area then mark the response green and if it is mark it red, unless there are mitigatory circumstances in which case use amber and clarify the considerations.
Waste	If the site is designated as essential to the GM Waste Plan then mark it red. If the site is peripheral to sites designated as essential in the GM Waste Plan then mark it amber and note the considerations. If the site is not designated as essential to the GM Waste Plan then mark it green.
Airport – Public Safety Zone	Always mark red if it is in the Public Safety Zone. If it is not then mark it green.
Airport – Noise Constraint	Mark it amber if it is within the 48 LEQ noise contour. Green if it isn't.

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Criteria	Considerations
Airport – Safe Guarding Zones Manchester Airport	Manchester Airport: if it is within an SGZ mark it amber and say which zone it is (see UDP Diagram 9). If it isn't then mark it green.
Airport – Safe Guarding Zones – NATS	If it is in a NATS SGZ mark it amber and state which Zone (see UDP Diagram 9), if it isn't then mark it green.
Green & Blue Infrastructure	If the site is adjacent to existing green or blue infrastructure and could expand the area then it should be marked green. If the site could contribute in some format to expanding GI/BI elsewhere in the Borough it should be marked amber and considerations noted. If there is little or no chance of additional GI/BI being created then the site should be marked red. GI is listed as being: parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens as well as green chains / corridors. Blue Infrastructure refers to water features such as water bodies, rivers, streams, floodplains and sustainable drainage systems (includes green roofs).
Transport – Freight & Freight Network	If the site is adjacent to a freight terminal mark it green (i.e. in accordance with the preferred Core Strategy approach). If a site is on the freight network, but not near a freight terminal, or reasonably accessible (or could be made so) to/from a freight network or terminal then mark it amber (e.g. it would be possible to deliver the site in acceptable highways terms). If a site is not near a freight terminal or on the freight network or couldn't be made acceptable then mark it red.
Housing Location	If the site is within Core Strategy 1 st or 2 nd Spatial Priorities then mark it green. If it is not within either then mark it red.
Housing Accessibility	Mark the housing sites green if they achieve a score of at least 50 when assessed against the Council's accessibility model. If the site is for housing then the accessibility threshold used in policy H-2 should be applied (taking account of opportunities through Policy T-1), although consideration should also be made of the presence of additional off road links to key services – the significance of these routes would need to be determined in terms of their provision of access to key services (for larger sites this may require a specific rerun of the accessibility model). Amber and red marking should be used as appropriate to the site's assessed accessibility.
Housing Mix	If the site has good potential to improve the mix of housing in an area mark it green. If the site has reasonable potential to improve the mix then mark it amber and note any considerations. If the site will not improve the housing mix then mark it red.

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Criteria	Considerations
Housing Availability	If the site is likely to be available within 15 years it should be marked green, if the site may not be available then it should be marked amber, and if the site will not be available then mark it red.
Housing Viability	If the site is likely to be economically viable then mark it green. If the site may be economically viable then mark it amber and note any considerations. If the site is unlikely to be economically viable then mark it red.
Residential Amenity	If the site is within 250m of a bad neighbour use mark it amber. If the site is within 250m of an employment area mark it amber. If it is not, mark it green.
Sensitive Uses	If the site is within 250m of a sensitive neighbour mark it amber. If it is not mark it green.
Retail / Leisure / Services Location – outside of Stockport town centre	Where site is within district or local centre mark it green. Where it is within 300m of these centres mark it amber. If none of the above apply mark it red.
Town Centre Retail	Where a site is within TCG 2.1 mark it green. Where it is within 300m of TCG2.1 mark it amber. If none of the above apply mark it red.
Town Centre Other Main Uses and Community Uses	Where a site is within TCG 2 or 3 areas mark it green. Where it is within 300m of TCG2 or 3 areas mark it amber. If none of the above apply mark it red.
Neighbourhood Renewal	If the site is within Priority 1 areas then mark it green. If it is not within a neighbourhood renewal area mark it amber.
Employment – Existing Use	If the site is an existing employment site in use, mark it red; if it is a vacant employment site, mark it amber; if it is not an employment site, mark it green.
Employment - Offices	If the site could be an office(s) site in the town centre mark it green; if it could be an office(s) site in other centres mark to reflect the appropriateness; otherwise mark it red.
The following set of questions require YES or NO responses	
Land Remediation	If the site is in a polygon of potential concern then mark the response yes and if it is NOT in a polygon of potential concern then mark it no.
Groundwater / Aquifer	If the site is capable of impacting on groundwater or aquifer designations then answer yes.

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Criteria	Considerations
Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Can it help to improve accessibility by Sustainable Transport (walking, cycling, bus, train or community (demand responsive)? Please clarify the opportunities in the summary below.
Future Significant Transport Infrastructure	Can the site help to deliver future significant transport infrastructure?
	Would this site be precluded from development by consideration of future significant transport infrastructure?
	Would development of the site preclude development of future significant transport infrastructure?
Gypsy & Traveller	Site is reasonably accessible to local services such as shops, health care and schools; reasonably accessible to employment opportunities.
Traveling Show People	Sites should comply as above and should be suitable for mixed residential and business uses and have safe and convenient access to the Motorway or Strategic road Network.
Cemetery Provision	State yes if it is a suitable Cemetery provision, state no if it isn't. Clarify in the summary section if it is an existing cemetery, or if it is adjacent to an existing cemetery.
Allotment Provision	State yes if it is a suitable Allotment provision, state no if it isn't. Note to inform: Marple and Cheadle areas are priority sites There should be no loss of sports or formal playing fields.
Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure	If the site has been designated as a location for major low carbon energy infrastructure then state yes and clarify in the summary box.
Rural Location	If the site lies within the mapped areas of the rural proofing map then answer yes.
Information	
Historic Landscape Characterisation	Use HLC map layers to establish which HLC designation(s) the site lies within and state the designation(s) in the box.
Appraisal Assessment - overall comments:	During the course of the appraisal a series of comments will be accrued in this box with associated officer initials. Once the site has been deemed to be completely appraised with no further discussion required, this box should be reviewed to a concise summary of the overall sustainability findings and a series of

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Criteria	Considerations
	<p>considerations around mitigation requirements, with the officer initials removed.</p> <p>A band rating should be applied to each site once appraisal is complete.</p>



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